

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Contact: Kevin Kerstein
Publicity Manager
Churchill Downs Racetrack
(610) 420-6971 (mobile)
(502) 635-4712 (office)
Kevin.Kerstein@KyDerby.com

KENTUCKY DERBY 147 RUNNERS RETURN TO TRAINING

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (Sunday, May 16, 2021) – Several locally based contenders from the recent \$3 million Kentucky Derby presented by Woodford Reserve (Grade I) returned to the Churchill Downs work tab Saturday and Sunday.

Trainer **Brad Cox** was not represented in this year's Preakness Stakes (GI) but his Derby duo of **Godolphin's Essential Quality** and **Juddmonte's Mandaloun** both recorded easy half-mile moves early Saturday morning. Essential Quality worked in :50.80 while Mandaloun breezed in :48.20.

Cox and Godolphin reported following the Derby that Essential Quality would be considered for the third jewel of racing's Triple Crown, the \$1.5 million Belmont Stakes (GI). A next race option for Mandaloun is still to be announced.

Another Derby runner that recorded a Saturday work was **D J Stable's** \$400,000 Tampa Bay Derby (GII) winner **Helium**, who cruised an easy half-mile in :48.80. Trainer **Mark Casse's** local assistant **David Carroll** reported the colt could target the \$150,000 Matt Winn (GIII) on May 29 at Churchill Downs.

One of the few horses to close significant ground into the pace of the Kentucky Derby was **Bernard Racing, Tagg Team Racing, West Point Thoroughbreds and Terry Stephens' O Besos**. The Orb colt worked a half-mile in :49.20 Saturday with jockey **Marcelino Pedroza** in the saddle. Trainer **Greg Foley** reported several options are being considered for the 3-year-old but a decision has not been made final.

On Sunday, **M Racing Group's** \$250,000 Jeff Ruby Steaks (GIII) winner **Like the King** returned to the turf to work five furlongs in 1:02.40 under jockey **Tyler Gaffalione** with trainer **Wesley Ward** watching from the grandstand. Ward reported the son of **Palace Malice** could be considered for the \$150,000 Audubon, run at 1 1/8 miles over the turf.

LADY OF LUXURY BREAKS TRACK RECORD SATURDAY AT CHURCHILL DOWNS – **Joey Keith Davis and Jackie Rojas' Lady of Luxury** broke the 5 1/2-furlong Matt Winn Turf Course track record Saturday at Churchill Downs when she recorded a dominating 3 3/4-length score in a conditioned allowance event in 1:02.13.

Trained by **Chris Hartman** and ridden by **Mitchell Murrill**, Lady of Luxury rewarded her backers with a \$19 mutuel payoff.

The previous 5 1/2-furlong turf record was established in 2019 by allowance winner **Om**, who stopped the clock in 1:02.24.

STAKES PROBABLES – Saturday is Downs After Dark presented by Budweiser and the 11-race nighttime program will feature the \$150,000 Winning Colors (Grade III) and the \$110,000 Keertana Overnight Stakes.

The following horses are likely to enter the Winning Colors, a six-furlong sprint for fillies and mares 4-year-olds and up, according to Churchill Downs assistant racing secretary and stakes coordinator **Dan Bork: Frank's Rockette** (trainer Bill Mott); **Mundaye Call** (Brad Cox); **Palace Avenger** (Wesley Ward) and **Sconsin** (Greg Foley).

Both races will be drawn Wednesday.

DOWN THE STRETCH – Sunday's racing action at Churchill Downs began at 12:45 p.m. for the nine-race program. The 20-cent Derby City 6 Jackpot had a carryover of \$55,043. ... **Stonestreet Stables' Campanelle (IRE)** continued her Sunday turf work pattern at Churchill Downs in preparation for a start at the 2021 Royal Ascot Meeting. Trained by **Wesley Ward**, the daughter of **Kodiac (GB)** worked five furlongs in 1:00 with **Julio Garcia** aboard. She's on target to enter the Commonwealth Cup on June 18, according to Ward. ... Champion sprinter **Whitmore** was one of the first horses to work Sunday morning where he cruised a half-mile in :48.40 inside stablemate **Ike**. ... **Korea Racing Authority's** multiple Grade I winner **Knicks Go** continued his preparation for Lone Star Park's \$400,000 Steve Sexton Mile (GIII) with a six furlong move in 1:12.80 Sunday at 7:30 a.m. ... Longines Kentucky Oaks (GI) fourth-place finisher **Clairiere** returned to the work tab Sunday with an easy half-mile in :51. Her stablemate, Oaks eighth-place runner **Pauline's Pearl**, worked a half-mile in :51.60. ... After dark days on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, racing at Churchill Downs will resume Thursday for Twilight Thursday with a first post of 5 p.m.

-END-