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CHAMPION FILLY ECHO ZULU TOPS 103 NOMINEES TO LONGINES KENTUCKY OAKS

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (Wednesday, Feb. 23, 2022) – A total of 103 of the world's best 3-year-old fillies, including champion **Echo Zulu**, were made early nominees to the \$1.25 million Longines Kentucky Oaks (Grade I).

The early nomination period to the Kentucky Oaks closed Saturday with a \$200 payment. The 1 1/8-mile race will be staged for the 148th time on Friday, May 6 at Churchill Downs.

Echo Zulu, owned by **L and N Racing** and **Winchell Thoroughbreds** and trained by **Steve Asmussen**, recently began working toward her 3-year-old debut. The undefeated Gun Runner filly sports victories in the \$2 million Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies (GI), \$400,000 Frizette (GI) and \$300,000 Spinaway (GI). Echo Zulu also is nominated to the Triple Crown.

Other top contenders that were nominated to the Longines Kentucky Oaks include **Old Bones Racing Stable**, **Michael Lombardi** and **Joey Platts'** \$200,000 Chandelier (GII) winner **Ain't Easy**; **Cypress Creek Equine** and **Arnold Bennewith's** \$400,000 Golden Rod (GII) winner **Dream Lith**; **Hidden Brook Farm** and **Black Type Thoroughbreds'** \$300,000 Pocahontas (GIII) winner **Hidden Connection**; **Albaugh Family Stables'** \$400,000 Alcibiades (GI) winner **Juju's Map**; **Repole Stable**, **Eclipse Thoroughbred Partners** and **Michael House's** \$250,000 Demoiselle (GII) winner **Nest**; **Briland Farm's** \$200,000 Martha Washington winner **Secret Oath**; **KHK Racing's** \$150,000 UAE Oaks (GIII) winner **Shahama**; and **Dawn** and **Ike Thrash's** \$300,000 Rachel Alexandra (GII) winner **Turnerloose**.

Fillies not nominated during the early stage can pay a \$1,500 late fee until Saturday, April 16. After April 16, a supplementary nomination fee of \$25,000 can be made at the time of entry.

A complete list of nominations will be available at <https://www.churchilldowns.com/horsemen/stakes/nominations/>

Like the May 7 Kentucky Derby Presented by Woodford Reserve, the Longines Kentucky Oaks has been run each year since 1875. The lucrative race is the centerpiece of a spectacular day of racing and entertainment at Churchill Downs that celebrates fashion, food, celebrity and fun with a focus on women's health issues and outreach.

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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