POST POSITION DRAW

The Post Position Draw for the Kentucky Derby will be held Wednesday, April 30, 2014 from 5-6 p.m. ET in the Secretariat Lounge on the second floor of the Clubhouse.

The event will be televised live nationally on NBC Sports Network and local affiliates.

Media credentials must be displayed for appropriate access.

In 2010, the Kentucky Derby Post Position Draw reverted back to a traditional “pill pull” where horses’ entry blanks are pulled simultaneously with a numbered pill to determine what stall a horse will break from in the starting gate.

The field for the Kentucky Derby will be limited to 20 horses with preference given to horses with the most graded stakes earnings.

Entries close Wednesday, April 30, 2014 at 10 a.m. ET. The Churchill Downs communications department will attempt to confirm entries will horsemens and make an announcement regarding Kentucky Derby entries between 10:30-11 a.m. ET.

Once the Kentucky Derby Draw show is complete, horsemens will be available for comment.

Churchill Downs used a two-tier process for 12 years from 1998-2009, a format that was created for live television with the hope of adding more drama and suspense. Instead of horses merely being assigned a post position, the connections of each horse would select their starting spots. First, there was a “pill pull” that would determine what order a horse’s connections would pick their place in the starting gate. After the selection order was established and a break for strategizing, the post position selection process would follow, much like a draft in other professional sports.

The debut of that format in 1998, which took place in the Kentucky Derby Museum and aired live on ESPN, featured a re-draw after host Chris Lincoln announced that both Artax and Rock and Roll would have the 15th pick. Nobody was given the fifth pick.

The snafu led Kentucky Racing Commission’s chief steward Bernie Hettel to begin anew.

The connections of Cape Town originally had the first pick but ended up with No. 10. Horse of the Year Favorite Trick landed the first pick in the new draw – a slight improvement from No. 3 – and his connections chose to break from post 7.

“Anytime there’s a flaw it’s incumbent on the racing official to make the correction,” Hettel told reporters. “It was a correctable error because the process had not been completed. Given the misidentification or mishandling of the pill (numbered ball), rather than speculate between 15 and 5, it’s better to do it over.”

The Post Position Draw would be held at the Kentucky Derby Museum from 1998-2005. Between 2006-08, the event was held in a new downtown Louisville development called “Fourth Street Live!” – a string of bars, restaurants and retail shops a few blocks just south of the convention center. It was open to the public and attracted a crowd of about 1,000. Following the draw, there was a buffet dinner at “Felt,” an upscale billiards room, and the connections of each horse held a news conference in a private back room.

The Post Position Draw returned to Churchill Downs in 2009 and was held in the former Marquee Village at noon. It was not televised live nationally that year.

The Post Position Draw was moved to its current location and time – the Secretariat Lounge on the second floor of the Clubhouse from 5-6 p.m. ET on Wednesday of Derby Week – in 2010 so it could be televised by the NBC Sports Group.