

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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ACK ACK, LUKAS CLASSIC ADDED TO SATURDAY'S BREEDERS' CUP PREVIEW ON NBC

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (Friday, Sept. 30, 2022) – Saturday's \$500,000 Lukas Classic (Grade II), featuring Kentucky Derby (GI) winner **Rich Strike**, and the \$300,000 Ack Ack (GIII) at Churchill Downs have been added to the list of races to be televised live on **NBC's** "Breeders' Cup Challenge Series: Win and You're In – presented by America's Best Racing" telecast, which airs Saturday from 4-6 p.m. (all times Eastern).

The Ack Ack for 3-year-olds and up, which goes as Race 9 with an updated off-time of 4:56 p.m., is a one-turn, one-mile "Win and You're In" event for this year's \$1 million Breeders' Cup Dirt Mile (GI) to be held Nov. 5 at Keeneland. Carter Handicap (GI) winner **Speaker's Corner** is the even-money morning line favorite in the field of 10.

The 1 1/8-mile Lukas Classic for 3-year-olds and up, which goes as Race 10 at 5:26 p.m., is a springboard to the \$6 million Breeders' Cup Classic. **Rich Strike**, who scored an 80-1 shocking upset in the \$3 million Kentucky Derby presented by Woodford Reserve in May, will attempt to become the first Derby winner to return to Churchill Downs and win since **Silver Charm**. The 1997 Derby winner took the 1998 Clark Handicap (GII) beneath the Twin Spires after runner-up finishes to **Awesome Again** in that year's renewals of both the Stephen Foster Handicap (GI) and Breeders' Cup Classic (GI).

In addition to **Rich Strike**, the Lukas Classic features last year's Kentucky Derby runner-up and 8-5 morning line favorite **Hot Rod Charlie**; Charles Town Classic (GII) winner **Art Collector**; and Grade I winner **Happy Saver**, who came within six lengths of America's top-rated horse **Flightline** in the Metropolitan Handicap (GI).

All other races from Churchill Downs on Saturday will air on **FS2's "America's Day at the Races"** from 12:30-4:30 p.m. and 6-6:30 p.m.

Wagering is available on www.TwinSpires.com, the official ADW of Churchill Downs Incorporated and the Kentucky Derby.

Saturday's live horse racing coverage on NBC and Peacock is headlined by the \$500,000 Champagne (GI) and \$200,000 Miss Grillo (GII) from Belmont at Aqueduct Racetrack in Queens, N.Y. The two-hour broadcast also will feature the \$500,000 Woodward (GI) and \$200,000 Belmont Turf Sprint (GIII).

The series leads to the 39th Breeders' Cup World Championships at Keeneland Race Course in Lexington, Ky. on Nov. 4-5.

NBC's coverage will be led by host **Ahmed Fareed**, analysts **Randy Moss** and Hall of Fame jockey **Jerry Bailey**, and reporters **Britney Eurton** and **Nick Luck**.

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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