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GAMINE, SWISS SKYDIVER TOP FIELD OF NINE FOR \$1.25 MILLION LONGINES KENTUCKY OAKS

LOUISVILLE, KY (Monday, Aug. 31, 2020) – Robert Lund Petersen’s brilliant two-time Grade I winner **Gamine** and **Peter Callahan’s Swiss Skydiver**, winner of the Alabama (GI) in her most recent start, headline a field of nine 3-year-old fillies entered Monday for Friday’s 146th running of the \$1.25 million Longines Kentucky Oaks (GI).

The Oaks, contested at 1 1/8 miles on the main track, will go as the 12th race on Friday’s 13-race program that begins at 11 a.m. (all times Eastern) with the Oaks going at 5:45 p.m. NBCSN will carry the Oaks as part of its 3-6 p.m. telecast.

Gamine, the even-money morning line favorite, comes into the Oaks off blowout victories in the Acorn (GI) by 18 3/4 lengths going a mile and the Test (GI) going seven furlongs. **John Velazquez**, who won the 2004 Oaks on **Ashado**, has been aboard for those two victories and has the call again Friday.

Three-times Oaks-winning trainer **Bob Baffert** conditions Gamine. Baffert’s Oaks winners are **Abel Tasman** (2017), **Plum Pretty** (2011) and **Silverbulletday** (1999).

Gamine will break from post position five.

Swiss Skydiver (8-5 on the morning line) has won her past four starts against fillies with a runner-up finish in the Blue Grass Stakes (GII) against the boys the lone blemish in the past six months.

Trained by **Kenny McPeck**, Swiss Skydiver notched her first Grade I victory in her most recent start in the Alabama at Saratoga. **Tyler Gaffalione**, who was aboard for the Alabama victory, has the call Friday and will break from post position one.

Eclipse Thoroughbred Partners, Madaket Stables and **Heider Family Stables’** Speech (5-1 on the morning line) returns to Kentucky from her Southern California base following a last out victory in the Ashland (GI) at Keeneland.

Trained by **Michael McCarthy**, Speech finished second to Swiss Skydiver in the Santa Anita Oaks (GII) and prior to that finished a neck behind Gamine in a two-turn allowance race at Oaklawn Park.

Javier Castellano, who won the 2016 Oaks on **Cathryn Sophia**, has the mount on Speech and will break from post position four.

The trainer-jockey combination of **Brad Cox** and **Florent Geroux**, who teamed to win the 2018 Oaks with **Monomoy Girl**, are aiming for a second score in the Oaks with **Shedaresthedevil**.

Owned by **Flurry Racing Stables, Qatar Racing Limited** and **Big Aut Farms**, Shedaresthedevil exits a 5-length blowout victory in the Indiana Oaks (GIII). Shedaresthedevil (20-1 on the morning line) will break from post position seven.

Also expected to draw support is **Kaleem Shah, Mrs. John Magnier, Michael Tabor** and **Derrick Smith’s Donna Veloce**.

Trained by **Simon Callaghan**, Donna Veloce enters the Oaks off a six-month layoff. Winner of the Santa Ysabel in her most recent start, Donna Veloce has compiled a 4-2-2-0 record with one of those runner-up finishes coming in last year’s Breeders’ Cup Juvenile Fillies (GI).

Listed at 15-1 on the morning line, Donna Veloce will be ridden by **Ricardo Santana Jr.** and break from post position three.

The field for the Longines Kentucky Oaks with riders and morning line odds from the rail out, is: Swiss Skydiver (Gaffalione, 8-5), **Tempers Rising** (Julien Leparoux, 50-1), Donna Veloce (Santana Jr., 15-1), Speech (Castellano, 5-1), Gamine (Velazquez, 1-1), **Bayerness** (Rafael Bejarano, 50-1), Shedaresthedevil (Geroux, 20-1), **Hopeful Growth** (Manny Franco, 30-1) and **Dream Marie** (Joe Talamo, 50-1). All starters will carry 121 pounds.

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