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CHAMPION FORTE TOPS 369 EARLY TRIPLE CROWN NOMINEES

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (Tuesday, Feb. 7, 2023) – Led by 2-year-old champion and three-time Grade I winner **Forte**, a total of 369 3-year-old Thoroughbreds were made eligible to compete in this year's Triple Crown series during the early nomination phase, which closed Saturday, Jan. 28.

Each of the 369 horses from the 2020 foal crop were made eligible through a \$600 payment to compete in any leg of the Triple Crown series. The 2023 Triple Crown opens Saturday, May 6 with the 149th running of the 1 ¼-mile Kentucky Derby (GI) at Churchill Downs in Louisville, Ky. The 148th Preakness (GI), its 1 3/16-mile second jewel, is set for Saturday, May 20 at Pimlico Race Course in Baltimore, Md. The 155th running of the Belmont Stakes (GI), the series' 1 ½-mile final leg, is scheduled for Saturday, June 10 at Belmont Park in Elmont, N.Y.

The total early nominations rose by 18.2% or 57 horses from last year's total of 312. The nominees include a record 37 horses based in Japan, 16 more than last year's previous record of 21.

Forte, owned by **Repole Stable** and **St. Elias Stable** and campaigned by **Todd Pletcher**, is scheduled to make his 2023 debut in the coming weeks. The champion colt won last year's Hopeful (GI), Breeders' Futurity (GI) and Breeders' Cup Juvenile (GI). Forte is one of 36 horses nominated by Pletcher to this year's Triple Crown.

Overall, 52 stakes winners were nominated to the Triple Crown. Some of the most notable: **Arabian Knight** (Southwest); **Blazing Sevens** (Champagne); **Cave Rock** (Del Mar Futurity); **Curly Jack** (Iroquois); **Dubuyhnell** (Remsen); Forte (Breeders' Cup Juvenile); the filly **Hoosier Philly** (Golden Rod); **Instant Coffee** (Lecomte); **Newgate** (Robert B. Lewis); **Practical Move** (Los Alamitos Futurity); **Rocket Can** (Holy Bull); **Two Phil's** (Street Sense) and **Victory Formation** (Smarty Jones).

Spenthrift Farm had 19 horses nominated to the Triple Crown that they are sole owners or involved in a partnership. They also bred two nominees.

Brad Cox led all trainers with 38 horses nominated to the Triple Crown including recent Lecomte Stakes (GIII) winner Instant Coffee. Pletcher was next with 36 nominees followed by **Steve Asmussen** (13), **Kenny McPeck** (13), **Chad Brown** (12) and **Hideyuki Mori** (12).

Horses not currently assigned a trainer or horses under the care of any trainer suspended from competing in the 2023 Kentucky Derby have their trainer listed as "TBD." For the Kentucky Derby, horses under the care of any suspended trainer or affiliates may be transferred to a non-suspended trainer and become eligible for earning Road to the Kentucky Derby points on a forward-looking basis so long as the transfer is complete by Feb. 28.

Early Triple Crown Nominees by the numbers:

- \$3,550,000: Highest public auction purchase – **Hejazi** (2022 Fasig-Tipton Midlantic Two-Year-Olds in Training Sale).
- \$1,595,150: Highest earnings of an individual horse nominated (Forte). The other top earners (as of Feb. 3): **Cave Rock** (\$748,000), **Victoria Road (IRE)** (\$663,779), **Dura Erede (JPN)** (\$633,186) and **Private Creed** (\$618,913).
- \$3,000: Lowest public auction purchase – **Accident** (2021 Fasig-Tipton Kentucky Fall Yearling Sale).
- 285: Number of Kentucky-bred horses. Other states represented are Florida (19), New York (19), California (5), Maryland (3), Pennsylvania (3), Oklahoma (2) and Texas (1).
- 161: Number of registered Bay horses. Other registered colors are Dark Bay or Brown (93), Chestnut (74), Gray or Roan (39), Brown (1), Gray (1).

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- 125: Number of trainers that nominated horses to the Triple Crown.
- 39: Horses who were foaled after Kentucky Derby Day (May 6).
- 32: Horses foaled outside the United States. Other countries are Japan (24), Ireland (4), Canada (3) and Great Britain (1).
- 17: Horses produced by sire **Into Mischief**. He's followed by **Curlin** (15), **Good Magic** (14) and **Justify** (14).
- 2: Fillies nominated. They are Hoosier Philly and **Julia Shining**

Three-year-olds that were not nominated to the Triple Crown during the early nomination phase can pay a late payment of \$6,000 through Monday, March 27. Payments must be made at the time of nomination on www.thetriplecrown.com or by calling (502) 638-3825.

Thirteen horses have swept the Triple Crown series: **Sir Barton** (1919), **Gallant Fox** (1930), **Omaha** (1935), **War Admiral** (1937), **Whirlaway** (1941), **Count Fleet** (1943), **Assault** (1946), **Citation** (1948), **Secretariat** (1973), **Seattle Slew** (1977), **Affirmed** (1978), **American Pharoah** (2015) and **Justify** (2018).

2023 Triple Crown Nominees (in alphabetical order):

(20)Appealing Zophie	Calm Sea	Disarm	Fleet Feet
(20)Nonna Bella	Calycanthus	Distinct Tale	Fletcher
(20)Often (IRE)	Candidate	Don Corleone	Fliparino
(20)She's Hot Wired	Captain Choochies	Donegal Arrow	Flipper (JPN)
(20)Storm Crossing	Capture the Lion	Donegal Danny	Fort Bragg
(20)Value Stream	Carmel Road	D'oro Lemon	Fort Warren
Aaraj	Castle Island	Dr. Kraft	Forte
Aaron	Castlewarden	Dreaming of Kona	Foxburg
Abeliefinthislavin	Cave Rock	Dreamlike	Freedom Road
Accident	Champagne Juan	Drew's Gold	Freedom Trail
Adcap	Champions Dream	Dubuyhnell	Freezing Point
Advance Pharoah	Charging	Dude N Colorado (GB)	From Dusk
Ah Jeez	Circling the Drain	Dura Erede (JPN)	Frosted Departure
Alternate Reality	Citizen	Eastbound	Funtastic Again
American Speed	Class Actor	Easy Action	Game Change
Amstrong	Classic Car Wash	Eclogite (JPN)	Game Keeper
Andiamo a Firenze	Classic Catch	Ecoro Ares	Geaux Rocket Ride
Angel of Empire	Classic Legacy	Eirik Ridge	General Banker
Arabian Knight	Classical Cat	Emperor's Appeal	General Jim
Arabian Lion	Clear the Air	English Bob	Genius Jimmy
Arctic Arrogance	Clubhouse	Equivoque	Ghost Hero
Arman	Confidence Game	Escalation	Giant Mischief
Arrowthegreat	Congruent	Escape Artist	Gilmore
Arthur's Ride	Continuar (JPN)	Escapologist	Go On Mo
B Minor	Corona Bolt	Event Detail	God Blue Bee (JPN)
B West	Cours Mirabeau (JPN)	Ever a Rebel	Golden Sombrero
Baby Billy	Crupi	Everso Mischievous	Goraiko (JPN)
Banishing	Crypto Ride	Excel Calculator	Greenland (IRE)
Bank Frenzy	Cupidon	Expect More	Guadalajara
Be Punctual	Curly Jack	Expected Value	Gulfport
Ben Franklin	Curly Larry and Mo	Extra Anejo	Gun Pilot
Bishops Bay	Curren Alcantara (JPN)	Eyeing Clover	Hard Mission
Blazing Sevens	Cuvier	Eyes On the King	Hard to Figure
Blocked	Cyclone Mischief	Faustin	Harlocap
Bolt Supremacy	Dats Mr. Mo	Favorable Scenario	Havnameltdown
Bourbon Bash	Dazzlemesilver	Fearless Soldier	Hayes Strike
Bourbon Resolve	Del Mar Jerry	Fight'n Ready	Hejazi
Brigade Commander	Demolition Duke	First Defender	Heroic Move
Bring Theband Home	Denington	First Mission	High Strike
Cagliostro	Derma Sotogake (JPN)	First Strike	Highest Regards
Cairo (IRE)	Determinedly	Five Star G Man	Hit Show

Honed	Meteorite	Quality West	Tapit Shoes
Hoosier Philly	Mi Hermano Ramon	Quaternion	Tapit Trice
Hornung	Midnight Rising	Raise Cain	Tapit's Conquest
I Don't Get It	Miracle Worker	Raven's Nest	Tapit's Tale
Il Miracolo	Miranda Rights	Ready Shakespeare	Tatum
Im a Modest Man	Mokku Mokku (JPN)	Reckoning Force	Ten Days Later
Infinite Series	Moment Catch (JPN)	Red Route One	Texas Pride
Instant Coffee	Monegasque	Redeemer	Theismann
Ironsides	Moon Landing	Reincarnate	There Be Dragons
Jace's Road	Mo's Treasure	Relampago Verde	Till Dawn
Jackstown	Mount Up	Richer (JPN)	Timaeus
Jasper World	Mr Fisk	Ride Up	Tiz Tok
Joey Freshwater	Mr. Keating	Ringside	Transect
Julia Shining	Mr. Ripple	Riverside	Treaty Obligation
Jungfrau	My Man Ira	Rocket Can	Truehood
Justice Department	National Treasure	Rocking Rocket	Tshiebwe
Kake's Arrow	Nation's Call (IRE)	Route Runner	Tufnel
Kalik	Navy Man	Rudder's Men	Turbo
Kana Always (JPN)	Neural Network	Rule Breaker	Tuskegee Airmen
Kangaroo Court	Newgate	Run Cory Run	Two Eagles River
Keanu	Nielson	Runandscore	Two Phil's
Kentucky Joker	Notah	Santorini	U. S. Army
Kid Billy	Nullarbor	Scoobie Quando	Ultimate Gamble
Kid Ketchum	Ocasek	Secret Threat	Uncle Jake
Kingdom Heart	Odonata	Seeking Unity	Uncorrelated
Kingsbarns	Ohana Honor	Sensical	Union Trail
La Perfect Bee	Omega Tuxedo (JPN)	Seven's Eleven	Vegas Burner
Langlee Avenue	One in Vermillion	Sgt. Pepper	Vendaval y Rabiari (JPN)
Lap Star	Orion's Way	Shadow Dragon	Verifying
Laver	Ormstown	Shaq Diesel	Victoria Road (IRE)
Legacy Isle	Our Dream Rye'd	Shesterkin	Victory Formation
Litigate	Palace Gate	Shirl's Bee	Vigorish
Loggins	Pappy Wolfe	Shopper's Revenge	Wadsworth
Looms Boldly	Paradise Perfect	Signator	War Officer
Lord Miles	Perriere (JPN)	Silver Heist	Weekend Tizzy
Love Me Not	Petcoff	Simovic	West Coast Cowboy
Low Expectations	Pink Soleil	Single Ruler	Western Ghent
Lugan Knight	Pioneer Prince	Skinner	Weyhill Road
Lux Frontier (JPN)	Plavi (JPN)	Slip Mahoney	Wigmore Street
Mad Hustle	Point Proven	Sonoran	Willakenzie
Mage	Power in Numbers	Sorakarano Chikara	Wine Wine Red
Magic City	Powerful	Speed Boat Beach	Winters Lion
Magico	Practical Move	Speed of the Nile	Wizard of Westwood
Major Blue	Prairie Hawk	Stormy Entry	Woodythebidspotter
Major Dude	Prince of Jericho	Sully	Worcester
Mandarin Hero (JPN)	Private Creed	Summer Cause	Work Order
Manibhadra	Promise Me a Ride	Sun Thunder	Worthington
Mayfield Strong	Prospering	Sunday Funday (JPN)	Yellow Brick
Mazing Mark	Protege	Sunrise Sieg (JPN)	Yuttitham (JPN)
Medjed (JPN)	Prove Worthy	T O Ricardo (JPN)	
Mendelssohns March	Pursuit of Power	Tall Boy	
Meta Max	Quadra Island	Talladega	