

PRESQUE ISLE DOWNS

RACING NOTES

By Kevin Decker

Thursday, October 8, 2026

Presque Isle's H.B.P.A. Stakes Drawn

The field for has been drawn for Monday's 20th Running of the \$100,000 guaranteed H.B.P.A. Stakes for fillies and mares three-years-old and upward at one mile and 70 yards. It is the final stakes race of Presque Isle Downs' 2026 season.

Fantastical is the 8-5 morning line favorite. The five-year-old daughter of Air Force Blue comes into the race exiting a win and two second place finishes in three graded races at Woodbine near Toronto.

Following a win in the Trillium (G3 Can.) two starts ago in July over their Tapeta surface, Fantastical was a beaten favorite last month in the Ontario Matron (G3 Can.) to Lupa at 70 cents on the dollar. Edwin Gonzalez returns to Presque Isle to ride her for trainer Joe Sharp.

She has worked twice over Turfway Park's Tapeta surface, the latest in 1:01 breezing at five furlongs on October 3rd. She was bred in Kentucky by Paul Schwartz and James Riley Macdonald, Jr. and is owned by Carl L Moore management, LLC. Her record over synthetic surfaces is an impressive five wins, two seconds, and three thirds in 11 starts.

The second choice on the morning line is Souper Williwaw at 5-2. She won the Violet Stakes over Monmouth's firm turf course in August by over two lengths under Charlie Marquez two starts ago. The four-year-old Hard Spun filly's last effort was a game second place finish in the George Rosenburger Memorial Stakes at Delaware Park. Michael Trombetta trains for owner Live Oak Plantation. She has worked twice in preparation for this race, the latest at Laurel Park in 49 2/5 seconds breezing at four furlongs. Live Oak Stud bred her.

Trainer Riley Mott is bringing in Just Ruthless off a pair of third place efforts in stakes races in the Midwest. Two starts ago she was a beaten favorite in Lady Canterbury at Canterbury Park in Minnesota in June, then was third again in the Ellis Park Turf Stakes by just over three lengths. She is a four-year-old Justify filly owned by her breeder Rock Ridge Thoroughbreds, LLC. Antonio Gallardo is set to ride.

he lady that has logged the most miles in recent months in the field is Princess Attitude. After finishing second in the Indiana General Assembly Distaff Handicap at Horseshoe Indiana Downs over the turf in mid-July, she trekked west to Del Mar, finishing three lengths back in the Yellow Ribbon Stakes (Gr.2) over Del Mar's firm turf course. Victoria Oliver trains the four-year-old daughter of Frankel (GB) for owner G. Watts Humphrey, Jr. Pursuit of Success bred her in Kentucky. Teshawn Hazelwood will ride.

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There are two local entrants. Both Keepthedreamalive and Make The Boys Wink exit an allowance race at Presque Isle Downs in late August one mile and 70 yards. The former drew off to win by over four lengths under Israel Rodriguez, while the later finished in fifth. Todd Beattie trains Keepthedreamalive for the Owner/breeder Tommy Town Thoroughbreds, LLC. Rodriguez retains the mount.

Meanwhile, Make The Boys Wink, who was the beaten favorite in that race, will also retain their jockey in Hector Diaz, Jr. Timothy Hamm trains for Horseshoe Racing, LLC. Phoenix Thoroughbreds (III) LTD bred her in Kentucky. Prior to coming north for her last race, she was third in the Powder Break Stakes in July at Gulfstream Park in a race that was moved from the turf to the all-weather Tapeta surface there.

Here is the field for the 20th Running of the \$100,000 guaranteed H.P.B.A. Stakes:

#	Name	Jockey	Trainer	Morning Line
1	Just Ruthless	Antonio Gallardo	Riley Mott	4-1
2	Keepthedreamalive	Israel Rodriguez	Todd Beattie	12-1
3	Princess Attitude	Teshawn Hazelwood	Victoria Oliver	9-2
4	Cairosa	Gaddiel Martinez	Edward Vaughan	20-1
5	Fantastical	Edwin Gonzalez	Joe Sharp	8-5
6	Souper Williwaw	Charlie Marquez	Michael Trombetta	5-2
7	Allamericanbeauty	Scott Spieth	Jonathan Thomas	20-1
8	Domino Vitali	Jorge Ruiz	Jorge Delgado	6-1
9	Fiery Lucy (GB)	Pietro Moran	Brendan Walsh	8-1
10	Make The Boys Wink	Hector R. Diaz, Jr.	Timothy E. Hamm	15-1
11	Sheshimaintenance	Fraser Aebly	Zeliko Krcmar	10-1

The race is slated as the eighth of nine races on Monday. Post time is 3:30PM. Presque Isle Downs races Mondays through Thursdays at 3:30PM. Closing Day is October 22nd.