



THE DERBY DISPATCH

Contacts: Darren Rogers (502) 636-4461 (o), (502) 345-1030 (m) or Darren.Rogers@KyDerby.com @DerbyMedia
Kevin Kerstein (502) 635-4712 (o), (610) 420-6971 (m) or Kevin.Kerstein@KyDerby.com @HorseRacingKK

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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

ROAD TO THE KENTUCKY DERBY CLOSES WITH LEXINGTON

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (Thursday, April 14, 2022) – It's been 208 days since the Road to Kentucky Derby 148 began at Churchill Downs, and Saturday is the last opportunity for Derby hopefuls to accrue points for a chance to get into the 20-horse starting gate as Keeneland hosts the \$400,000 Lexington Stakes (Grade III), which offers 20 points to the winner.

The current No. 20 cutoff to make the starting gate for the \$3 million Kentucky Derby presented by Woodford Reserve (GI) on Saturday, May 7 is held by **Peachtree Stable's** \$600,000 Jeff Ruby Steaks (GIII) runner-up **Tawny Port**. His 40 points are tied with **Messier, Zozos, Summer Is Tomorrow** and **Charge It**. However, the tie breaker, non-restricted graded stakes earnings, makes him the last of the group. Tawny Port is expected to be a top contender in Saturday's Lexington, where his connections will attempt to secure his spot in the Kentucky Derby.

The Lexington Stakes will offer the top four finishers points on a 20-8-4-2 scale. The 1 1/16-mile race will go as Race 9 with a post time of 5:16 p.m. (all times Eastern). Fans can bet the Lexington Stakes on www.TwinSpires.com, the official wagering provider of Churchill Downs and the Kentucky Derby.

TAWNY PORT TOPS 11 RIVALS IN \$400,000 LEXINGTON STAKES – **Peachtree Stable's** \$600,000 Jeff Ruby Steaks (Grade III) runner-up **Tawny Port** will return to the dirt as one of the top choices in Saturday's \$400,000 Lexington Stakes (GIII) at Keeneland.

The 1 1/16-mile Lexington is the final opportunity for Derby hopefuls to gain points on the Road to the Kentucky Derby. The race will offer the top four finishers points on a 20-8-4-2 scale. The Lexington goes as Race 9 at 5:16 p.m.

Tawny Port's 40 points on the Road to the Kentucky Derby currently has him in spot No. 20. Several other Lexington entrants would add their name to the Derby picture should they win including Fountain of Youth (GII) runner-up **In Due Time** (20 points); Rebel (GII) runner-up **Ethereal Road** (20 points); Iroquois (GIII) winner **Major General** (10 points); Smarty Jones winner **Dash Attack** (10 points) and Lecomte (GIII) winner **Call Me Midnight** (10 points).

Trained by **Brad Cox**, Tawny Port finished 2 ¼ lengths behind **Tiz the Bomb** in last month's Jeff Ruby Steaks. The son of Pioneerof the Nile will switch back to the dirt surface for the first time since his fifth place-effort in the Risen Star (GII). **Florent Geroux** will have the call from post No. 9.

Here's the complete field for the Lexington from the rail out (with jockey and trainer): **Midnight Chrome** (Jose Ortiz, John Servis); **In Due Time** (Paco Lopez, Kelly Breen); **We All See It** (Luis Saez, Eddie Kenneally); **Ethereal Road** (Victor Espinoza, D. Wayne Lukas); **Howling Time** (Joe Talamo, Dale Romans); **Skate to Heaven** (David Cohen, Robertino Diodoro); **Major General** (Irad Ortiz Jr., Todd Pletcher); **Strava** (Tyler Gaffalione, Dallas Stewart); **Tawny Port** (Geroux, Brad Cox); **Dash Attack** (Flavien Prat, Kenny McPeck); and **Call Me Midnight** (James Graham, Keith Desormeaux).

Fans can watch and wager on the Lexington at www.TwinSpires.com, the official wagering provider of Churchill Downs Inc. and the Kentucky Derby.

MO DONEGAL, TAIBA, ZANDON BECOME MAJOR KENTUCKY DERBY PLAYERS FOLLOWING SATURDAY VICTORIES – The starting gate for the \$3 million Kentucky Derby presented by Woodford Reserve (GI) began to take more serious shape Saturday following the victories of **Mo Donegal** in the \$750,000 Wood Memorial (GII), **Taiba** in the \$750,000 Santa Anita Derby (GI) and **Zandon** in the \$1 million Blue Grass (GI).

Here is the updated leaderboard with four races remaining on the Road to the Kentucky Derby:

Horse	Trainer	Resume	Possible Next Start	Points
Epicenter	Steve Asmussen	1 st – Louisiana Derby 1 st – Risen Star 1 st – Gun Runner 2 nd – Lecomte	May 7: Kentucky Derby	164
Zandon	Chad Brown	1 st – Blue Grass 2 nd – Remsen 3 rd – Risen Star	May 7: Kentucky Derby	114
White Abarrio	Saffie Joseph Jr	1 st – Florida Derby 1 st – Holy Bull 3 rd – Kentucky Jockey Club	May 7: Kentucky Derby	112
Mo Donegal	Todd Pletcher	1 st – Wood Memorial 1 st – Remsen 3 rd – Holy Bull	May 7: Kentucky Derby	112
Tiz the Bomb	Kenny McPeck	1 st – Jeff Ruby Steaks 1 st – John Battaglia Memorial	May 7: Kentucky Derby	110
Cyberknife	Brad Cox	1 st – Arkansas Derby	May 7: Kentucky Derby	100
Crown Pride (JPN)	Koichi Shintani	1 st – UAE Derby	May 7: Kentucky Derby	100
Taiba	Tim Yakteen	1 st – Santa Anita Derby	May 7: Kentucky Derby	100
Simplification	Antonio Sano	1 st – Fountain of Youth 2 nd – Holy Bull 3 rd – Florida Derby	May 7: Kentucky Derby	74
Smile Happy	Kenny McPeck	1 st – Ky Jockey Club 2 nd – Blue Grass 2 nd – Risen Star	May 7: Kentucky Derby	70
Slow Down Andy	Doug O'Neill	1 st – Sunland Derby 1 st – Los Alamitos Futurity	May 7: Kentucky Derby	60
Barber Road	John Ortiz	2 nd – Arkansas Derby 2 nd – Smarty Jones 2 nd – Southwest 3 rd – Rebel	May 7: Kentucky Derby	58
Un Ojo	Ricky Courville	1 st – Rebel 2 nd – Withers	May 7: Kentucky Derby	54
Early Voting	Chad Brown	1 st – Withers 2 nd – Wood Memorial	May 7: Kentucky Derby or May 21: Preakness	50
Morello	Steve Asmussen	1 st – Gotham	May 7: Kentucky Derby?	50
Messier	Tim Yakteen	2 nd – Santa Anita Derby	May 7: Kentucky Derby	40
Zozos	Brad Cox	2 nd – Louisiana Derby	May 7: Kentucky Derby	40
\$- Summer Is Tomorrow	Bhupat Seemar	2 nd – UAE Derby	May 7: Kentucky Derby	40
Charge It	Todd Pletcher	2 nd – Florida Derby	May 7: Kentucky Derby?	40
Tawny Port	Brad Cox	2 nd – Jeff Ruby Steaks	April 16: Lexington Stakes	40

DOWN THE STRETCH –

As of Thursday morning there are seven Kentucky Derby contenders within the Top 20 that are stabled at Churchill Downs: **Crown Pride (JPN)** (Quarantine), **Cyberknife** (Barn 22), **Epicenter** (Barn 38), **Morello** (Barn 38), **Smile Happy** (Barn 6), **Tawny Port** (Barn 22) and **Zozos** (Barn 22). ...

Arkansas Derby (GI) winner **Cyberknife** is slated to work Saturday in preparation for the Kentucky Derby. His stablemate, TwinSpires.com Louisiana Derby (GII) runner-up **Zozos**, is also slated to work, according to trainer **Brad Cox**. ...

Trainer **Todd Pletcher** is scheduled to start shipping horses back to Churchill Downs next week to Barn 35. His Derby contenders are likely to have two works over the track prior to the first Saturday in May. ...

Gotham winner **Morello** shipped back to Churchill Downs on Tuesday following his disappointing sixth-place finish in the Wood Memorial. ...

Jeff Ruby Steaks (GIII) winner **Tiz the Bomb** is tentatively scheduled to arrive Thursday at Churchill Downs, according to trainer **Kenny McPeck**. ...

Blue Grass Stakes (GI) winner **Zandon** is slated to arrive at Churchill Downs next week, according to trainer **Chad Brown**. ...

Longines Kentucky Oaks (GI) contender **Venti Valentine** is scheduled to arrive at Churchill Downs on Saturday. She'll be stabled in Barn 25. ...

The first day for the exclusive 15-minute training period for Kentucky Derby and Oaks contenders will be Saturday, April 23. The track will be reserved from 7:30-7:45 a.m. for only horses competing in either of those races. ...

Nominations for all Kentucky Derby week stakes races, including late nominations to the Longines Kentucky Oaks (GI), close Saturday. To nominate, call the Churchill Downs Racing Office at (502) 638-3806. More information is available at www.churchilldowns.com/horsemen.

ABOUT CHURCHILL DOWNS RACETRACK

Churchill Downs Racetrack ("CDRT"), the world's most legendary racetrack, has been the home of The Kentucky Derby, the longest continually held annual sporting event in the United States, since 1875. Located in Louisville, CDRT features a series of themed race days during Derby Week, including the Kentucky Oaks, and conducts Thoroughbred horse racing during three race meets in the Spring, September, and the Fall. CDRT is located on 175 acres and has a one-mile dirt track, a 7/8-mile turf track, a stabling area, and provides seating for approximately 60,000 guests. The saddling paddock and the stable area has barns sufficient to accommodate 1,400 horses and a 114-room dormitory for backstretch personnel. CDRT also has a year-round simulcast wagering facility. www.ChurchillDowns.com.

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