

# **PRESS RELEASE**

## **Sassies Best, Had to Be Fabulous Headline QROOI Open Derby Final**



***SASSIES BEST*** was making her first ever start at Ajax Downs when she won the faster of two Trials for the \$32,400 Open Derby on May 7

***New Image Media photo***

**AJAX DOWNS, MAY 20, 2025** - The stakes race season at Ajax Downs begins with a bang this **Wednesday, May 21** with the **\$32,400 final of the QROOI Open Derby** for 3-year-old Quarter Horses. Ten sophomores qualified for the 300-yard final following two Trials on May 7 and the girls hold the upper hand as **seven of the finalists are fillies.**

The two Trial winners, both fillies, line up beside each other in the starting gate for the Final which is race seven on the exciting, eight-race card.

**HAD TO BE FABULOUS** was odds-on when she coasted to a 1 1/4 length win in her Trial for the successful Hillerin Farm team of Jaime and Carol Robertson and trainer Bryn Robertson. The half sister to Horse of the Year Had to Be Ivory was winning for the seventh time in eight career races and she once again will be ridden by Ismael Mosquiera. Had to Be Fabulous starts from post position two.,

**SASSIES BEST**, a new face to Ajax Downs, won her Trial in slightly faster time (and 84 speed index compared to Had to Be Fabulous' 82) as she got clear of a multiple horse-bumping incident that essentially left her alone on the lead. Ridden by Christian Benitez for John Wilson of New Liskeard and trainer Scott Reid, Sassies Best, a Texas bred by top sire Kiss My Hocks, was breaking her maiden that day, her first race locally and first start since October. She lines up in post position three.

Possible up setters in the field include stretch-running **PEIGHTMEADIAMOND**, an Ontario sired and bred gelding owned by Richard Wincikaby of Alliston, trained by Joe Tavares. Peightmeadiamond had a slow start behind Had to Be Fabulous and lost all chance but the son of Peight Your Fate only missed by a nose to that filly in the prestigious Alex Picov Futurity last fall. Brian Bell will ride from post one.

**PAINT THE MEUN** and **KISSIN ELLA** had trouble when third and fourth respectively behind Sassie Best in the faster Trial and can be contenders.

First race **post time on May 21 is 1:45 p.m.** with the Open Derby final set for 4:27 p.m.

Admission and parking are always free at Ajax Downs. You can watch and wager on our exciting races trackside, up close to the action at our picnic tables, visit the expansive simulcast room or wager through [www.HPIBet.com](http://www.HPIBet.com).

For more information, entries and how to reserve the VIP room for your group, visit [www.ajaxdowns.com](http://www.ajaxdowns.com).

### THE FIELD FOR THE 3RD QROOI OPEN DERBY

#### Post Horse Jockey Trainer Odds

- 1 Peightmeadiamond B Bell J Tavares 10-1
- 2 Had to Be Fabulous I E Mosqueira B Robertson 3-1
- 3 Sassies Best C Benitez S Reid 7-2
- 4 Jjohnnypopper N Desouza D G Stevenson 8-1
- 5 Kissin Ella A T Amador J Pascoe 12-1
- 6 Annies Best Card J B Botello J Pascoe 8-1
- 7 Paint the Meun C Jeschke J Tavares 4-1
- 8 Runaway Fate R Isaacs B Broadstock 10-1
- 9 Sweet D B A Cheyne J Tavares 15-1
- 10 Flyin Lady D I Benitez S Reid 6-1

**2025 RACE SCHEDULE**  
LIVE QUARTER HORSE RACING

**RACING & EVENTS FOR THE WHOLE ~FAMILY~**

**RACE DAYS**  
 WEDNESDAY MAY 7, 14, 21, 28 First Race 1:45 P.M.  
 WEDNESDAY JUNE 4, 11, 18 First Race 1:45 P.M.  
 WEDNESDAY JULY 9, 16, 23 First Race 1:45 P.M.  
 WEDNESDAY AUGUST 6, 13, 20 First Race 1:45 P.M.  
 WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 3, 10, 17, 24 First Race 1:45 P.M.  
 WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 1, 8, 15, 22 First Race 1:45 P.M.

**Special Events!**  
 FATHER'S DAY SUNDAY JUNE 15 First Race 12:55 P.M.  
 TWILIGHT RACE NIGHT WEDNESDAY JULY 2 First Race 4:15 P.M.  
 CRAFT BEER DAY SUNDAY JULY 20 First Race 12:55 P.M.  
 FAMILY FUN DAY SUNDAY AUGUST 24 First Race 12:55 P.M.  
 PUMPKIN DAY MONDAY OCTOBER 13 First Race 12:55 P.M.

**ALL SUNDAYS & HOLIDAY MONDAYS FIRST RACE 12:55 P.M.**

50 ALEXANDER'S CROSSING - AJAX, ONTARIO 905 686-8001  
 MORE INFO VISIT [AJAXDOWNS.COM](http://AJAXDOWNS.COM)

