



# THE DERBY DISPATCH

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## FILLY SECRET OATH TO TAKE ON BOYS IN \$1.25 MILLION ARKANSAS DERBY

### *\$1 Million Florida Derby, \$600,000 Jeff Ruby Steaks Also on Docket for Championship Series Saturday*

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (Thursday, March 31, 2022) – Kentucky Derby fans across the world will be eyeing Hot Springs, Ark. on Saturday as outstanding 3-year-old filly **Secret Oath**, trained by 86-year-old Hall of Fame trainer **D. Wayne Lukas**, will take on the boys for a qualifying spot on the first Saturday in May in the \$1.25 million Arkansas Derby (Grade I) at Oaklawn Park.

Also on Saturday, horses in South Florida will attempt to stamp their name in the starting gate for the \$3 million Kentucky Derby presented by Woodford Reserve (GI) in the \$1 million Florida Derby (GI) at Gulfstream Park. In Kentucky, the winter season from Turfway Park will close with their premiere race, the \$600,000 Jeff Ruby Steaks (GIII), run over the Tapeta surface.

All three stops will award the top four finishing horse's points on a 100-40-20-10 scale. Typically, it takes between 30-40 points to qualify for the Kentucky Derby.

The Road to the Kentucky Derby was instituted in 2013 and since then, no fillies have qualified for the race. The last filly to run in the Kentucky Derby was **Devil May Care** in 2010.

In order for a filly to run in the Kentucky Derby, they have to earn points against open company. The points earned in races from that series will transfer to their Oaks point total should their connections decide to run them in the \$1.25 million Kentucky Oaks (GI) on Friday, May 6.

The Arkansas Derby will be televised as part of "America's Day at the Races" on FS1. The Florida Derby and Jeff Ruby Steaks will be shown on a special one-hour broadcast on CNBC from 6-7 p.m. Fans can bet all three races on [www.TwinSpires.com](http://www.TwinSpires.com), the official wagering provider of Churchill Downs and the Kentucky Derby.

**FILLY SECRET OATH TAKES ON EIGHT RIVALS IN \$1.25 MILLION ARKANSAS DERBY – Briland Farms'** homebred **Secret Oath**, who has dominated her filly competition in her last three starts, will test male counterparts as the 5-2 morning line favorite in Saturday's \$1.25 million Arkansas Derby (Grade I) at Oaklawn Park.

The Arkansas Derby is the final Road to the Kentucky Derby stop in the Natural State. The top four point earners in the 1 1/8-mile race will receive points on a 100-40-20-10 scale in an attempt to qualify for the \$3 million Kentucky Derby presented by Woodford Reserve (GI). The Arkansas Derby has a post time of 7:35 p.m. ET and was carded as Race 12 of 13 on Oaklawn's program.

Secret Oath has already stamped herself as one of the top contenders for this year's \$1.25 million Longines Kentucky Oaks (GI) but her owners and 86-year-old Hall of Fame trainer **D. Wayne Lukas** have opted to run her against colts in the Arkansas Derby. The last filly to win the Kentucky Derby was **Winning Colors** in 1988, who coincidentally was trained by Lukas.

In 1984, Lukas won the Arkansas Derby with **Althea**, just one week after she finished second in the Fantasy Stakes.

"(Secret Oath) has an extremely fast acceleration," Lukas said. "I saw how impressive she was in the Martha Washington and I wanted to see it one more time and we certainly did in the Honeybee. When the rail opened, she just broke their hearts because she was right to the leaders within three strides. It's not one of those prolonged strides, it's very quickly she gets going. Early on she was green and light and immature. I told the owners early on don't worry because she has a lot of talent. She got over the ground so well and was so efficient. Then I got ambitious and put her in the Golden Rod and that trip was horrendous. After I got her to Oaklawn and she settled down and everything has been perfect since."

Secret Oath will be ridden by **Luis Contreras**, who has been aboard the Arrogate filly in her last three starts. They'll break from post position No. 6

Other top contenders in the Arkansas Derby include \$400,000 Rebel (GII) winner **Un Ojo**; **Gold Square's** ultra-impressive allowance winner **Cyberknife**; **WinStar Farm CMNWLTH** & **Siena Farm's** undefeated **We the People**; and **WSS Racing's** multiple graded stakes placed **Barber Road**.

Here's the complete field for the Arkansas Derby from the rail out (with jockey, trainer and morning line odds): **Kavod** (Mitchell Murrill, Chris Hartman, 15-1); **Chasing Time** (Jose Lezcano, Steve Asmussen, 12-1); Barber Road (Reylu Gutierrez, John Ortiz, 8-1); **Doppelganger** (John Velazquez, Tim Yakteen, 3-1); Un Ojo (Ramon Vazquez, Ricky Courville, 6-1); Secret Oath (Contreras, Lukas, 5-2); **Ben Diesel** (Jon Court, Dallas Stewart, 15-1); Cyberknife (Florent Geroux, Brad Cox, 8-1); and We the People (Flavian Prat, Rodolphe Brisset, 7-2).

**TAMPA BAY DERBY WINNER CLASSIC CAUSEWAY RETURNS ON SHORT REST IN \$1 MILLION FLORIDA DERBY** – **Kentucky West Racing** and **Clarke Cooper's** \$400,000 Tampa Bay Derby (Grade II) winner **Classic Causeway** tops a field of 11 3-year-old colts that were entered in Saturday's \$1 million Florida Derby (GI) at Gulfstream Park.

The Florida Derby will award a total of 170 points to the top four finishers on a 100-40-20-10 scale towards a spot in the starting gate for the \$3 million Kentucky Derby presented by Woodford Reserve (GI). The 1 1/8-mile race will go as Race 12 with a post time of 6:38 p.m. Fans can watch the Florida Derby on a special 6-7 p.m. broadcast on CNBC and wager on [www.TwinSpires.com](http://www.TwinSpires.com), the official wagering provider of Churchill Downs and the Kentucky Derby.

Classic Causeway has been brilliant so far in his 3-year-old campaign with front-running victories in the \$250,000 Sam F. Davis and Tampa Bay Derby. The son of the late Giant's Causeway has been the favorite in four of five lifetime starts. The only time he was not the post time favorite was his 6 1/2-length maiden-breaking debut at odds of 13-1 where he upset a highly-regarded field of 2-year-olds at Saratoga.

"I think the timing of this race is going to work out a little better for us even though it's just three weeks from the Tampa Bay Derby," trainer **Brian Lynch** said. "This will give us five weeks until the Kentucky Derby and plenty of time when we ship back to Kentucky."

Classic Causeway and jockey **Irad Ortiz Jr.** will break from post No. 2.

Also entered in the Florida Derby field is **C2 Racing Stable** and **La Milagrosa Stable's** lightly-raced \$250,000 Holy Bull (GIII) winner **White Abarrio**. Trained by **Saffie Joseph Jr.**, White Abarrio was the 4 1/2-length winner of the Feb. 5 Holy Bull but Joseph opted to skip the \$400,000 Fountain of Youth (GII) in early March. The son of Race Day shipped to Churchill Downs to close his 2-year-old campaign where he finished third behind **Smile Happy** and Classic Causeway in the \$400,000 Kentucky Jockey Club (GII). **Tyler Gaffalione** will ride White Abarrio once again and the duo will break from post 7.

**Tami Bobo's** \$400,000 Fountain of Youth winner **Simplification** was made the tepid 5-2 morning line choice for trainer **Antonio Sano**. The three-time winner will be ridden by **Jose Ortiz** from post 3.

Here is the complete field for the Florida Derby from the rail out (with jockey, trainer and morning line odds): **Strike Hard** (Junior Alvarado, Matt Williams, 20-1); Classic Causeway (Irad Ortiz Jr., Lynch, 7-2); Simplification (Jose Ortiz, Sano, 5-2); **King of Truth** (Jose Morelos, Amador Sanchez, 50-1); **Pappacap** (Edwin Gonzalez, Mark Casse, 10-1); **Charge It** (Luis Saez, Todd Pletcher, 7-2); White Abarrio (Gaffalione, Joseph, 3-1); **Cajun's Magic** (Jesus Rios, Michael Yates, 30-1); **O Captain** (Joel Rosario, Gustavo Delgado, 20-1); **Clapton** (Emisael Jaramillo, Juan Alvarado, 30-1); and **Steal Sunshine** (Leonel Reyes, Bobby Dibona, 30-1).

**BATTAGLIA MEMORIAL WINNER TIZ THE BOMB RETURNS IN GRADE III, \$600,000 JEFF RUBY STEAKS** – **Magdalena Racing Lessee's** \$125,000 Battaglia Memorial winner **Tiz the Bomb** headlines an oversubscribed field of 13 that were entered in Saturday's 51<sup>st</sup> running of the \$600,000 Jeff Ruby Steaks (Grade III) at Turfway Park.

The 1 1/8-mile Jeff Ruby Steaks, run over Tapeta surface, offers the winner 100 points on the Road to the Kentucky Derby Championship Series. The runner-up will receive 40 points while the third and fourth place finishers will tab 20 and 10 points, respectively. The Jeff Ruby Steaks will go as Race 12 with a post time of 6:23 p.m. Turfway will have a special early post of 12:45 p.m.

Tiz the Bomb, trained by **Kenny McPeck**, finished second in the \$1 million Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf (GI). The son of Hit It a Bomb tried dirt to start his 3-year-old campaign but finished seventh in the \$250,000 Holy Bull (GIII). In his first start on Tapeta, Tiz the Bomb was able to hold off the late surge of **Stolen Base** in the 1 1/16-mile John Battaglia Memorial. Jockey **Brian Hernandez Jr.** has the call from post No. 7.

Also entered in the field is **Three Diamonds Farm** and **Deuce Greathouse's** Stolen Base, who will add blinkers following his runner-up effort in the Battaglia; **Repole Stable** and **St. Elias Stable's** Kittens Joy (GIII) runner-up **Royal Spirit**; **Winchell Thoroughbreds' Texas Turf Mile** winner **Red Run**; **Michael McLoughlin's Black Gold Stakes** winner **Dowagiac Chief**; and **SF Racing, Starlight Racing, Madaket Stable, Siena Farm and Golconda Stable's Blackadder**.

Here's the complete for the Jeff Ruby Steaks from the rail out (with jockey and trainer): Royal Spirit (Chris Landeros, Todd Pletcher); Stolen Base (Gerardo Corrales, Mike Maker); **Cabo Spirit** (Joe Bravo, George Papaprodromou); **Rich Strike** (Sonny Leon, Eric Read); **Tawny Port** (Manny Franco, Brad Cox); **Great Escape** (Adam Beschizza, Rodolphe Brisset); Tiz the Bomb (Hernandez, McPeck); Red Run (Joe Talamo, Steve Asmussen); Dowagiac Chief (James Graham, Tom Amoss); **Optigogo** (Rafael Bejarano, Eoin Harty); **Constitutionlawyer** (Jalon Samuel, Ray Handal); and Blackadder (Edwin Maldonado, Rodolphe Brisset). Also Eligible: **Swing Shift** (Gerardo Corrales, Todd Pletcher).

Saturday's Turfway program features six stakes events worth purses of \$1.7 million. The special day program can be viewed on CNBC and fans can wager on [www.TwinSpires.com](http://www.TwinSpires.com), the official wagering provider of Churchill Downs and the Kentucky Derby.

**EPICENTER, ZOZOS RETURN TO CHURCHILL DOWNS TO BEGIN PREPARING FOR KENTUCKY DERBY – Winchell Thoroughbreds'** TwinSpires.com Louisiana Derby (GII) winner **Epicenter** along with **Barry** and **Joni Butzow's** runner-up **Zozos** returned to Churchill Downs early Tuesday morning to begin their preparation toward the \$3 million Kentucky Derby presented by Woodford Reserve (GI).

Epicenter earned 100 points for his Louisiana Derby victory, bringing his overall total to 164 points. Zozos tabbed 40 points for his runner-up effort.

Some of the other top Leaderboard moves from last weekend included UAE Derby (GII) winner **Crown Pride (JPN)** (100 points), Sunland Derby (GIII) winner **Slow Down Andy** (60 points) and UAE Derby runner-up **Summer Is Tomorrow** (40 points).

Here are the top 20 horses on the Road to the Kentucky Derby leaderboard:

<u>Horse</u>	<u>Trainer</u>	<u>Resume</u>	<u>Possible Next Start</u>	<u>Points</u>
Epicenter	Steve Asmussen	1 <sup>st</sup> – Louisiana Derby 1 <sup>st</sup> – Risen Star 1 <sup>st</sup> – Gun Runner 2 <sup>nd</sup> – Lecomte	May 7: Kentucky Derby	164
Crown Pride (JPN)	Koichi Shintani	1 <sup>st</sup> – UAE Derby	May 7: Kentucky Derby	100
Classic Causeway	Brian Lynch	1 <sup>st</sup> – Tampa Bay Derby 1 <sup>st</sup> – Sam F. Davis 2 <sup>nd</sup> – Ky Jockey Club 3 <sup>rd</sup> – Breeders' Futurity	April 9: Blue Grass	66
Slow Down Andy	Doug O'Neill	1 <sup>st</sup> – Sunland Derby 1 <sup>st</sup> – Los Alamitos Futurity	May 7: Kentucky Derby	60
Un Ojo	Ricky Courville	1 <sup>st</sup> – Rebel 2 <sup>nd</sup> – Withers	April 2: Arkansas Derby	54
Simplification	Antonio Sano	1 <sup>st</sup> – Fountain of Youth 2 <sup>nd</sup> – Holy Bull	April 2: Florida Derby	54
Forbidden Kingdom	Richard Mandella	1 <sup>st</sup> – San Felipe	April 9: Santa Anita Derby	50
Morello	Steve Asmussen	1 <sup>st</sup> – Gotham	April 9: Wood Memorial	50
Summer Is Tomorrow	Bhupat Seemar	2 <sup>nd</sup> – UAE Derby	May 7: Kentucky Derby	40
Smile Happy	Kenny McPeck	1 <sup>st</sup> – Ky Jockey Club 2 <sup>nd</sup> – Risen Star	April 9: Blue Grass	30
Pioneer of Medina	Todd Pletcher	3 <sup>rd</sup> – Louisiana Derby 4 <sup>th</sup> – Risen Star	TBA	25
Grantham	Mike Maker	2 <sup>nd</sup> – Tampa Bay Derby 4 <sup>th</sup> – Withers	April 9: Blue Grass	21
Ethereal Road	D. Wayne Lukas	2 <sup>nd</sup> – Rebel	April 2: Arkansas Derby	20
Bye Bye Bobby	Todd Fincher	2 <sup>nd</sup> – Sunland Derby	April 16: Lexington Stakes	20
Island Falcon (IRE)	Saeed bin Suroor	3 <sup>rd</sup> – UAE Derby	TBA	20
In Due Time	Kelly Breen	2 <sup>nd</sup> – Fountain of Youth	April 9: Wood Memorial or Blue Grass	20
Dean's List	Todd Pletcher	2 <sup>nd</sup> – Gotham	April 9: Wood Memorial	20
Barber Road	John Ortiz	2 <sup>nd</sup> – Smarty Jones 2 <sup>nd</sup> – Southwest 3 <sup>rd</sup> – Rebel	April 2: Arkansas Derby	18

## DOWN THE STRETCH:

A competitive field of eight 3-year-old fillies are set to compete in the \$600,000 Fantasy (GIII) Saturday at Oaklawn. The field included \$400,000 Golden Rod (GII) winner **Dream Lith** and runner-up **Yuugiri** along with the dirt debut of \$125,000 Cincinnati Trophy winner **Bubble Rock**. Grade I winner **Eda**, who was the expected favorite in the race, will be scratched according to her trainer **Bob Baffert** due to a fever. The top 4 finishers of the Fantasy will receive points on a 100-40-20-10 scale toward the \$1.25 million Longines Kentucky Oaks (GI). Post time is 6:16 p.m. ET. ...

**Susan Moulton's** two-time winner and third-place finisher in the \$400,000 Golden Rod (GII), **Sandstone**, is set to make her 3-year-old debut in Saturday's 40<sup>th</sup> running of the \$250,000 Bourbonette Oaks at Turfway Park. Run at 1 1/16 miles on the Tapeta surface, the Bourbonette Oaks offers points on a 50-20-10-5 scale for the Kentucky Oaks. The Bourbonette Oaks will go as Race 11 at 5:43 p.m.

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**Winngate Stable's** undefeated filly **Kathleen O.** tops Saturday's \$250,000 Gulfstream Park Oaks (GII). The 1 1/16-mile race will award the top 4 finishers points on a 100-40-20-10 scale towards the Kentucky Oaks. The Gulfstream Park Oaks has a post time of 5:17 p.m. ET. ...

UAE Derby (GII) winner **Crown Pride (JPN)** arrived from Dubai to Churchill Downs' Quarantine Facility on Wednesday afternoon. The colt could clear USDA Quarantine 42 hours after arrival, which would be around 8 a.m. on Friday. ...

Louisiana Derby winner **Epicenter** returned to the track Wednesday morning and jogged about one-mile. The colt is familiar with Churchill Downs from his 2-year-old campaign. The four-time winner broke his maiden beneath the Twin Spires at second asking on Nov. 13. ...

Trainer **Ed Barker** reported Kentucky Derby contender **Shipsational** had to be withdrawn from Florida Derby contention due to a suspensory injury. He hopes the New York-bred colt will return at Saratoga. ...

The Cardinal Condition Stakes at Chelmsford City will be run Thursday at 1:45 p.m. ET. None of the horses who earned points on the European Road to the Kentucky Derby trail were early or late Triple Crown nominees. Therefore, no horses on the European leaderboard are expected to compete in the Kentucky Derby. ...

The final pool of the Kentucky Derby Future Wager will run Thursday-Saturday next week. The field will be announced Tuesday and close at 4:30 p.m. ET prior to the first Championship Series race run Saturday afternoon. ...

Training opened last Friday at Churchill Downs and several outfits have returned to Louisville including horses from the barns of **Steve Asmussen, Phil Bauer, Mark Casse, Norm Casse, Brad Cox, Greg Foley, Michael McCarthy, Matt Shirer** and **Dallas Stewart**. In total, there are about 350 horses on the grounds. ...

## UPCOMING ROAD TO KENTUCKY DERBY CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES RACES

### **April 9 (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): Emmanuel (Todd Pletcher); Ethereal Road (D. Wayne Lukas); *In Due Time (Kelly Breen)*; Smile Happy (Kenny McPeck); and Zandon (Chad Brown).

### **April 9 (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): Forbidden Kingdom (Richard Mandella); McLaren Vale (Tim Yakteen); and Messier (Tim Yakteen).

### **April 9 (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): A.P.'s Secret (Saffie Joseph Jr.); Barese (Mike Maker); Early Voting (Chad Brown); Golden Code (Todd Pletcher); Iconic Adventure (Bill Mott); *In Due Time (Kelly Breen)*; Morello (Steve Asmussen); Mo Donegal (Todd Pletcher); and Skippylongstocking (Joseph Jr.).

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

Known possible starters (with trainer): Bye Bye Bobby (Todd Fincher); Call Me Midnight (Keith Desormeaux); Dash Attack (Kenny McPeck); and Rattle N Roll (Kenny McPeck).

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](http://www.ChurchillDowns.com).

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