



PRESS RELEASE

Don't Blink! Classy Older Horses Tackle the Gridiron Gallop at Ajax Downs



*The Gridiron Gallop often has a frantic finish like this one when **SHAKEN** (white blinkers) just missed to his stablemate **A Rushn Lily**. Shaken is a contender in the Gridiron on July 9.*

New Image Media Photo

AJAX DOWNS, JULY 8, 2025 - One of the most unique races at AJAX DOWNS is the **Gridiron Gallop**, a **110-yard dash** named for the length of a Canadian Football League field. It's a popular wager with bettors as the start occurs virtually in front of the fans, and occasionally, a track record will be set.

This **Wednesday, July 9**, a featured event on the seven-race card is race 6, an allowance dash at the Gridiron distance for horses who have never won at the 110 yards. Three of the seven entrants have never even attempted the distance.

Two starters on Wednesday have come close to winning a Gridiron Gallop, including **SHAKEN**, who was second by a neck at the distance on May 28. The Ontario sired and foaled 8-year-old, owned, bred, and trained by Chantelle Bourgeois, is quick out of the gate which helps his chances at the short distance. His regular rider Cassandra Jeschke is on board and they will break from post position two.

Dan Giles' homebred **ICE WITCH**, who has post seven with JB Botello riding, has tried the Gridiron distance nine times with two third-place finishes. He was a long neck behind Shaken when they tried the Gridiron Gallop in May.

Quarter Horses can go from standing in the gate to racing up to 75 km per hour in the blink of an eye. In 2019, Milena Kwiecien's **Carneros** set a world record for the 110-yard distance when he stopped the time in 6.770 seconds in a win at Ajax Downs. That record was broken in 2022 by Divas Last Anita at the Hipodromo de Las Americas in Mexico City, who raced the distance in 6.660.

Carneros (photo below by Laurie Overton with Payton Kluczynski riding) is now retired from racing, works as a track pony, and greets fans at Ajax Downs during the afternoon races.



Carneros, world record setter

First race post time this Wednesday is 1:45 p.m. The **popular Pick 5 wager** begins on race 3, which appears to be a two-horse race between IVORY QUEEN (#3) and HESMAGICALYDELICIOUS (#5). 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.

To **reserve tables** in advance for \$25 or book the VIP room for your party or group, contact www.ajaxdowns.com.

There is also an expansive simulcast wagering room with tellers, or you can wager through www.HPIBet.com.

If you want to get involved in **owning a Quarter Horse**, contact the Quarter Racing Owners of Ontario at 905- 426-7050.

