

Midwest/Canada

CANADA ILLINOIS INDIANA IOWA MICHIGAN MINNESOTA
NEBRASKA NORTH DAKOTA OHIO SOUTH DAKOTA WISCONSIN



Century Downs in Calgary ran its first meet in 2019

Century's Progress

Pair of racinos bring racing stability to province of Alberta

BY CHRISTINE OSER

PHOTOS COURTESY CENTURY MILE RACE TRACK

THOUGH THE ONE-YEAR anniversary of Century Casinos' opening of its second racetrack in the Canadian province of Alberta has been dampened by the COVID-19 pandemic, horsemen remain optimistic about the racing industry's moving forward once a sense of normalcy returns.

While horsemen across North America have been scrambling to secure stalls at open facilities as tracks have closed or refused new ship-

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2020 LEADING SIRES IN INDIANA

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Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB, Sire), Where Stands	2020 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	BT SWnrs/ Wns	Rstret SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	2020 Earnings	Foals	Cumulative		
									Stks Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	NOTIONAL (04, In Excess), Haffner Farm	\$1,000	27/10	0/0	0/0	(No Mo Hooch, \$25,640)	\$131,674	357	6	0.75	1.08
2	READY'S IMAGE (05, More Than Ready), Swifty Farms	\$2,000	22/8	0/0	0/0	(Ez On the Eyes, \$23,636)	\$113,222	*387	7	0.83	1.12
3	GREELEY'S CONQUEST (04, Mr. Greeley), Breakway Farm	\$1,500	15/4	0/0	0/0	(Traci's Greeley, \$14,680)	\$92,323	70	1	0.80	0.90
4	HUNT CROSSING (09, Corinthian), Indiana Stallion Station	\$1,500	15/5	0/0	0/0	(Ava O, \$17,557)	\$70,004	130	0	0.38	0.72
5	UNBRIDLED EXPRESS (04, Unbridled's Song), Swifty Farms	Private	7/2	1/1	0/1	(Unbridled Class, \$48,650)	\$61,820	71	8	1.52	1.08
6	TURBO COMPRESSOR (08, Halo's Image), Breakway Farm	Private	14/3	0/0	0/0	(Jimmyssmokedcarrot, \$25,800)	\$56,854	49	2	0.81	1.06
7	DUKE OF MISCHIEF (06, Graeme Hall)	N/A	12/2	0/0	0/0	(Buffon, \$18,080)	\$42,591	64	0	0.43	0.78
8	FORT PRADO (01, El Prado)	Pnsd	14/4	0/0	0/0	(Frosty Friend, \$12,470)	\$42,056	*201	3	0.74	1.29
9	CSABA (09, Kitten's Joy), R Star Stallions	\$2,000	11/1	0/0	0/0	(Csilla, \$8,215)	\$26,971	35	0	0.30	0.92
10	LANTANA MOB (05, Posse), Southern Indiana Equine	\$2,500	5/1	0/0	0/0	(Sweetalkingjustice, \$10,915)	\$26,257	71	4	1.01	1.15
11	LENTENOR (07, Dynaformer), Indiana Stallion Station	\$2,000	3/1	0/0	0/0	(Chief Big Head, \$24,872)	\$25,775	30	0	0.56	0.96
12	SANGAREE (05, Awesome Again)	Pnsd	4/2	0/0	0/0	(Chargaree, \$9,660)	\$21,584	50	0	1.07	0.81
13	SANTIVA (08, Giant's Causeway), Indiana Stallion Station	\$2,000	2/1	0/0	0/0	(Flash n' Dance, \$18,600)	\$18,666	16	1	0.87	1.32
14	PASS RUSH (99, Crown Ambassador), Swifty Farms	\$2,500	4/0	0/0	0/0	(Pass the Rush, \$4,192)	\$14,819	132	7	1.00	1.02
15	GLASNOST (02, Awesome Again), Paradise Farms	\$1,000	1/1	0/0	0/0	(Cora Anne, \$12,950)	\$12,950	40	0	0.64	1.06

ins, Alberta's trainers are thankful their horses have a place to stay and train while Century's racing and gaming operations remain on hold until racing is given the green light.

Century Casinos' Century Downs in Calgary and Century Mile in Edmonton offer Thoroughbred racing and Standardbred racing. Their commitment to horsemen during the current crisis has made an impression. Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association of Alberta executive director Allen Goodsell noted that Thoroughbreds and Standardbreds currently have a place to stay and train.

"By them allowing us to continue training as it is and being ready to run at a week's notice at most—Century Mile for

the Thoroughbreds and Century Downs for the Standardbreds—it's coming out of their own pockets. They're bending over backward for us," said Goodsell, who has been training in Alberta since 2007. "Other places are just basically using this as a good excuse to shut down if they need to shut down. As long as we can keep this virus under control—and they've established some pretty good protocols on the backside—it's making horsemen happy, getting a place to train. We'd be in trouble without them right now."

Publicly traded Century Casinos was founded in 1992 by co-CEOs Erwin Hartzmann and Peter Hoetzing. The company's first casino in Alberta opened in 2006 in Edmonton, and in 2015 it

opened Century Downs Racetrack and Casino in the city of Calgary. Century Downs brought back live racing to the area for the first time since Stampede Park closed in 2008.

The United Horsemen of Alberta, founded in 2002, was granted a license to build a racing facility in 2004. The province placed a moratorium on the number of licenses awarded, but Century received an opportunity to build when approached by the UHA, whose project had been stalled after multiple issues. Century Downs, a 5½-furlong track and a 54-acre facility, offers a fall Thoroughbred meet from early September through late October.

"It was an opportunity to get another gaming license that existed in a marketplace where you couldn't get another gaming license anymore because there were only so many that were allowed," said Paul Ryneveld, Century Casinos' racing managing director. "Century Downs was built, opened, and has been successful. In 2016 Northlands announced they were getting out of the business in Edmonton and that freed another license."

With Northlands Park closing, a racing and entertainment center license became available, and Century Casinos won the request for proposal. Northlands, located near downtown Edmonton, closed its doors Jan. 31, 2019, following the final meet's end in November 2018. And on April 1, 2019, Century Mile Racetrack and Casino opened its gates. The 103-acre facility is located about a half-hour south of where Northlands operated and is next door to the Edmonton International Airport. Century Mile was built with a one-



Century Downs has a small, boutique Thoroughbred meet in the fall

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2020 LEADING SIRES IN CANADA

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Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB, Sire), Where Stands	2020 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	BT SWnrs/ Wns	Rstret SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	2020 Earnings	Cumulative			
								Foals	Stks Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	IT'S NO JOKE (02, Distorted Humor)	N/A	9/3	0/0	0/0	(Brookes All Mine, \$28,400)	\$74,554	109	3	1.08	0.97
2	MILWAUKEE BREW (97, Wild Again)	Pnsd	15/1	0/0	0/0	(Bridlecrest, \$25,150)	\$65,303	*616	24	1.17	1.40
3	IMPERIALISM (01, Langfuhr)	Died, 2019	10/3	0/0	0/0	(Gray Beau, \$36,520)	\$64,375	261	5	0.86	0.97
4	HUNTERS BAY (07, Ghostzapper)	Pnsd	8/2	0/0	0/0	(One Two Three Go, \$22,889)	\$54,448	24	0	1.05	1.21
5	OLD FORESTER (01, Forestry), T. C. Westmeath Stud Farm	\$4,000	12/3	0/0	0/0	(Five More Minutes, \$16,020)	\$47,721	478	18	1.43	1.43
6	NOT BOURBON (05, Not Impossible), Flying Horse Farm	\$3,500	12/2	0/0	0/0	(Zooming Zoey, \$16,760)	\$46,613	121	2	1.08	1.32
7	BEAR'S KID (03, Lemon Drop Kid)	N/A	2/1	0/0	0/0	(Overbearing, \$40,490)	\$43,306	43	2	1.48	1.27
8	WHERE'S THE RING (99, Seeking the Gold), Colebrook Farms Stallion Station	\$3,000	6/3	0/0	0/0	(Neil's Diamond, \$14,906)	\$41,934	367	9	1.29	1.32
9	SIGNATURE RED (06, Bernstein), Colebrook Farms Stallion Station	\$3,500	9/2	0/0	0/0	(Pink Lemonade, \$13,550)	\$36,849	93	5	1.53	1.05
10	STEPHANOTIS (93, Regal Classic)	Died, 2017	3/3	0/0	0/0	(Quinn Ella, \$16,611)	\$27,340	338	14	0.70	0.81
11	SOUPER SPEEDY (09, Indian Charlie), T. C. Westmeath Stud Farm	\$5,000	3/1	0/0	0/0	(Sabina Park, \$15,200)	\$25,633	104	6	2.09	1.55
12	STORM VICTORY (00, Storm Cat), Klimes Farm	\$2,000	5/4	0/0	0/0	(All Under Control, \$8,422)	\$24,238	234	8	0.54	0.63
13	O'PRADO AGAIN (09, El Prado)	N/A	3/1	0/0	0/0	(Ghostly Who, \$17,740)	\$20,508	17	0	0.72	0.84
14	SECOND IN COMMAND (00, Silver Deputy), Road's End Farm	\$2,000	6/1	0/0	0/0	(Morning Blurs, \$6,502)	\$18,538	163	6	0.66	0.80
15	BIG SCREEN (09, Speightstown), Spring Farm	\$3,000	5/2	0/0	0/0	(Pappa Rox, \$8,640)	\$18,001	42	1	1.09	1.25



Fans enjoying a day at the track last summer

mile track and is Canada's only A-licensed mile track west of Ontario.

"I think it's a beautiful facility. The track is fabulous," said Norm Castiglione, president of the HBPA of Alberta and co-owner of Riversedge Racing Stables. "I don't know much about casinos, but I do know a fair amount about tracks, and it's a number-one type of track. It's very, very good for the horses. The only thing that Thoroughbred horsemen don't like in this jurisdiction is when we're finished with our meet, the Standardbreds come in so they take the surface off the track, and then they put it back on when we come back."

Both Century Downs and Century

Mile are the only A-licensed facilities in Alberta.

"Both tracks are 80 feet wide, which is wider than any other track in Western Canada; also to help for safety and the ability to run a full field of 12 horses when that comes to task," Ryneveld said. "If we fill a race for 12, we can run 12 whereas at Stampede and at Northlands they would run 10."

Castiglione said feedback from horsemen has been positive since they moved to Century Mile.

"There's been lots of growing pains, but we made it through year one. The thing that overrides everything is the surface,

and the length, and the operational management for the track," he said. "All three of those get very high marks, even to the extent of racing secretaries; they've done a very good job. The horsemen have embraced it 100%. We work very well with Century trackside on their casino operation to put the best show we can put forward. So it's been good. Horsemen have been very positive."

Century Mile originally was scheduled to kick off its second Thoroughbred race meet, which also features Quarter Horse racing, April 25 and run through the end of August. Like other similar operations across North America, the casino currently is closed to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. Horsemen are hoping to have their charges ready to run when the facility reopens and the races can for sure be underway.

"We've kind of quarantined ourselves here as a group, and we're following all the protocols of washing the hands a lot and the six-foot distance from people. We're trying," said Tim Rycroft, who trains for Riversedge and is vice president of the HBPA of Alberta. "We're just like everyone else, hoping and waiting that things get back to some normalcy here."

"(Century has) done what they said they were going to do, and this is what we've got to deal with right now. I'm glad that Paul

Special Note For Sire Lists:

For stallions that stand, will stand, or stood (deceased) in the states featured in this section (stallions that are dead or exported prior to 2016 are excluded), and have runners in North America. Listed below are all available statistics for the Northern Hemisphere through March 22, 2020. As supplied to BloodHorse by The Jockey Club Information Systems, Inc., earnings include adjusted money from Japan, Hong Kong, and Singapore. Adjusted earnings are put on par with average North American earnings from the previous year. For example, the average North American purse in 2018 is \$25,300 or 50% of the 2018 average purse in Japan. To put earnings on par, all Japanese progeny earnings are multiplied by 53% before being credited to a sire's progeny earnings. Hong Kong earnings are adjusted by 17%; Singapore by 85%. Current year stakes winners include all Northern Hemisphere black-type stakes results from all available countries. *Foal counts include Southern Hemisphere. Cumulative stakes winners include all countries. (A ¶ indicates a sire represented by his first crop to race).

*AVERAGE-EARNINGS INDEX and COMPARABLE INDEX: Lifetime AVERAGE-EARNINGS INDEX indicates how much purse money the progeny of one sire has earned in relation to the average earnings of all runners in the same years; average earnings of all runners in any year is represented by an index of 1.00; COMPARABLE INDEX indicates the average earnings of progeny produced from mares bred to one sire, when these same mares were bred to other sires. Only 32% of all sires have a lifetime AVERAGE-EARNINGS INDEX higher than their mares' COMPARABLE INDEX.

2020 LEADING SIRES IN OHIO



For daily updated sire lists visit BloodHorse.com

Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2020 Stud Fee	Rnrs/Wnrs	BT SWnrs/Wns	Rstret SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	Cumulative				
							2020 Earnings	Foals	Stks Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	INDY WIND (02, A.P. Indy), Poplar Creek Horse Center	\$2,000	11/2	1/3	0/1	(Starship Jubilee, \$327,280)	\$360,591	84	2	1.30	1.01
2	COWTOWN CAT (04, Distorted Humor), Mapleton Thoroughbred Farm	\$2,000	20/10	0/0	0/0	(Tiger Blood, \$58,525)	\$357,628	234	5	1.14	1.18
3	ITSMYLUCKYDAY (10, Lawyer Ron), Maro Veterinary Services	\$2,000	52/13	0/0	0/0	(Ilchester Cheetah, \$63,950)	\$325,302	162	2	0.88	1.11
4	DANZA (11, Street Boss), Fair Winds Farm	\$2,500	31/8	1/1	0/1	(Pitching Ari, \$62,244)	\$262,601	119	2	0.57	0.95
5	AWESOME PATRIOT (08, Awesome Again), Mapleton Thoroughbred Farm	\$2,500	34/4	0/0	0/0	(Motayammen, \$96,000)	\$196,496	*179	1	1.09	1.01
6	FORT LARNED (08, E Dubai), Duncan Farms	\$2,000	30/7	0/0	0/0	(Fort Peck, \$28,350)	\$193,169	*150	2	0.87	1.32
7	BIONDETTI (08, Bernardini), Poplar Creek Horse Center	\$2,000	30/7	0/0	0/0	(Strike That, \$48,400)	\$182,712	144	1	0.75	1.29
8	KETTLE CORN (07, Candy Ride), Fair Winds Farm	\$2,500	16/3	0/0	0/0	(Mandy's Candy, \$38,400)	\$175,244	65	0	0.84	1.22
9	DRILL (09, Lawyer Ron), Raimonde Farms	\$2,500	34/3	0/0	0/0	(He's Smokin Now, \$14,883)	\$135,338	84	1	0.85	1.04
10	MEDAL COUNT (11, Dynaformer), Mapleton Thoroughbred Farm	\$2,000	23/5	0/0	0/0	(Hissy Missy, \$58,753)	\$114,923	72	0	0.34	0.91
11	KENTUCKY DANE (00, Danehill), McFadden Farm	Private	7/3	0/0	0/0	(Pink Halder, \$35,816)	\$101,042	43	3	1.07	0.74
12	MOBIL (00, Langfuhr), Mapleton Thoroughbred Farm	\$2,000	11/3	0/0	0/0	(Mister Mobil, \$29,770)	\$98,824	*211	5	1.25	1.25
13	CITY WEEKEND (02, Carson City), Meadow Springs	\$2,000	13/5	0/0	0/0	(Tiger Trail, \$38,400)	\$87,934	119	1	0.74	0.91
14	KISS THE KID (03, Lemon Drop Kid), Poplar Creek Horse Center	\$1,500	5/1	1/1	1/1	(Extravagant Kid, \$63,140)	\$86,562	56	1	1.10	1.47
15	YAQUERO (06, Orientate), Raimonde Farms	\$1,000	10/3	0/0	0/0	(Dancin' Rosie, \$22,001)	\$81,663	28	1	0.90	1.20
16	ALCINDOR (07, Unbridled's Song)	N/A	8/2	0/0	0/0	(True Cinder, \$51,000)	\$76,020	*43	1	1.53	1.54
17	FACTUM (08, Storm Cat), Cedar Brook Farm	Private	22/2	0/0	0/0	(Ballie's Dream, \$30,750)	\$74,951	112	1	0.56	1.32
18	CRYPTOLIGHT (04, Fantastic Light)	N/A	3/2	0/0	0/0	(Cristalinda, \$27,150)	\$52,310	7	0	1.00	1.63
19	BIG ATLANTIC (02, Stormy Atlantic), Win Row Farm	\$1,000	5/2	0/0	0/0	(Da Dude, \$39,500)	\$52,038	32	1	0.77	0.31
20	CORFU (11, Malibu Moon), Duncan Farms	\$1,500	16/1	0/0	0/0	(Paxos, \$10,150)	\$50,048	40	0	0.99	0.90
21	TWINSPIRED (08, Harlan's Holiday), Poplar Creek Horse Center	\$2,500	3/2	0/0	0/0	(Direct Deceit, \$25,315)	\$48,289	22	2	1.57	0.74
22	MUSIC CITY (06, City Zip), Win Row Farm	\$1,000	3/1	0/0	0/0	(Denny M, \$37,166)	\$38,465	22	0	0.65	0.38
23	WILLIAM'S KITTEN (07, Kitten's Joy), Diamond Eyes Farm	Private	2/1	0/0	0/0	(Goes too Fast, \$28,055)	\$29,859	22	1	0.87	0.50
24	MUCH THE BEST (06, Forestry)	Died	1/1	0/0	0/0	(Split My Britches, \$28,715)	\$28,715	33	0	0.54	0.79
25	WESTERN PRIDE (98, Way West), R.C. Cline Thoroughbred Farm	\$1,500	4/0	0/0	0/0	(Judy's Pride, \$13,320)	\$20,117	125	0	0.58	0.99

was pretty firm about letting the horse-men carry on so that when we do open, we got horses ready to go. For us to pack up and go home now, you might as well just call it the year. These horses all need to work.

"Everyone here is trying to get ready, I can tell you that much. We're running, is the way we're looking at it."

Though the casinos are currently closed, their revenue has been able to provide about 80% of the purses. Horsemen say the owner is interested in making its racing product a success.

"We have a casino operator that wants

horse racing, and you don't find that very often anymore. They are more than willing to bend over backward to help us," said Goodsell, who also spent three years as president of the Alberta Quarter Horse Association. "Paul Ryneveld is a big horse fan, and it doesn't matter which breed, whether it's the Thoroughbreds, Quarter Horses, or Standardbreds. It's nice to have the casino on your side. There's a lot of other horsemen around North America that don't have that option. Century Casinos dumped a lot of money in Alberta. They've got to have \$80-\$100 million just in infrastructure. I'm excited for us."

People are turning out to watch and bet the races.

"Century looks to be doing whatever they can to make this work, so we kind of got to work with them and see it through," said Rycroft.

One of the main focus points for both Century Downs and Century Mile has been rebuilding the fan base. With a seven-year gap in racing in the Calgary area, Ryneveld said the handicappers who played Stampede Park had moved on to betting other tracks. He said efforts at Century Downs include a betting basics program, which takes place 30 minutes before the Saturday and Sunday programs begin. More than 2,000 people have participated so far.

With Century Mile kicking off its first race meet shortly after Northlands Park ran its last race, there was no major gap in live racing. However, with the track a half-hour south of racing's old neighborhood in Edmonton, new racegoers that lived near Century Mile and had not been to Northlands were presented with a learning curve. Also being outside downtown, Century Mile is not as accessible by bus as Northlands Park was.

To increase fan engagement, Ryneveld said the Century tracks are using at least one big race day a month.

"We've been successful with that in



Century Downs can accommodate two more starters (12) than the old Northlands Park

2020 LEADING SIRES IN IOWA

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Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2020 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	BT SWnrs/ Wns	Rstrct SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	2020 Earnings	Foals	Cumulative Stks Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	STROLL (00, Pulpit), Iowa State University Horse Farm	\$2,000	35/10	0/0	0/0	(Stroll Smokin, \$58,227)	\$249,768	*336	17	1.01	1.24
2	SING BABY SING (03, Unbridled's Song), Madison County Thoroughbreds	\$2,000	20/1	0/0	0/0	(Bonjour Baby, \$9,690)	\$44,610	106	3	0.60	0.81
3	NATIVE RULER (04, Elusive Quality), Abraham's Equine Clinic	\$2,000	7/1	0/0	0/0	(Scrutinizer, \$20,300)	\$24,940	73	1	0.90	0.78
4	JAFMIL (08, Distorted Humor)	N/A	5/1	0/0	0/0	(Smoky Blues, \$8,830)	\$18,490	35	0	0.93	1.09
5	SHORE BREEZE (98, Danzig)	Died, 2016	5/0	0/0	0/0	(Creative Art, \$5,488)	\$9,451	189	2	0.76	0.73
6	WOKE UP DREAMIN (00, Holy Bull), Madison County Thoroughbreds	\$2,000	6/1	0/0	0/0	(Launch Light Dream, \$8,562)	\$9,063	195	5	0.80	0.88

2020 LEADING SIRES IN ILLINOIS

Rank	Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands	2020 Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	BT SWnrs/ Wns	Rstrct SW/ BT SW	(Chief Earner, Earnings)	2020 Earnings	Foals	Cumulative Stks Wnrs	A-E Index	Comp Index
1	GHAALEB (08, Unbridled's Song), Wildwood Farm	Private	4/3	0/0	0/0	(Codetowin, \$36,680)	\$62,726	42	0	1.13	1.08
2	WELL POSITIONED (06, Awesome Again)	N/A	8/1	0/0	0/0	(W W Fitzy, \$28,500)	\$42,999	34	1	0.71	1.07
3	LIVE FROM APPOLLO (04, Maria's Mon)	N/A	3/2	0/0	0/0	(Willow Moon, \$26,144)	\$35,094	11	0	0.53	0.76
4	HERO'S AND CROOKS (07, Pulpit)	N/A	4/2	0/0	0/0	(My Wife Is Boss, \$11,100)	\$25,111	24	0	0.49	0.78
5	FOREST ATTACK (04, Forestry), McCrosky Farm	\$1,000	12/1	0/0	0/0	(Mikayla Attack, \$8,500)	\$14,490	98	0	0.36	1.01
6	ROAD RULER (02, Unbridled's Song), JB Stables	\$1,000	8/1	0/0	0/0	(Spectacular Road, \$9,385)	\$14,132	129	0	0.78	0.73

Calgary since 2015, growing some of the racing events that we have. We have a small, kind of boutique, Thoroughbred meet in September and October, which has proved popular in the Calgary market, and it exposed new people," he said. "Sometimes I don't recognize anybody here, which is a good thing.

"In Edmonton at Century Mile, the Canadian Derby is a big draw; that's in August. We split the Oaks to the day before the Derby, similar to the Kentucky Derby (G1); just an experiment to see if we can get two big days instead of one big day. That's when the weather's good, and we have the best horse population. But even prior to that, developing at least one day a month to be something that cuts through the clutter in each market, it then has a trickle effect where people will show up other times throughout the season."

The Canadian Derby (G3) moved to Century Mile after the closure of North-

2020 MICHIGAN SIRES
BY WINNERS

Sire	Rnrs	Wnrs
Unbridled Energy	10	2
Zulu Magic	3	1
Equality	1	1

2020 MINNESOTA SIRES
BY WINNERS

Sire	Rnrs	Wnrs
Eye of the Leopard	9	5
Kela	4	1
Lovango	1	1

lands, and Canmore Farms' Explode was declared the winner of the first Derby run at the one-mile track. A half brother to this year's Sam F. Davis Stakes (G3) winner Sole Volante, Explode crossed the wire a neck behind Journeyman but was elevated to first by stewards because of interference from Journeyman. The 1¼-mile race offered a purse of \$188,371. A day earlier Wayne Bakke, Nathan Hoines, and Jo Dee Hoovestall's Im Evin Im Leavin drew off to a two-length score in the \$75,349 Century Casino Oaks.

Finishing second in the Century Casino Oaks was Whoop It Up, who had been purchased after running for a \$6,250 tag at Golden Gate Fields to carry the silks of the Century Horse Racing Club. The runner-up effort followed four straight wins at Century Mile, and she ended her season with another black-type stakes-placing, third in the British Columbia Oaks at Hastings Racecourse.

Century's first foray into racing clubs began with Standardbreds in 2016, and it began the Thoroughbred racing club last year.

"We've kind of hit the right spot where Century themselves looks after the race club, they look after the purchase of horses, and it's taken off quite nicely," Castiglione said. "They're the right people to run the club. It shouldn't be trainers who are training for certain owners and then trying to donate their time and their money. It worked out much, much better

last year that the race clubs are being run by the track operator."

Century now operates five casinos in Alberta, including the two with the race-tracks. The company expanded its racing operations when it closed early this year on a deal to purchase three properties from Eldorado Resorts, including Mountaineer Casino Racetrack & Resort in West Virginia.

"We're lucky Century has come along," said Rycroft. "I mean, who's built any new racetracks in the last few years? And Century's built two in Alberta. We've been able to go ahead with business."

Ryneveld noted that Alberta's racing industry had been impacted by the closure of Stampede Park and later Northlands. The province's top tracks seemed to be closing, and breeders were either getting out of the business or moving south of the border—but that decline in horses appeared to stop in recent years, and he's hopeful to see more growth in the young racetracks' futures.

"Now with essentially two new racetracks and new infrastructure, we're hoping now to see with the stability there's going to be some growth," Ryneveld said. "But as you know with the breeding business, it's three years before you see anything.

"I used the comment, 'We've been treading water since 2008 in Alberta,' but we're now able to start swimming, and that's what we're going to start seeing in the next three years, that's for sure." **BH**

