



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Darren Rogers  
Senior Director, Communications & Media Services  
(502) 636-4461 (Office) \* (502) 345-1030 (Mobile)  
[Darren.Rogers@KyDerby.com](mailto:Darren.Rogers@KyDerby.com)

## WILL IT TAKE \$200,000 IN GRADED STAKES EARNINGS TO START IN KENTUCKY DERBY 136?

**LOUISVILLE, Ky. (Thursday, April 1, 2010)** – Assuming those already firmly positioned within the Top 20 Graded Stakes Earnings list perform well in prep races on April 3, 10 and 17 and exit those races in good order, it's conceivable that it could take as much as \$200,000 in graded stakes earnings to crack the Kentucky Derby 136 field on the first Saturday in May.

After all, there's still plenty of money to be earned in the \$750,000 Wood Memorial (April 3), \$750,000 Santa Anita Derby (April 3), \$500,000 Illinois Derby (April 3), \$1 million Arkansas Derby (April 10), \$750,000 Toyota Blue Grass (April 10) and \$300,000 Coolmore Lexington (April 17). Last ditch efforts could also be made in the \$200,000 The Cliff's Edge Derby Trial (April 24) at Churchill Downs or the \$150,000 Withers (April 24).

The Kentucky Derby has been restricted to 20 starters since 1975, and the current system to determine the field by highest graded stakes earnings has been in place since 1986. The "bubble" to get in has varied year to year. Last year, it took only \$55,500 for **Nowhere to Hide** to complete the 20-horse field. Two years ago, the last horse in was **Denis of Cork** who had \$165,000 – the highest total ever for the last spot in the field.

As of April 1, this year's Top 20, which is based on known intentions or a consideration to run in the Kentucky Derby, looks like this:

1. **Lookin At Lucky** (\$1,390,000) – April 3 Santa Anita Derby (trained by Bob Baffert)
2. **Noble's Promise** (\$708,000) – April 10 Arkansas Derby (Ken McPeck)
3. **Rule** (\$645,000) – May 1 Kentucky Derby (Todd Pletcher)
4. **Mission Impazible** (\$473,434) – May 1 Kentucky Derby (Todd Pletcher)
5. **Ice Box** (\$457,500) – May 1 Kentucky Derby (Nick Zito)
6. **Endorsement** (\$400,000) – May 1 Kentucky Derby (Shannon Ritter)
7. **Conveyance** (\$386,000) – May 1 Kentucky Derby (Bob Baffert)
8. **Discreetly Mine** (\$340,000) – May 1 Kentucky Derby (Todd Pletcher)
9. **Dean's Kitten** (\$326,475) – May 1 Kentucky Derby (Mike Maker)
10. **Dublin** (\$273,208) – April 10 Arkansas Derby (D. Wayne Lukas)
11. **Interactif** (\$270,450) – April 10 Toyota Blue Grass (Todd Pletcher)
12. **Homeboykris** (\$250,500) – May 1 Kentucky Derby (Rick Dutrow Jr.)
13. **Aikenite** (\$218,000) – April 10 Toyota Blue Grass (Todd Pletcher)
14. **Make Music for Me** (\$215,000) – April 10 Toyota Blue Grass (Alexis Barba)
15. **Awesome Act** (\$210,000) – April 3 Wood Memorial (Jeremy Nosedo)
16. **Uh Oh Bango** (\$187,952) – April 10 Arkansas Derby (Kory Owens)
17. **A Little Warm** (\$180,000) – May 1 Kentucky Derby (Tony Dutrow)
17. **Odysseus** (\$180,000) – April 10 Toyota Blue Grass (Tom Albertrani)
17. **Sidney's Candy** (\$180,000) – April 3 Santa Anita Derby (John Sadler)
20. **Backtalk** (\$172,566) – April 3 Illinois Derby (Tom Amoss)

- more -

Rule, Mission Impazible, Ice Box, Endorsement, Conveyance, Discreetly Mine, Dean's Kitten, Homeboykris and A Little Warm won't have another Derby prep race. On March 28, A Little Warm's trainer **Tony Dutrow** told *Daily Racing Form* that if it was left up to him, he would not go to the Derby, which could open another spot. Also, final decisions on Conveyance and Interactif might not be made until their trainers – **Bob Baffert** and **Todd Pletcher**, respectively – watch their horses train over the Churchill Downs main track.

## Who's Out?

Fillies **She Be Wild** (\$1,272,100), **Blind Luck** (\$861,150), **Devil May Care** (\$364,000) and **Crisp** (\$225,000) appear more likely for the \$500,000-added Kentucky Oaks on Friday, April 30, although trainer Todd Pletcher said last weekend that the connections of Bonnie Miss winner Devil May Care haven't entirely ruled out the Derby just yet.

**Godolphin's** Breeders' Cup Juvenile winner **Vale of York-IRE** (\$1,114,784) has been sidelined by colic and UAE Derby third **Mendip** (\$200,000) appears likely to remain overseas, along with **Coolmore's Beethoven-IRE** (\$342,616).

Trainer **Rick Dutrow Jr.** has said that **D' Funnybone** (\$420,000) "will not run in the Derby" but could be aimed at the Preakness. Also, his **Radiohead-GB** (\$196,332) appears more likely for the Grade II, \$175,000 American Turf at 1 1/16 miles on turf on Oaks Day. In mid-March, **Buddy's Saint** (\$210,000) was sidelined by a right front ankle chip following a workout at Gulfstream Park.

## This Week

---

### Grade I, \$750,000 Wood Memorial – Aqueduct, Race 9, 5:12 p.m. ET (NBC Sports, 5-6 p.m. ET)

- First: \$450,000
- Second: \$150,000
- Third: \$75,000
- Fourth: \$37,500
- Fifth: \$22,500
- Sixth: \$15,000

**Likely In:** Awesome Act (\$200,000 in graded stakes earnings). **Needs Top 3 Finish:** Eskendereya (\$150,000). **Needs Top 2 Finish:** Schoolyard Dreams (\$100,000) and Jackson Bend (\$80,000). **Must Win:** Carnivore (\$0). **Not Nominated:** Most Happy Fella (\$0).

---

### Grade I, \$750,000 Santa Anita Derby – Santa Anita, Race 6, 5:36 p.m. ET (NBC Sports, 5-6 p.m. ET)

- First: \$450,000
- Second: \$150,000
- Third: \$90,000
- Fourth: \$45,000
- Fifth: \$15,000

**Already In:** Lookin At Lucky (\$1,390,000). **Needs Top 4 Finish:** Sidney's Candy (\$180,000). **Needs Top 3 Finish:** Caracortado (\$108,000). **Needs Top 2 Finish:** Alphonse's Boy (\$90,000), What's Up (\$60,000) and Cardiff Giant (\$54,000). **Must Win:** Setsuko (\$30,000), Posse Power (\$18,000) and Thomas Baines (\$0). **Not Nominated:** Skipshot (\$0).

---

### Grade I, \$500,000 Illinois Derby – Hawthorne, Race 7, 5:37 p.m. ET

- First: \$291,000
- Second: \$97,000
- Third: \$53,350
- Fourth: \$29,100
- Fifth: \$14,550
- Sixth: \$5,000
- Seventh: \$5,000
- Eighth: \$5,000

**Needs Top 4 Finish:** Backtalk (\$172,566). **Must Win:** American Lion (\$87,000), Dave in Dixie (\$30,000), Turf Melody (\$13,857), Boulder Creek (\$3,000) and Game Ball (\$0). **Not Nominated:** Stephen's Got Hope.

---

**Note:** Horses not nominated to the Triple Crown can only run in the Kentucky Derby if less than 20 eligible horses are entered.

## Kentucky Derby Graded Stakes Earnings “Bubble” At A Glance (Since 1999)

Year	Ky. Derby Field	Low Graded Stakes Earner in Field	Graded Stakes Earnings	Ky. Derby Finish	Horses Entered But Excluded (GSE)
2009	20	Nowhere to Hide	\$55,500	17 <sup>th</sup>	
2008	20	Denis of Cork	\$165,000	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Halo Najib (\$157,996) Tomcito (\$151,292) El Gato Malo (\$145,000) Kentucky Bear (\$75,000)
2007	20	Imawildandcrazyguy	\$104,000	4 <sup>th</sup>	Reporting for Duty (\$100,000) Delightful Kiss (\$83,000)
2006	20	Flashy Bull	\$109,000	14 <sup>th</sup>	Sunriver (\$100,000) Lewis Michael (\$41,000) Hemingway’s Key (\$10,000)
2005	20	Going Wild	\$57,250	18 <sup>th</sup>	
2004	20	Song of the Sword	\$132,500	11 <sup>th</sup>	Eddington (\$95,000) Rock Hard Ten (\$90,000)
2003	17	Ten Cents a Shine	\$46,240	8 <sup>th</sup>	
2002	20	Wild Horses	\$100,000	18 <sup>th</sup>	Windward Passage (\$100,000) U S S Tinoso (\$83,750) Sunday Break (\$82,500) Straight Gin (\$52,500)
2001	17	Arctic Boy	\$20,000	12 <sup>th</sup>	
2000	20	China Visit Curule	\$0 \$0	6 <sup>th</sup> 7 <sup>th</sup>	Unshaded (\$221,588) (did not make field because he was a \$150,000 non-nominated late supplement at the time of entry)
1999	20	Aljabr	\$111,620	Scratched	Etbauer (\$95,000) * Note: Valhol’s \$300,000 first place check for crossing the wire first in the Arkansas Derby was stripped after a court battle concluded in Jan. 2001. The Arkansas Racing Commission believed that Valhol’s jockey Billy Patin had what appeared to be an illegal electrical device during the race. Two years later, his pre-Derby graded stakes earnings were actually \$38,400, which would have allowed Aljabr into the field.

### About Churchill Downs

Churchill Downs, the world’s most legendary racetrack, has conducted Thoroughbred racing and presented America’s greatest race, the Kentucky Derby, continuously since 1875. Located in Louisville, the flagship racetrack of Churchill Downs Incorporated (NASDAQ Global Select Market: CHDN) also operates Trackside at Churchill Downs, which offers year-round simulcast wagering at the historic track. Churchill Downs will host the 136th running of the Kentucky Derby Presented by Yum! Brands on Saturday, May 1 and the Kentucky Oaks on Friday, April 30. The track will conduct its 2010 Spring Meet from Saturday, April 24 through Sunday, July 4. Churchill Downs is scheduled to host the Breeders’ Cup World Championships for a record seventh time on Nov. 5 and 6, 2010. Churchill Downs tickets are available at <http://tickets.churchilldowns.com> or by calling (502) 636-4400. Additional information about Churchill Downs can be found on the Internet at [www.churchilldowns.com](http://www.churchilldowns.com).