ASMUSSEN JUVENILES POISED FOR BASHFORD MANOR, DEBUTANTE STAKES

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (Thursday, June 29, 2017) – Trainer Steve Asmussen has sent most of his Churchill Downs string of horses to Saratoga for the summer but a pair of impressive juveniles, Copper Bullet and She’s a Julie, remain and look to jumpstart their careers with stakes victories in Friday night’s $100,000 Bashford Manor Presented by GE Appliances (Grade III) and $100,000 Debutante Presented by Finlandia Vodka (Listed), respectively.

The Bashford Manor – one of Churchill Downs’ most storied races – kick-starts the closing night stakes tripleheader in Race 6 at approximately 8:30 p.m. The $100,000 Debutante, a listed six-furlong event for 2-year-old fillies, goes as Race 8 at 9:39 p.m. The $70,000-added Kelly’s Landing, a seven-furlong sprint for 3-year-olds and up, is scheduled as Race 10 at 10:42 p.m.

Copper Bullet, listed as the 8-5 favorite on Mike Battaglia’s morning line odds, was an eight-length victor in his second career start on May 25 at Churchill Downs under jockey Florent Geroux.

“We won very easily that day,” Geroux said. “We had a bit of a tough trip in the debut but at Churchill he won very impressively.”

The $200,000 Keeneland September Sale purchase recorded one of the nation’s top speed figures for juveniles when he won the second race of his career, a five-furlong maiden special weight in :57.76.

“He actually looks like a 3-year-old,” said Churchill Downs’ official clocker John Nichols, who observes and records all workouts between 6-10 a.m. daily. “He’s just a big, good-looking, strapping colt. He’s got a lot of size to him. He’s one I think that might kind of like the grass down the line but the way he won his second start here … he cleared that easy and the rider (Geroux) just really never asked him.

“She’s a very special horse,” Asmussen said. “I think she has a bright future in front of her.”

The Bashford Manor field from the rail out (with jockey and morning line odds): I’m Corfu (Arienne Cox, 12-1); Hardworkcleanlivin (Channing Hill, 6-1); Mo Diddley (Corey Lanerie, 5-2); Fig Jelly (Sophie Doyle, 12-1); Copper Bullet (Geroux, 8-5); and Ten City (Albarado, 2-1).

Whispering Oaks Farm’s She’s a Julie, a Kentucky-bred daughter of Elusive Quality who won a five-furlong maiden special weight sprint by 5 ¼ lengths on May 26, was named in honor of Asmussen’s wife Julie, who was diagnosed with neck and throat cancer in September 2015. After months of radiation, chemotherapy and surgery, Julie Asmussen was cancer-free in March 2016.

“Recount hopes to upset in Kelly’s Landing – Doubledown Stables’ 11-time winner Recount will attempt to upset multiple-graded-stakes winner Limousine Liberal in Friday night’s $70,000-added Kelly’s Landing Overnight Stakes.

The Bashford Manor field from the rail out (with jockey and morning line odds): Sunny Skies (Robby Albarado, 4-1); Rockin Royalty (Channing Hill, 20-1); Upset Brewing (Shaun Bridgmohan, 20-1); Red Dread (Arienne Cox, 30-1); Caroline the Great (Eddie Martin Jr., 20-1); She’s a Julie (Geroux, 4-1); Patrona Margarita (Chris Landeros, 8-1); Genuwine (Sophie Doyle, 50-1); Amberspatriot (Paco Lopez, 7-2); Thrighttobeararms (James Graham, 30-1); Lady O’Toole (Corey Lanerie, 9-2); Chelada (Jesus Castanon, 30-1); and Waki Patriot (Jon Court, 5-1).
The Kelly’s Landing field from the rail out (with jockey and morning line): Wabel (Brian Hernandez Jr., 15-1); Hebbronville (Joe Rocco Jr., 20-1); The Player (Shaun Bridgmohan, 6-1); Limousine Liberal (Robby Albarado, 9-5); Recount (Landeros, 5-1); Easy to Say (James Graham, 30-1); Fish Trappe Road (Gabriel Saez, 20-1); Vaporman (Didiel Osorio, 30-1); Woodland Walk (Miguel Mena, 30-1); Schivarelli (Julien Leparoux, 12-1); The Truth Or Else (Channing Hill, 6-1); Bayerd (Florent Geroux, 12-1); Solitary Ranger (Rogelio Miranda, 50-1); and Wyeth (Corey Lanerie, 10-1).

Limousine Liberal will carry 123 pounds while the others will tote 121.

ROMANS CHASES MOTT TO BECOME CHURCHILL DOWNS’ ALL-TIME LEADING TRAINER – South Louisville native Dale Romans is on the verge of surpassing Hall of Fame horseman Bill Mott as the all-time leading trainer in races won at historic Churchill Downs. Romans will begin Thursday’s action trailing Mott, 701 wins to 699.

Romans has six horses entered in four races over the final two days, while Mott has one remaining entry.

Romans’ Thursday-Friday entries:
- Thursday Race 5 (6:56 p.m.): #11 Awesome Nona (15-1)
- Thursday Race 8 (8:23 p.m.): #5 Tarpys Zapper (6-1)
- Friday Race 7 (9:05 p.m.): #11 Iconic (3-1)
- Friday Race 7 (9:05 p.m.): AE #14 Mascarpone (20-1)
- Friday Race 11 (11:10 p.m.): #1 Victor Again (10-1)
- Friday Race 11 (11:10 p.m.): #5 Laughing Levin (30-1)

Mott’s Thursday-Friday entries:
- Thursday Race 2 (5:29 p.m.): #2 Starship Zeus (7-2)

MEET LEADERS – With just two days left at the 38-day Spring Meet, 12-time Churchill Downs leading rider Corey Lanerie is positioned to snare another crown with a 56-45 lead over Brian Hernandez Jr. A triumph would mean 42-year-old Lanerie has won 13 of the last 15 riding titles at Churchill Downs since the 2012 Spring Meet and would be the second-most in track history only behind legendary Hall of Fame jockey Pat Day’s 34 local championships. Lanerie has seven mounts Thursday and rides the entire 11-race card Friday. Hernandez is named on eight horses Thursday and eight on Friday. The Top 10 jockeys are rounded out by Julien Leparoux (25), Florent Geroux (25), James Graham (22), Miguel Mena (20), Ricardo Santana Jr. (17), Chris Landeros (13), Joe Rocco Jr. (12), Didiel Osorio (11) and Gabriel Saez (11).

Hall of Famer Steve Asmussen clinched his 18th Churchill Downs training title following Providence’s three-length victory in Wednesday’s sixth race. The 51-year-old horseman has a 23-18 lead over Ian Wilkes. Tom Amoss is third with 17 wins and was followed by Brad Cox (16), Dale Romans (16), J.R. Caldwell (13), Mike Maker (13), Brendan Walsh (12), Chris Hartman (9), Al Stall Jr. (8) and Mike Tomlinson (8).

Ken and Sarah Ramsey, who seek to be the leading owners at Churchill Downs for a record-extending 29th time, trail Maggi Moss by two, 11-9, as she tries to upend the track’s perennial leaders. Moss seeks her fourth title at Churchill Downs after previously winning Spring Meet crowns in 2007, ’10 and ’14. The Ramsey’s have six horses entered on the final two days of the meet while Moss has two. Rigney Racing LLC and Whitham Thoroughbreds LLC are tied for third with six wins each, and are followed by Asmussen (4), Calumet Farm (4) and Chris Wilkins (4).

ONLY TWO DAYS LEFT AT SPRING MEET – Only two racing days and 20 races are left at Churchill Downs’ 38-day Spring Meet. Billed as “Sunset Stretch,” there is twilight racing on Thursday and the season culminates with “Downs After Dark Presented by Stella Artois and Finlandia Vodka” on Friday under the lights.

Thursday’s nine-race program has a first post of 5 p.m. (all times Eastern) and feature $1 draft beer, live music, food trucks and a Wagering 101 area.

Downs After Dark closes out the meet with an 11-race program featuring the $100,000 Bashford Manor Presented by GE Appliances (Grade III), $100,000 Debutante Presented by Finlandia Vodka and the $70,000-added Kelly’s Landing Overnight Stakes.

SINGLE-6 JACKPOT ENTERS THURSDAY AT $138,411 – A highlight of the meet’s final two days is the 20-cent minimum Single-6 Jackpot wager, which resumes in Thursday’s fourth race with a carryover pool of $138,411. The Single-6 requires a single winning ticket to pay-out its entire pool, but if there is no individual winner on Thursday, the entire pool must be paid out on Friday’s wager to players who have the most winners on their Single-6 tickets.

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The daily six-race sequence has challenged bettors to select the winners of six consecutive races but the Jackpot pool only is paid if there is a single winning ticket. When multiple tickets contain six winners – which has been the case for each of the last 21 race days – 90 percent of that day’s pool is paid out and 10 percent is added to the Jackpot carryover. Takeout on the Single-6 Jackpot is just 15 percent, which is one of the lowest multi-race wager takeout rates in American racing.

Thursday’s Single-6 will cover Races 4-9 at 6:27 p.m. and Friday night’s Single-6 Jackpot, including any added money in the carryover, will be paid to ticket holders with the most winners in the six-race series, which covers Races 5-10 starting at approximately 7:57 p.m.

DOWN THE STRETCH – All Pro Championships will hold their annual Triple Crown merchandise sale in the Churchill Downs barn area next to the Recreation Hall and basketball court on Friday from 8 a.m. to noon. Brand name polos, jackets, sweatshirts, t-shirts, caps, collector’s glasses, shot glasses, pins, mugs, performance hoodies, full-zip fleeces and ladies’ fashions will be discounted by 70 to 80 percent from their regular price.

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