

PRESQUE ISLE DOWNS

RACING NOTES

By Kevin Decker

Thursday, September 3, 2026

Presque Isle Downs Review and Preview September 3, 2026

Fundraiser for Ronnie Allen, Jr.

There will be fundraiser for injured jockey Ronnie Allen, Jr on Labor Day September 7 with a special 12:30PM post time, and Masters night September 18. He was injured riding at Presque Isle Downs in August 2025. Donation boxes will be available near mutuels during both cards. Additionally, a video montage is being compiled for him. You can submit your video to pidinfo@pidowns.com by September 20. It must be 15 seconds or shorter.

What is Tapeta?

When Presque Isle Downs opened for business in 2007, the track ushered in a new track, debuting with a Tapeta racing surface developed by noted thoroughbred trainer Michael Dickinson. But what is Tapeta?

To put it simply, it was developed to simulate turf. It is a mixture of wax, fibers, and silica sand. Wet weather and heavy rainfall are what it can handle well, which there are plenty of in this area. It also can withstand major swings in temperature and climate.

Presque Isle Downs, along with the now defunct Golden Gate Fields near Oakland, California, were the first tracks to install the surface in the United States. Since then, Woodbine near Toronto, Turfway Park in Kentucky, and Gulfstream Park in Florida have all added Tapeta surfaces. The new Belmont Park near New York City will have a Tapeta surface when it opens later this month.

Improved safety, drainage, reduced kickback, and maintenance are all areas where the surface has proven to show improvement over traditional dirt and turf surfaces.

Jockey and Trainer Standings

Gaddiel Martinez had quite the week, scoring five wins to increase his lead in wins at the meet 68 to 50 over both Antonio Gallardo and Israel Rodriguez. Walber Alencar is fourth with 26, then Edwin Gonzalez holds fifth place with 25 victories.

On the training side, Randy Russell's five wins this week extended his lead over Kevin Rice 39 to 33. Scooter Davis is third with 30 victories. Juan Arriagada and Ron Potts are next with 27 and 25 respectively.

Schedule for Labor Day Week

Post time on Labor Day Monday is 12:30. Tuesday and Wednesday post time is 3:30PM.



PRESQUE ISLE DOWNS
CASINO

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