



THE DERBY DISPATCH

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ROAD TO KENTUCKY DERBY FIRES UP WITH QUARTET OF KEY RACES

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (Thursday, March 2, 2023) – A quartet of key races on the Road to the Kentucky Derby will be on tap Saturday where several top contenders will take the stage, including 2-year-old Champion **Forte** who will make his first start of the year.

It's been an eventful start to the Championship Series on the Road to the Kentucky Derby where two upset winners, **Angel of Empire** (Risen Star) and **Confidence Game** (Rebel), added their names to the serious contenders for this year's "Run for the Roses."

Saturday's four stops on the Road to the Kentucky Derby feature three Championship Series events – the \$400,000 Fountain of Youth (GII), the \$400,000 San Felipe (GII) and the \$300,000 Gotham (GIII) – that award top five points on a 50-20-15-10-5 scale. Saturday also will close the 21-race Prep Season with the \$150,000 John Battaglia Memorial.

Along with the long-awaited return of Forte in the Fountain of Youth, fans will also get to see 3-year-old debuts of Los Alamitos Futurity (GII) winner **Practical Move** in the San Felipe and Champagne (GI) winner **Blazing Sevens** in the Fountain of Youth.

Both the Fountain of Youth and San Felipe are no stranger to producing Kentucky Derby winners. Ten years ago, **Orb** narrowly defeated **Violence** at odds of 5-1 to win the Fountain of Youth. The next year, in the San Felipe, **California Chrome** dominated six rivals by 7 ¼ lengths. And, in 2020, **Authentic** had a memorable 2 ¼-length victory in the San Felipe, just 10 days prior to Churchill Downs Incorporated's announcement that Kentucky Derby 146 would be postponed to September due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The European Road to the Kentucky Derby also will resume Friday where **Westerberg, Mrs. John Magnier, Michael B. Tabor** and **Derrick Smith's** Triple Crown nominated **Cairo (IRE)** will make his 3-year-old debut in the one-mile Patton Stakes at Ireland's Dundalk Stadium.

While the Road to the Kentucky Derby 149 is far from over, the next several days should provide answers to questions about this year's contenders for the \$3 million Kentucky Derby presented by Woodford Reserve (GI) on Saturday, May 6.

CHAMPION 2-YEAR-OLD FORTE SET TO MAKE SEASONAL BOW IN FOUNTAIN OF YOUTH – Repole Stable and St Elias Stable's Forte is set to make his long-awaited return from his victory in last year's Breeders' Cup Juvenile (Grade I) as the 7-5 morning line favorite in Saturday's \$400,000 Fountain of Youth (GII) at Gulfstream Park.

Forte will headline a field of 10 3-year-old colts in the 1 1/8-mile Fountain of Youth that will have a post time of 5:43 p.m. (all times Eastern) as Race 14.

Trained by two-time Kentucky Derby winner **Todd Pletcher**, Forte has been on the sidelines since his Nov. 4 victory in the Breeders' Cup. Previously, the son of Violence recorded victories in the Breeders' Futurity (GI) and Hopeful (GI). Forte has been preparing for his seasonal bow at Palm Beach Downs with a series of six published workouts that began Jan. 21. In the last five years, Pletcher hits at a 26% win rate with horses returning off a more than 90 day layoff. Forte will be ridden by **Irad Ortiz Jr.** from post No. 4.

Another top contender making his first start of the year is **Rodeo Creek Racing's Blazing Sevens**. Trained by **Chad Brown**, Blazing Sevens finished fourth to Forte in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile. Previously, the son of Good Magic was a 3 ¼-length victor in the Champagne (GI). Like Forte, Blazing Sevens started preparing for his return to the races on Jan. 21 except at Payson Park, about one hour north of Palm Beach Downs. Brown's trainees win at a 28% clip after returning from a more than 90 day layoff. Jockey **Joel Rosario** will be in the irons for the first time in the Fountain of Youth and the duo will break from post 6.

Other top entrants in the Fountain of Youth include **Courtlandt Farms' Swale Stakes (GIII) winner General Jim** and **Frank Fletcher Racing Operations Holy Bull (GIII) winner Rocket Can**, although the former may bypass the race because of an illness.

Here's the field for the Fountain of Youth from the rail out (with jockey and trainer): General Jim (Luis Saez, Shug McGaughey III); **Legacy Isle** (Emisael Jaramillo, Rohan Crichton, 20-1); **Shadow Dragon** (Jose Ortiz, Bill Mott, 12-1); Forte (Ortiz, Pletcher, 7-5); **Il Miracolo** (Edgar Perez, Antonio Sano, 30-1); Blazing Sevens (Rosario, Brown, 7-2); **Mage** (Javier Castellano, Gustavo Delgado, 8-1); Rocket Can (Junior Alvarado, Mott, 8-1); **Cyclone Mischief** (Tyler Gaffalione, Dale Romans, 12-1); and **Dangerous Ride** (Miguel Vasquez, Carlos David, 30-1).

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

YAKTEEN QUINTET HEADLINE SAN FELIPE – Trainer **Tim Yakteen** will saddle five runners in Saturday's \$400,000 San Felipe Stakes (Grade II) including Los Alamitos Futurity (Grade II) winner **Practical Move** as the action on the Road to the Kentucky Derby kicks into high gear in Southern California.

The 1 1/16-mile San Felipe will go as Race 6 at 5:30 p.m. First post on Saturday's Santa Anita Park program is 3 p.m.

Owned by **Pierre and Leslie Amestoy Jr.** and **Roger Beasley**, Practical Move defeated four rivals in the Dec. 17 Los Alamitos Futurity and earned a stout 105 Brisnet Speed Rating. The son of Practical Joke has been on a layoff since the Los Al Futurity, which was the first race he actually crossed the wire in front. In his maiden-breaking effort, Practical Move was placed first through disqualification when new stablemate **Fort Bragg** impeded his progress in the stretch. Jockey **Ramon Vazquez** will be back in the irons from post No. 3.

Four of Practical Move's stablemates are entered in the San Felipe: **SF Racing**, **Starlight Racing**, **Madaket Stables**, **Robert Masterson**, **Stonestreet Stables**, **Jay Schoenfarber Waves Edge Capital** and **Catherine Donovan's** graded stakes placed colts **Fort Bragg** and **National Treasure**; **Zedan Racing Stables'** recent maiden winner and \$3.5 million Fasig-Tipton Midlantic Two-Year-Olds in Training purchase **Hejazi** and **Sunny Brook Stables'** maiden special weight winner **Mr Fisk**.

Aside from the Yakteen quintet, the San Felipe also will feature the first stakes try from **Pin Oak Stud's** 5 3/4-length debut winner **Geaux Rocket Ride** and **C R K Stable's** 3 1/4-length maiden special weight winner **Skinner**.

Aside from Practical Move, the only other horse in the San Felipe that has points on the Road to the Kentucky Derby Leaderboard is **Adam Ference** and **Bill Dory's** \$100,000 El Camino Real Derby winner **Chase the Chaos**. Trained by **Ed Moger Jr.**, Chase the Chaos will be making his first try on dirt since his debut runner-up effort on Aug. 28 at Canterbury in a maiden special weight contest.

Here is the complete field for the San Felipe from the rail out (with jockey and trainer): Chase the Chaos (Armando Ayuso, Moger); National Treasure (John Velazquez, Yakteen); Practical Move (Vazquez, Yakteen); **Bluegrass Go Go** (Edwin Maldonado, Doug O'Neill); **Genius Jimmy** (Kazushi Kimura, Michael McCarthy); **Crypto Ride** (Umberto Rispoli, Craig Lewis); Hejazi (Mike Smith, Yakteen); Geaux Rocket Ride (Flavien Prat, Richard Mandella); Fort Bragg (Juan Hernandez, Yakteen); Skinner (Victor Espinoza, John Shirreffs); and Mr Fisk (Frankie Dettori, Yakteen).

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

JEROME STAKES WINNER LUGAN KNIGHT RETURNS IN GOTHAM – **Bg Stables'** Jerome Stakes winner **Lugan Knight** will make his journey back to Aqueduct and headline Saturday's \$300,000 Gotham (GIII) on the Road to the Kentucky Derby Championship Series.

The Gotham, which features an over-subscribed field of 14 3-year-olds plus one also-eligible, was carded as Race 9 at 4:56 p.m. Aqueduct's first post is 12:45 p.m.

Trained by **Michael McCarthy**, Lugan Knight has been based at Churchill Downs for his entire four-race career. Now stabled at Churchill Downs' Trackside Louisville, Lugan Knight shipped to Aqueduct for the Jan. 7 Jerome where he gamely held off **Arctic Arrogance** by a half-length. Previously, the speedy son of Goldcents broke his maiden at Keeneland and finished third to **Victory Formation** and **Two Eagles River** in a first-level allowance contest at Churchill Downs. Jockey **Dylan Davis** will be back aboard from post No. 10.

Also entered in the Gotham is **Ten Strike Racing's Eyeing Clover**. The undefeated son of Lookin At Lucky ships to Aqueduct from trainer **Brad Cox's** Fair Grounds string following his eye-popping 9 3/4-length allowance victory on Jan. 28. The Gotham will be Eyeing Clover's first start at a distance greater than six furlongs. Jockey **Florent Geroux** will make the trip from Fair Grounds for the mount and break from post 13.

Here is the complete field for the Gotham from the rail out (with jockey, trainer and morning line odds): **Clear the Air** (Jack Gilligan, Will Walden, 30-1); **Howgreatisnate** (J.D. Acosta, Andrew Simoff, 10-1); **Mr. Swagger** (Carlos Olivero, Juan Avila, 10-1); **Uncorrelated** (Manny Franco, Chad Brown, 10-1); **Carmel Road** (Eric Cancel, Tim Yakteen, 6-1); **General Banker** (Frankie Pennington, James Ferraro, 30-1); **Transect** (Joe Talamo, Paulo Lobo, 15-1); **Fort Warren** (Jevian Toledo, Brittany Russell, 12-1); **Clubhouse** (Kendrick Carmouche, Todd Pletcher, 20-1); Lujan Knight (Davis, McCarthy, 6-1); **Slip Mahoney** (Trevor McCarthy, Cox, 5-1); **Raise Cain** (Jose Lezcano, Ben Colebrook, 30-1); Eyeing Clover (Geroux, Cox, 4-1); and **Recruiter** (Angel Cruz, Cal Lynch, 12-1). Also Eligible: **Radio Red** (Jose Gomez, Danny Gargan, 50-1).

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

TURFWAY PREVUE WINNER SCOOBIE QUANDO HEADLINES \$150,000 BATTAGLIA – Andrew and Rania Warren’s Scoobie Quando, a debut winner in the \$125,000 Turfway Prevue Stakes, will attempt to add his name to the Road to the Kentucky Derby Leaderboard as the headliner in an over-subscribed field of 14 3-year-olds that entered Saturday night’s 41st running of the \$150,000 John Battaglia Memorial (Listed) at Turfway Park.

The John Battaglia Memorial will go as Race 8 of 9 with a post time of 9:25 p.m. First post is 5:55 p.m.

Run at 1 1/16 miles, the John Battaglia Memorial is the final race in the Road to the Kentucky Derby Prep Season. The top five finishers will be awarded qualifying points on a 20-8-6-4-2 scale for a spot in the starting gate for the \$3 million Kentucky Derby presented by Woodford Reserve on Saturday, May 6. Turfway’s Saturday program also features the \$150,000 Cincinnati Trophy Stakes on the Road to the Kentucky Oaks.

Trained by **Ben Colebrook**, Scoobie Quando debuted Jan. 7 in the Turfway Prevue where he gamely dug in to defeat **Retained** by a neck under jockey **Luan Machado**. In his last start, Scoobie Quando finished second to **Wadsworth** in a first-level allowance event at Turfway.

“Timing wise, the Turfway Prevue worked out well for us to run him first out,” Colebrook said. “He’s always trained like a good horse in the mornings and been the best of the company I worked him in. I’m not one to let a horse draw off on their company so I think in the (Turfway Prevue) he ran to how he worked but wasn’t going to let the runner-up by him. He’s light on experience so we opted to run him in the allowance race where Luan (Machado) said once he sort of got to the outside he was able to make a better run but was just second best that day.”

Machado will be back aboard Scoobie Quando and break from post No. 4.

Chief among his rivals is **SF Racing, Starlight Racing, Madaket Stables, Robert Masterson, Stonestreet Stables, Jay Schoenfarber, Waves Edge Capital and Catherine Donovan’s \$100,000 El Camino Real Derby runner-up Gilmore**. Now under the care of **Brendan Walsh**, Gilmore was previously conditioned by **Bob Baffert** in California. The gray son of Twirling Candy was the 9-5 post time favorite in the El Camino Real Derby where he finished 1 ½ lengths behind **Chase the Chaos**. Previously, Gilmore was bet down to odds of 1-5 in a maiden special weight contest at Los Alamitos where he easily defeated eight rivals by four lengths. Gilmore will be ridden in the Battaglia by **Joe Ramos** from post 3.

Other top Battaglia prospects include **Gary and Mary West’s undefeated Aristocracy; OXO Equine’s local allowance winner Bromley; Tami Bobo and Lugamo Racing Stable’s \$150,000 Laurel Futurity winner Congruent; and M Racing Group’s Gulfstream Park allowance winner Eyes On the King**

Here is the complete field for the John Battaglia Memorial from the rail out (with jockey and trainer): **Good Heart** (Jane Elliott, Walsh); **Aristocracy** (Fernando De La Cruz, Brad Cox); **Gilmore** (Ramos, Brendan Walsh); **Scoobie Quando** (Machado, Colebrook); **Accident** (Orlando Mojica, Tommy Short); **American Speed** (Chris Landeros, Brad Cox); **Eyes On the King** (Brian Hernandez Jr., Mark Casse); **Miranda Rights** (Rafael Hernandez, Mark Casse); **Freezing Point** (Gerard Melancon, Joe Leizerowicz); **Bromley** (Gerardo Corrales, Paulo Lobo); **Moon Landing** (Walter Rodriguez, Kevin Attard); and **Congruent** (Sonny Leon, Antonio Sano). Also Eligibles: **Ironsides** (Declan Cannon, Victoria Oliver) and **Clear the Air** (Jack Gilligan, Will Walden).

Fans can watch and wager on the John Battaglia Memorial on www.TwinSpires.com, the official wagering provider of Churchill Downs Incorporated and the Kentucky Derby.

PLETCHER WITH RETURNING CHAMPIONS – Hall of Fame trainer **Todd Pletcher’s** horses have won the Eclipse Award for Champion 2-year-old three times but **Forte** will be the first of those champions to make his 3-year-old debut in the Fountain of Youth Stakes (GII).

Prior to Forte winning the season-ending honor in 2022, Pletcher’s former trainees **Uncle Mo** and **Shanghai Bobby** were voted Champion 2-Year-Olds. When Shanghai Bobby was campaigned in 2012-13, Pletcher opted to run him in the Holy Bull Stakes (GIII) to kick off his 3-year-old campaign. Following Uncle Mo’s Breeders’ Cup Juvenile (GI) victory in 2010, the colt returned in the 2011 Timely Writer Stakes (Listed) at Gulfstream Park.

HIGHEST PRICED 2023 TRIPLE CROWN NOMINEE HEJAZI RETURNS IN SAN FELIPE – The highest purchase price of this year’s early Triple Crown nominees was **Zedan Racing Stable’s** \$3.55 million Fasig-Tipton Midatlantic Two-Year-Olds in Training Sale purchase **Hejazi**. The well-thought New York-bred colt will attempt to garner his second-career victory in Saturday’s \$400,000 San Felipe (GII) at Santa Anita.

If Hejazi would start in the Kentucky Derby, he’d become the third-highest purchase price since 1982. He’d only trail **Fusaichi Pegasus** (\$4 million) and **Dunkirk** (\$3.7 million).

GOTHAM COULD PRODUCE LARGEST DOCUMENTED FIELD IN RACE HISTORY – Saturday’s Gotham drew an over-subscribed field of 15 colts and gelding that entered the one-mile race and, if the maximum 14 horses allowed start the race do, it would be the largest documented field in Gotham Stakes history.

The largest documented field since 1976 was in 2012 when **Hansen** defeated 12 rivals by three lengths.

FOUNTAIN OF YOUTH QUOTES

Todd Pletcher, trainer, Forte: “He seems to be thriving right now. I hope he can continue on that trajectory. We’re super-pleased with the way he’s coming into the race. Physically, he’s done well. He’s put on some weight. He’s always been a leggy colt, so I wouldn’t say he’s grown height-wise, but he has filled out. He reminds me of his sire. He’s a super intelligent colt, very easy to train, very straightforward. He’s very willing when you want him to be. ... With that type of seasoning, I’m very comfortable with two races leading up, hopefully, to the Derby. We’ve approached it from various angles and felt like this was the right path for him. So far everything has been going to plan. Hopefully, it continues to do that.”

Junior Alvarado, jockey, Rocket Can: “I was very pleased with that race. He won, and a lot of people say it was a slow number here and there. But if you actually pay attention to the race, I was probably seven, eight-wide on the first turn and then turning for home it was probably the same thing. I was four, five, six-wide, and for a baby going two turns and having to give up that much ground, it has to take a toll. I thought he was very game at the end. I’m pretty pleased with him.”

Bill Mott, trainer, Rocket Can: “The first race back down here wasn’t that hard on him, and he seems to have recovered fairly well. A lot of times the first race will tire them out a little, but he seems to come back good, so hopefully he moves forward a little more.”

GOTHAM QUOTES

Michael McCarthy, trainer, Lugan Knight: “That was a new dimension that day in the Jerome. I thought his race before that at Churchill Downs looked like he got a little bit lost and distracted through the lane. When he hooked up with that horse in the Jerome (Arctic Arrogance), he eye-balled him the whole way down the lane. It looked like he wasn’t going to let him by.”

Cal Lynch, trainer, Recruiter: “He’s out of a Medaglia d’Oro mare and he’s very quick but doesn’t need the lead. He just happened to be on the lead in a couple of his races. He’s done everything right so far. We’ve shipped him all over and he doesn’t need to run on any one track. He has no problem jumping on the van and going to race somewhere. He’s very straightforward and we’re very fortunate. He acts like a really nice horse, so fingers crossed that he runs well there. He’s earned the chance and we don’t like to go up there unless they act like they’re legit enough to do it.”

JOHN BATTAGLIA MEMORIAL QUOTES

Ben Colebrook, trainer, Scoobie Quando: “Timing wise, the Turfway Prevue worked out well for us to run him first out. He’s always trained like a good horse in the mornings and been the best of the company I worked him in. I’m not one to let a horse draw off on their company so I think in the (Turfway Prevue) he ran to how he worked but wasn’t going to let the runner-up by him. He’s light on experience so we opted to run him in the allowance race where Luan (Machado) said once he sort of got to the outside he was able to make a better run but was just second best that day.”

CONFIDENCE GAME NEW LEADER ON ROAD TO KENTUCKY DERBY LEADERBOARD – Don't Tell My Wife Stables' Confidence Game has moved into the top spot on the Road to the Kentucky Derby leaderboard following his upset victory in Saturday's \$1 million Rebel (GII) at Oaklawn.

Here are the Top 20 horses on the Road to the Kentucky Derby Leaderboard:

<u>Position</u>	<u>Horse</u>	<u>Trainer</u>	<u>Resume</u>	<u>Possible Next Start</u>	<u>Points</u>
1	Confidence Game	Keith Desormeaux	1 st Rebel 3 rd Lecomte 5 th Iroquois	March 25: Louisiana Derby or April 1: Arkansas Derby	57
2	Angel of Empire	Brad Cox	1 st Risen Star 2 nd Smarty Jones	March 25: Louisiana Derby or April 8: Blue Grass	54
3	Forte	Todd Pletcher	1 st Breeders' Cup Juvenile 1 st Breeders' Futurity	March 4: Fountain of Youth	40
4	Red Route One	Steve Asmussen	2 nd Rebel 2 nd Southwest 3 rd Breeders' Futurity 4 th Kentucky Jockey Club	March 25: Louisiana Derby	33
5	Instant Coffee	Brad Cox	1 st Lecomte 1 st Kentucky Jockey Club 4 th Breeders' Futurity	March 25: Louisiana Derby	32
6	Sun Thunder	Kenny McPeck	2 nd Risen Star 4 th Southwest	March 25: Louisiana Derby	24
7	Two Phil's	Larry Rivelli	2 nd Lecomte 3 rd Risen Star	April 8: Blue Grass	23
8	Rocket Can	Bill Mott	1 st Holy Bull	March 4: Fountain of Youth	20
9	Hit Show	Brad Cox	1 st Withers	April 8: Wood Memorial	20
10	Litigate	Todd Pletcher	1 st Sam F. Davis	March 25: Louisiana Derby	20
11	Curly Jack	Tom Amoss	1 st Iroquois 2 nd Kentucky Jockey Club 5 th Breeders' Cup Juvenile	March 25: Louisiana Derby	17
12	Blazing Sevens	Chad Brown	1 st Champagne 4 th Breeders' Cup Juvenile	March 4: Fountain of Youth	16
13	Arctic Arrogance	Linda Rice	2 nd Withers 2 nd Jerome 2 nd Remsen	March 4: Gotham	16
14	Reincarnate	Tim Yakteen	3 rd Rebel	TBA	15
15	Jace's Road	Brad Cox	1 st Gun Runner 3 rd Iroquois 5 th Southwest	March 25: Louisiana Derby or April 1: Arkansas Derby	15
16	Verifying	Brad Cox	2 nd Champagne 4 th Rebel	April 1: Arkansas Derby or April 8 Blue Grass or Wood Memorial	14
17	Victory Formation	Brad Cox	1 st Smarty Jones	March 25: Louisiana Derby or April 1: Arkansas Derby	10
18	Dubyhnnell	Danny Gargan	1 st Remsen	TBA	10
19	Practical Move	Tim Yakteen	1 st Los Alamitos Futurity	March 4: San Felipe	10
20	Lugan Knight	Michael McCarthy	1 st Jerome	March 4: Gotham	10

ROAD TO THE KENTUCKY OAKS UPDATE

Ashbrook Farm and **Upland Flats Racing's Red Carpet Ready** will attempt to keep her unbeaten streak intact in Saturday's \$200,000 Davona Dale (Grade II) at Gulfstream Park. The Road to the Kentucky Oaks Championship Series event will award the top five finishers points on a 50-20-15-10-5 scale toward a spot in the starting gate in the \$1.25 million Longines Kentucky Oaks (GI) on May 5. The Davona Dale is carded as Race 12 at 4:37 p.m. ...

John Grossi's Racing Corporation's debut winner **Ziaerati** will make her stakes debut in Saturday's \$200,000 Busher at Aqueduct. The one-mile Road to the Kentucky Oaks Championship Series event will go as Race 4 at 2:20 p.m. Five of the six 3-year-old filly entrants will have the opportunity to garner points on a 50-20-15-10-5 scale for the Longines Kentucky Oaks. ...

Lucky Seven Stable's Grade III winner **Fun and Feisty** is set to make her first try on the Turfway Tapeta surface against eight 3-year-old fillies that entered Saturday's 41st running of the \$150,000 Cincinnati Trophy Stakes. Fun and Feisty will make her first start since Oct. 30 when she finished a well-beaten third in the \$200,000 Rags to Riches. Her main rival in the Cincinnati Trophy appears to be **LNJ Foxwoods** and **Clearsky Farms' Botanical**, who will attempt her first stakes try following two dominant victories at Turfway. The Cincinnati Trophy Stakes is the final race in the Road to the Kentucky Oaks Prep Season and will offer the top 5 finishers points on a 20-8-6-4-2 scale in their attempt to qualify for a spot in the starting gate for the \$1.25 million Longines Kentucky Oaks (GI). ...

Santa Anita's rescheduled \$100,000 Santa Ysabel Stakes on the Road to the Kentucky Oaks Championship Series was made an extra for Sunday's program. Entries will be taken Thursday.

KEY RACES TO WATCH TO WATCH – This weekend there are several races around the world that could have implications on the Kentucky Derby and Kentucky Oaks. Here are some of the key races:

Friday

- 2:30 p.m. ET, Dundalk 6, \$42,500 Patton Stakes, 3yo, 1 M
- 3:30 p.m. ET, SA 1, MSW, 3yo f, 1 M

Saturday

- 8:50 a.m. ET, Meydan 5, \$170,000 Al Bastakiya, 3yo, 1 3/16 M
- 11:29 a.m. ET, GP 2, MSW, 3yo f, 7 F
- 12:27 p.m. ET, GP 4, MSW, 3yo, 7 F
- 12:50 p.m. ET, AQU 1, MSW, 3yo f, 7 F
- 12:58 p.m. ET, GP 5, \$200,000 Colonel Liam Stakes, 3yo, 1 M (turf)
- 1:20 p.m. ET, AQU 2, MSW, 3yo, 7 F
- 2:20 p.m. ET, AQU 4, \$200,000 Busher (Listed), 3yo f, 1 M
- 4:37 p.m. ET, GP 12, \$200,000 Davona Dale (GII), 3yo f, 1 M
- 4:56 p.m. ET, AQU 9, \$300,000 Gotham (GIII), 3yo, 1 M
- 5:15 p.m. ET, FG 7, MSW, 3yo, 1 M 70 Yds
- 5:30 p.m. ET, SA 6, \$400,000 San Felipe (GII), 3yo, 1 1/16 M
- 5:43 p.m. ET, GP 14, \$400,000 Fountain of Youth (GII), 3yo, 1 1/16 M
- 8:25 p.m. ET, TP 6, \$150,000 Cincinnati Trophy Stakes, 3yo f, 1 M
- 9:25 p.m. ET, TP 8, \$150,000 John Battaglia Memorial, 3yo, 1 1/16 M

Sunday

- 1:37 p.m. ET, GP 4, MSW, 3yo, 1 1/8 M
- 2:39 p.m. ET, GP 6, MSW, 3yo f, 1 1/16 M

DOWN THE STRETCH

Triple Crown nominees **Cairo (IRE)** and **Stormy Entry** will lead a field of eight 3-year-olds that were entered in the one-mile Patton Stakes on Friday at Dundalk Stadium in Ireland. The Patton Stakes, run over the all-weather surface, is the fourth of six events on the European Road to the Kentucky Derby. The Top 5 finishers will be awarded points on a 20-8-6-4-2 scale. Post time for the Patton is 2:30 p.m. Eastern. Fans can watch and wager on the Patton on www.TwinSpires.com. ...

Arctic Arrogance did not enter this Saturday's Gotham (GIII) due to illness. No immediate plans have been released. ...

Fountain of Youth entrant **General Jim** is tentative to run in Saturday's race due to a cough. Trainer **Shug McGaughey** reported if General Jim didn't run he'd be pointed to the Tampa Bay Derby or the Florida Derby. ...

Several Gotham Stakes contenders are cross-entered in other races across the country and their connections have yet to confirm which spot they will run in. **Clear the Air** was cross-entered in Saturday's Gotham and John Battaglia Memorial. The **Will Walden**-trained colt was made the second also-eligible entrant in the John Battaglia Memorial due to purse earnings and would need two defections to make that field. **Fort Warren** is cross-entered in the City of Brotherly Love Stakes Monday at Parx while **Recruiter** is also cross-entered Monday at Parx in the Rittenhouse Square Stakes. ...

The fifth pool of the Kentucky Derby Future Wager will take place March 10-12. The pool will run concurrently with the lone future wager for the Longines Kentucky Oaks. The fields for both wagers will be released Tuesday. ...

Derby fans can keep up with all the news and notes on the Road to the Kentucky Derby by listening to "Inside the Kentucky Derby: - available on iTunes, Spotify and YouTube. ...

Spring meet stall applications are due Friday. Following its annual closer for winter renovations, the Churchill Downs stable area will reopen Tuesday, March 21 and the first day of training is scheduled for Friday, March 24.

UPCOMING ROAD TO KENTUCKY DERBY RACES

March 11 (eight weeks out) – \$400,000 Tampa Bay Derby (GII), 1 1/16 miles, Tampa Bay Downs

Known possible starters (with trainer): Classic Car Wash (Mark Casse); *General Jim* (Shug McGaughey); Groveland (Eoin Harty); Tapit Trice (Todd Pletcher)

March 25 (six weeks out) – \$1 million Louisiana Derby (GII), 1 3/16 miles, Fair Grounds (Top 4 points: 100-40-20-10)

Known possible starters (with trainer): *Angel of Empire* (Brad Cox); Baseline Beater (Neil Pessin); Cagliostro (Cherie DeVaux); *Confidence Game* (Keith Desormeaux); Curly Jack (Tom Amoss); Denington (Kenny McPeck); Instant Coffee (Brad Cox); *Jace's Road* (Brad Cox); Kingsbarns (Todd Pletcher); Litigate (Todd Pletcher); Red Route One (Steve Asmussen); Shopper's Revenge (Steve Asmussen); Sun Thunder (Kenny McPeck); Tapit Shoes (Brad Cox); Tapit's Conquest (Brad Cox); *Victory Formation* (Brad Cox)

March 25 (six weeks out) – \$1 million UAE Derby (GII), 1 3/16 miles, Meydan Racecourse (Top 4 points: 100-40-20-10)

Known possible starters (with trainer): Commissioner King (Sabah Alshammri); Continaur (Yoshito Yahagi); Derma Sotogake (Hidetaka Otonashi); Es Unico (Antonio Luis Cintra); Perriere (JPN) (Yoichi Kuroiwa); Tall Boy (Doug O'Neill)

March 25 (six weeks out) – \$700,000 Jeff Ruby Steaks (GIII), 1 1/8 miles (Tapeta), Turfway Park (Top 4 points: 100-40-20-10)

Known possible starters (with trainer): Major Dude (Todd Pletcher); Wadsworth (Brad Cox)

March 26 (six weeks out) – \$600,000 Sunland Derby (GIII), 1 1/8 miles, Sunland Park (Top 4 points: 50-20-10-5)

Known possible starters (with trainer): Henry Q (Todd Fincher); One in Vermillion (Esteban Martinez)

April 1 (five weeks out) – \$1 million Florida Derby (GI), 1 1/8 miles, Gulfstream Park (Top 4 points: 100-40-20-10)

Known possible starters (with trainer): *General Jim* (Shug McGaughey);

April 1 (five weeks out) – \$1.25 million Arkansas Derby (GI), 1 1/8 miles, Oaklawn Park (Top 4 points: 100-40-20-10)

Known possible starters (with trainer): *Bourbon Bash* (Wayne Lukas); *Confidence Game* (Keith Desormeaux); Disarm (Steve Asmussen); *Jace's Road* (Brad Cox); *Verifying* (Brad Cox); *Victory Formation* (Brad Cox)

April 8 (four weeks out) – \$750,000 Wood Memorial (GII), 1 1/8 miles, Aqueduct (Top 4 points: 100-40-20-10)

Known possible starters (with trainer): Hit Show (Brad Cox); *Verifying* (Brad Cox)

April 8 (four weeks out) – \$1 million Blue Grass (GI), 1 1/8 miles, Keeneland (Top 4 points: 100-40-20-10)

Known possible starters (with trainer): *Angel of Empire* (Brad Cox); *Bourbon Bash* (Wayne Lukas); Two Phil's (Larry Rivelli); *Verifying* (Brad Cox)

April 8 (four weeks out) – \$750,000 Santa Anita Derby (GI), 1 1/8 miles, Santa Anita (Top 4 points: 100-40-20-10)

Known possible starters (with trainer): *Arabian Knight* (TBD);

April 15 (three weeks out) – \$400,000 Lexington (GIII), 1 1/16 miles, Keeneland (Top 4 points: 20-8-4-2)

Note: The possible fields for upcoming Kentucky Derby Championship Series races are fluid as owners and trainers vie for points. Known possible horses mentioned to be under consideration for each race are based on published news reports and other sources. Horses listed in *italics* are possible for multiple races.

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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