BAUER CONFIDENT FOR RUBUS’ FIRST STAKES TRY
IN SUNDAY’S $80,000-ADDED STREET SENSE

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (Saturday, Oct. 28, 2017) – Rigney Racing’s Rubus will test stakes company for the first time in the $80,000-added Street Sense Overnight Stakes, one of four stakes races on Sunday’s opening day “Stars of Tomorrow I” card at Churchill Downs.

“He ran so well in his maiden race at Keeneland that we thought about taking him to the Breeders’ Cup,” trainer Phil Bauer said. “He had a very minor setback and we didn’t want to chance shipping him to California so we spotted him at home in the Street Sense.”

Rubus was a 1 ¾-length winner on Oct. 7 at Keeneland in a maiden special weight with Joe Rocco Jr. aboard. The 2-year-old colt by Majestic Warrior traveled six furlongs in 1:10.53 after pressing the pace for most of the race and drawing clear in the final sixteenth of a mile.

“I thought the race was pretty solid overall,” Bauer said. “I think the track changed throughout the day and he comes into this race with one of the highest speed figures in the field.”

Bauer, a graduate of Louisville’s St. Xavier High School, began training for Richard Rigney’s Rigney Racing in 2013.

“Mr. Rigney devotes so much to this industry,” Bauer said. “He loves this game and his horses. Fingers crossed we can get Rubus home Sunday.”

Rubus, a $260,000 purchase at the 2017 OBS April Sale, is the fifth foal to make it to the racetrack from the multiple-stakes-winning sprinter Country Diva.

“I think the one-turn mile distance should fit him perfectly with his pedigree,” Bauer said.

The Street Sense, one of four stakes races on the juvenile showcase day, is carded as Race 10 at approximately 5:30 p.m. (all times Eastern). The undercard also includes the $80,000-added Rags to Riches Overnight Stakes for fillies, $200,000 Spendthrift Juvenile Stallion Stakes and $200,000 Spendthrift Juvenile Filly Stallion Stakes.

Billed as “Stars of Tomorrow I,” each of Sunday’s 11 races is for 2-year-olds. Admission gates will open at 11:30 a.m. and the first race is 1 p.m.

The Street Sense Field from the rail out (with jockey and morning line odds): Twin Farms (Ricardo Santana Jr., 8-1); NetaS (Julien Leparoux, 12-1); Rubus (Rocco Jr., 9-2); Ebben (James Graham, 20-1); Renaissance Frolic (Jose Batista, 15-1); Bravazo (Jon Court, 4-1); Gotta Go (Chris Landeros, 10-1); Honorable Treasure (Robby Albarado, 4-1); Lone Sailor (Florent Geroux, 7-2); and Souper Smart (Corey Lanerie, 8-1).

“Stars of Tomorrow” has produced more than 50 Grade I winners over the last 12 years. Inaugurated in 2005, Churchill Downs’ “Stars of Tomorrow” programs have helped launched the careers of numerous graded stakes winners, including more than 50 future Grade I winners led by 2010 Kentucky Derby champ Super Saver; 2011 Preakness and 2012 Met Mile and Clark Handicap winner Shackleford; 2009 Horse of the Year Rachel Alexandra; 2012 Breeders’ Cup Classic and 2013 Stephen Foster Handicap hero Fort Larned; 2012 Kentucky Oaks winner Believe You Can; 2013 champion 3-year-old Will Take Charge; 2016 Belmont Stakes winner Creator; and four-time Grade I winner Gun Runner, who will vie for favoritism in this year’s Breeders’ Cup Classic.

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JOHN TIPPMANN SEEKS FIRST STAKES VICTORY IN SUNDAY’S $200,000 SPENDTHIFT JUVENILE STALLION STAKES – Al Baldassari, Dan Lion, John Tippmann and Frances Demayo’s John Tippmann is the 4-1 co-second choice on the morning line as he seeks his first stakes victory in Sunday’s $200,000 Spendthrift Juvenile Stallion Stakes at Churchill Downs for trainer Kenny McPeek.

“He’s really been training well the last couple of weeks at Churchill Downs,” assistant trainer Jeff Hiles said. “He’s run well so far in his 2-year-old campaign and we’re really looking forward to his 3-year-old year. He should be tough in this race Sunday. We breezed him Monday in company with a couple of other nice 2-year-olds and he looked good.”

John Tippmann was most recently fifth in Keeneland’s Bourbon Stakes (Grade III), a race that was taken off the turf and run at 1 1/16 miles over a sloppy surface.

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The seven-furlong Spendthrift Juvenile Stallion Stakes, carded as Race 7 on Churchill Downs’ “Stars of Tomorrow I” card, has a scheduled post time of 4 p.m. (all times Eastern). The 11-race card also includes the $80,000 Street Sense Overnight Stakes and $80,000 Rags to Riches Overnight Stakes. The first race is 1 p.m.

The purse has been structured with a unique approach to award $100,000 to the owners of the placed horses, with the other $100,000 allocated to award the breeders of the first-thru-fourth-place finishers. Specifically, the winning breeder will earn $40,000, with $30,000 going to the runner-up, $20,000 for third, and $10,000 for fourth.

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The 2-year-old colt by Tiz Wonderful was bred in Kentucky by his co-owner Baldassari. After breaking his maiden on Aug. 11 at Ellis Park under Robby Albarado, John Tippmann was the runner-up in Kentucky Downs’ $350,000 Juvenile Stakes.

“He’s a big, good looking horse,” Hiles said. “He trains well on the dirt but I think he could run on either surface. Eventually I think he will excel at two turns even though he was beaten in the Bourbon going a route of ground you have to be lenient on the race because of the off surface.”

The field for the Spendthrift Juvenile Stallion Stakes from the rail out (with jockey and morning line odds): John Tippmann (Albarado, 4-1); Just Be Frank (Cisco Torres, 20-1); El Rubio (Jack Gilligan, 20-1); Dream Baby Dream (Shaun Bridgmohan, 10-1); Ezmosh (Florent Geroux, 1-1); O’Malley’s March (Eddie Perez, 20-1); Captivating Moon (Jose Valdivia Jr., 9-2); and Fight On (Ricardo Santana Jr., 9-2).

The Spendthrift Juvenile Stallion Stakes’ counterpart, the inaugural running of the $200,000 Spendthrift Juvenile Filly Stallion Stakes, Mia Mischief leads a field of eight competitors as the even-money favorite. The 2-year-old daughter of Into Mischief was a dominate 16-length maiden victor on Oct. 8 at Keeneland.

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The seven-furlong contest, carded as Race 9, has a scheduled post time of 5 p.m.

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SPENCER TO FILL IN FOR KRISTUFEK BREEDERS’ CUP WEEK AT CHURCHILL DOWNS – Arlington Park and Fair Grounds’ Racing Analyst Brian W. Spencer will fill in for Joe Kristufek Nov. 1 through Nov. 5, at Churchill Downs.

Kristufek will represent TwinSpires.com on the Breeders’ Cup World Feed simulcast and is scheduled to return to Churchill Downs on Wednesday, Nov. 8.

ROMANS VS. MOTT – Dale Romans, a 51-year-old native of South Louisville, is just one win away from joining Hall of Famer Bill Mott as the all-time leading trainer in races won at Churchill Downs – a record that 64-year-old Mott has held for 31 years. Mott has 701 wins at Churchill Downs, while Romans begins the meet with 700 wins after landing just one victory with a pair of seconds and a trio of thirds from 24 starters during the 11-day September Meet (Mott went 0-for-6).

Romans Entries: Dance Rhythms (Sunday, Race 2); Overdraft (Sunday, Race 2); Seven Trumpets (Sunday, Race 4); Jan One (Sunday, Race 5); Lion’s Share (Sunday, Race 6); Finished (Sunday, Race 6); Jail House (Sunday, Race 11); Paddys Class (Wednesday, Race 5); Miss Subzero (Wednesday, Race 5); and Front Row Debbie (Wednesday, Race 8).

Milestones Watch – Along with the heated-battle between Dale Romans and Bill Mott for the all-time leading trainer honors at Churchill Downs (701-700 wins), trainer Greg Foley (398) is two wins away from 400 career-victories beneath the historic Twin Spires while trainer Ian Wilkes is targeting 200 career victories at Churchill Downs (194 wins).

TRICK-OR-TREAT-AT-THE-TRACK OFFERS SAFE HALLOWEEN FUN AT SUNDAY’S FAMILY ADVENTURE DAY – Break out your Halloween costume and bring the kids to Family Adventure Day presented by Kroger for safe trick-or-treating, fun family activities and racing. Churchill Downs and our community partners will pass out more than a ton (2,244 pounds) of candy at 17 booths throughout the first floor of the racetrack between 2 p.m. and 5 p.m. Kids are encouraged but not required to wear costumes. Parents may wear costumes but masks on adults are prohibited for safety reasons.

Family Adventure Day presented by Kroger offers the usual family fun and games, including the chance to stick horse race on the famous Turf Track, a carousel, petting zoo, bounce houses, bubble station, video game truck, face painting, toddler bounce house, soft play area, mini pony rides, inflatable football toss, soccer fever inflatable game and more!

Tickets are available for $8 in advance at www.churchilldowns.com/tickets.

LANERIE, MAKER, RAMSEY’S SET TO DEFEND TITLES IN FALL MEET – Jockey Corey Lanerie, trainer Mike Maker and owners Ken and Sarah Ramsey will defend their Fall Meet titles. Lanerie, who rode 31 winners at the 2016 Fall Meet, is seeking to land his 15th riding title at the last 17 meets at Churchill Downs. The native of Lafayette, La. landed his 14th local title with a record 19 wins over last month’s 11-day September Meet. Maker, who won 16 races a year ago for his sixth local title, is celebrating the 10th anniversary of his record-setting 2008 Fall Meet when he won an unprecedented 31 races over 26 days. His primary owners, the Ramseys, secured their 29th title for top owners at Churchill Downs during the September Meet when their red-and-white silks were carried into the G.H. MUMM’s Winner’s Circle five times. Last fall, the Nicholasville, Ky. couple won six Fall Meet races. Overall, they’ve won 474 races at Churchill Downs, which is more than twice as much as their nearest competitor, the famed Overbrook Farm’s 206.

DOWN THE STRETCH – The podcast of “Inside Churchill Downs”, which airs Fridays at 6 p.m. on ESPN 680/105.7, is available on the stations website www.espnlouisville.com. Friday’s one-hour show, co-hosted by Churchill Downs Racetrack’s John Asher, Darren Rogers and Kevin Kerstein, featured analysis and previews by “Daily Racing Form” and NBC Sports’ Jay Privman, Private Clocker Gary Young, and trainer Dallas Stewart. There will be no show on Friday, Nov. 3 because of the Breeders’ Cup. … Churchill Downs will simulcast the Breeders’ Cup World Championships from Southern California’s Del Mar on Friday, Nov. 3 and Saturday, Nov. 4. Churchill Downs will run 10 races those days beginning at 2 p.m. and 2:15 p.m., respectively. A simulcast of the 10-race Championship Friday card from Del Mar will begin at 2:25 p.m. and the Breeders’ Cup will cover Races 6-9 (5:25-7:35 p.m.). Championship Saturday’s 12-race program at Del Mar will commence at 1:10 p.m., cover Races 4-12 (Breeders’ Cup starts at 3 p.m.) and culminate with the Grade I, $6 million Breeders’ Cup Classic at 8:35 p.m. The first 5,000 fans in attendance on Saturday, Nov. 4 for a simulcast of the Breeders’ Cup receive a free 2018 Churchill Downs Wall Calendar, presented by Humana. … The 50/50 charitable gaming raffle is back for the Fall Meet. Proceeds from the raffle will go towards charitable organizations that benefit from the Churchill Downs Incorporated Foundation, a 501c(3) nonprofit corporation that helps support the critical work of nonprofits in our industry, make a difference in important public health programs and provide meaningful opportunities in art and education. Visit www.derbygives.com to purchase tickets and for more information. … For more information about Churchill Downs’ Fall Meet visit: https://www.churchilldowns.com/racing-wagering/news/40-things-to-know-about-churchill-downs-fall-meet.

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