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KENTUCKY DERBY PURSE RAISED TO RECORD \$5 MILLION; 50-RACE SPRING MEET STAKES MENU TOTALS RECORD \$25.6 MILLION

- ***38 Stakes Races Receive Significant Boosts Totaling \$5.1 Million***
- ***Kentucky Oaks Boosted to \$1.5 Million***
- ***All Grade I Events Worth Minimum \$1 Million***

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (Wednesday, Jan. 10, 2024) – The landmark 150th Kentucky Derby presented by Woodford Reserve (Grade I) on Saturday, May 4 will be the richest in history as the purse for America’s greatest race has been elevated to a guaranteed \$5 million.

The substantial \$2 million increase to the 1 ¼-mile Kentucky Derby for 3-year-olds highlights a record-setting, 50-race stakes schedule cumulatively worth \$25.6 million for Churchill Downs’ 2024 Spring Meet, which will be run over 43 dates from April 27-June 30.

Prize money for the stakes schedule increased 25% or \$5.1 million from last year’s \$20.5 million lineup thanks to Churchill Downs Incorporated’s investment into historical horse racing, which supercharges funding for purses.

Prior to the debut of historical horse racing at CDI’s Derby City Gaming in September 2018, that year’s Spring Meet featured 32 stakes races worth \$8.8 million. There are now 18 additional Spring Meet stakes, and prize money for horsemen in those events has grown 190% or by \$16.8 million.

“These record purse increases are a symbol of the health of horse racing in Kentucky,” said **Bill Carstanjen**, CEO of Churchill Downs Incorporated. “Churchill Downs Incorporated’s over \$1 billion investment into live and historical horse racing in Kentucky over the last five years has meaningfully strengthened the entire Kentucky Derby Week and year-round racing program. It’s important to acknowledge the state legislature for its commitment to working closely with private enterprise in a truly collaborative partnership to support the continued growth of Kentucky’s signature industry.”

Thirty-eight of the 2024 Spring Meet stakes races received significant purse hikes, including \$250,000 boosts to each of the following: the \$1.5 million Kentucky Oaks (GI); \$1 million La Troienne (GI); \$1 million Churchill Downs presented by Ford (GI); \$1 million Derby City Distaff presented by Kendall-Jackson Winery (GI); and \$750,000 Churchill Distaff Turf Mile (GII). Each of the track’s seven Grade I events, including the Old Forester Bourbon Turf Classic and Stephen Foster, feature a minimum \$1 million purse.

With a record \$5 million in prize money now guaranteed for the Kentucky Derby, the winner will receive the event’s highly sought-after gold trophy, a \$3.1 million payday and possibly millions more as a stallion after retirement from racing. Also, \$1 million will be awarded to the runner-up, \$500,000 to third, \$250,000 to fourth and \$150,000 to fifth.

Previously, the Kentucky Derby purse had been worth \$3 million since 2019, and was \$2 million from 2005-18 and \$1 million from 1996-2004.

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“It is truly gratifying to view the steady growth of the Churchill Downs racing product and the entire Kentucky horse racing and breeding industry, which bettors around the world have embraced,” said Churchill Downs Racetrack President **Mike Anderson**. “Through the purses generated by the racing association and the Kentucky Thoroughbred Development Fund, Kentucky horsemen and horsewomen are reaping the benefits of Churchill Downs Incorporated’s historic investment as we celebrate this year’s milestone 150th Kentucky Derby.”

At \$1.5 million, the 1 1/8-mile Kentucky Oaks – the Derby’s sister race staged one day prior on Friday, May 3 – remains the nation’s most lucrative race for 3-year-old fillies. It had been worth \$1.25 million since 2019, and was \$1 million from 2011-18 and \$500,000 from 1996-2010.

All told, there will be a record 22 stakes races cumulatively worth \$17.5 million staged over Kentucky Derby Week (April 27-May 7), including nine stakes totaling \$10.8 million on Derby Day and seven totaling \$5.3 million on Oaks Day.

Four races on Kentucky Derby Week will offer horses an entry and travel incentive to run in some of Europe’s most prestigious races. The winner of the Old Forester Turf Classic (GI) will receive a berth to either the one-mile Queen Anne Stakes (GI) or the 1 1/4-mile Prince of Wales’ Stakes (GI) at Royal Ascot in mid-June. Earlier on the Kentucky Derby Day program, the winner of the Twin Spires Turf Sprint (GII) will receive an entry to the King’s Charles III Stakes (GI) (formerly known as the King’s Stand), also staged at Royal Ascot. Three-year-old turf specialists in the American Turf (GII) and Edgewood (GII) can receive their entry to either the Betfred Derby (GI) or Betfred Oaks (GI) at Epsom Downs. The winner of the American Turf on Kentucky Derby Day will receive an entry and travel stipend to compete in the Betfred Derby while the winner of the Edgewood on Kentucky Oaks Day will receive the same benefits for the Betfred Oaks.

The first condition book of scheduled races is being finalized by Vice President of Racing **Ben Huffman** and is expected to be published in late January. More than \$57 million in total prize money is expected to be offered during this year’s Spring Meet (pending Kentucky Thoroughbred Development Fund final approval). Purses for maiden races will be \$120,000 while allowance races will range from \$127,000 to \$141,000.

Spring Meet stall applications are due Friday, March 1. Following its annual closure for wintertime renovations, the Churchill Downs stable area will reopen Tuesday, March 19. The first day of training on the main dirt track will be Friday, March 22.

For the second consecutive year, Churchill Downs Incorporated’s nearby Trackside Louisville, which accommodates more than 500 horses, has remained open year-round for wintertime stabling and training for racing at Turfway Park in northern Kentucky.

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 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 and Race and Sports Book. www.ChurchillDowns.com.

2024 CHURCHILL DOWNS SPRING MEET STAKES SCHEDULE

Date	Running	Grade	Purse	+ vs. 2023	Race	Conditions	Distance	Surface
Saturday, April 27	14 th		\$200,000	\$25,000	Roxelana Overnight Stakes	4&cup, f&m	6 F	Dirt
Wednesday, May 1	9 th	Listed	\$300,000	\$75,000	William Walker	3yo	5 ½ F	Turf
Wednesday, May 1	6 th		\$200,000	\$25,000	Isaac Murphy Marathon Overnight Stakes	4&cup	1 ½ M	Dirt
Thursday, May 2	19 th	Listed	\$350,000	\$50,000	Opening Verse	4&cup	1 M	Turf
Thursday, May 2	30 th		\$250,000	\$50,000	Kentucky Juvenile	2yo	5 F	Dirt
Thursday, May 2	3 rd		\$200,000	\$25,000	St. Matthews Overnight Stakes	4&cup ®	6 F	Dirt
Friday, May 3	150 th	I	\$1,500,000	\$250,000	Kentucky Oaks	3yo f	1 1/8 M	Dirt
Friday, May 3	39 th	I	\$1,000,000	\$250,000	La Troienne	4&cup, f&m	1 1/16 M	Dirt
Friday, May 3	21 st	II	\$750,000	\$150,000	Alysheba presented by Sentient Jet	4&cup	1 1/16 M	Dirt
Friday, May 3	69 th	II	\$600,000	\$100,000	Eight Belles	3yo f	7 F	Dirt
Friday, May 3	40 th	II	\$600,000	\$100,000	Edgewood presented by Forcht Bank	3yo f	1 1/16 M	Turf
Friday, May 3	67 th	III	\$400,000	\$100,000	Modesty	4&cup, f&m	1 1/8 M	Turf
Friday, May 3	14 th	III	\$400,000	\$100,000	Unbridled Sidney presented by Sysco	3&cup, f&m	5 ½ F	Turf
Saturday, May 7	150 th	I	\$5,000,000	\$2,000,000	Kentucky Derby presented by Woodford Reserve	3yo	1 ¼ M	Dirt
Saturday, May 7	38 th	I	\$1,000,000		Old Forester Bourbon Turf Classic	4&cup	1 1/8 M	Turf
Saturday, May 7	89 th	I	\$1,000,000	\$250,000	Churchill Downs presented by Ford	4&cup	7 F	Dirt
Saturday, May 7	38 th	I	\$1,000,000	\$250,000	Derby City Distaff presented by Kendall-Jackson Winery	4&cup, f&m	7 F	Dirt
Saturday, May 7	39 th	II	\$750,000	\$250,000	Churchill Distaff Turf Mile	4&cup, f&m	1 M	Turf
Saturday, May 7	30 th	II	\$600,000	\$100,000	Twin Spires Turf Sprint	3&cup	5 ½ F	Turf
Saturday, May 7	100 th	II	\$600,000	\$100,000	Pat Day Mile	3yo	1 M	Dirt
Saturday, May 7	33 rd	II	\$600,000	\$100,000	American Turf	3yo	1 1/16 M	Turf
Saturday, May 7	3 rd	Listed ®	\$200,000	\$25,000	Knicks Go Overnight Stakes	4&cup ®	1 M	Dirt
Saturday, May 11	5 th	Listed	\$225,000		Mamzelle	3yo f	5 ½ F	Turf
Saturday, May 18	87 th	III	\$250,000	\$25,000	Louisville	4&cup	1 ½ M	Turf
Saturday, May 25	11 th	Listed	\$250,000	\$25,000	Keertana	4&cup, f&m	1 ½ M	Turf
Monday, May 27	21 st	III	\$250,000	\$25,000	Winning Colors	4&cup, f&m	6 F	Dirt
Saturday, June 1	5 th	III	\$275,000	\$50,000	Blame	4&cup	1 1/8 M	Dirt
Saturday, June 1	5 th	III	\$275,000	\$50,000	Shawnee	4&cup, f&m	1 1/16 M	Dirt
Saturday, June 1	88 th	III	\$275,000	\$50,000	Arlington	4&cup	1 1/16 M	Turf
Saturday, June 1	55 th	III	\$275,000	\$50,000	Regret	3yo f	1 1/8 M	Turf
Saturday, June 1	36 th	Listed	\$275,000	\$50,000	Aristides	4&cup	6 F	Dirt
Saturday, June 1	5 th	Listed	\$275,000	\$50,000	Audubon	3yo	1 1/8 M	Turf
Sunday, June 2	48 th	III	\$250,000	\$25,000	Old Forester Mint Julep	4&cup, f&m	1 1/16 M	Turf
Saturday, June 8	8 th	Listed	\$225,000		Mighty Beau	3&cup	5 F	Turf
Sunday, June 9	27 th	III	\$400,000		Matt Winn	3yo	1 1/16 M	Dirt
Sunday, June 9	3 rd		\$175,000		Leslie's Lady Overnight Stakes	3yo f	7 F	Dirt
Saturday, June 15	3 rd		\$175,000		Monomoy Girl Overnight Stakes	3yo f	1 1/16 M	Dirt
Saturday, June 15	2 nd		\$175,000		Chorleywood Overnight Stakes	4&cup	1 3/8 M	Turf
Saturday, June 22	34 th	III	\$250,000	\$25,000	Chicago	4&cup, f&m	7 F	Dirt
Saturday, June 29	43 rd	I	\$1,000,000		Stephen Foster	4&cup	1 1/8 M	Dirt
Saturday, June 29	49 th	II	\$500,000	\$100,000	Fleur de Lis	4&cup, f&m	1 1/8 M	Dirt
Saturday, June 29	35 th	II	\$500,000	\$100,000	Wise Dan	4&cup	1 1/16 M	Turf
Saturday, June 29	109 th	Listed	\$250,000	\$25,000	American Derby	3yo	1 1/16 M	Turf
Saturday, June 29	5 th	Listed	\$250,000	\$25,000	Tepin	3yo f	1 M	Turf
Saturday, June 29	14 th	Listed	\$250,000	\$25,000	Kelly's Landing	3&cup	6 ½ F	Dirt
Sunday, June 30	3 rd		\$175,000		Anchorage Overnight Stakes	4&cup, f&m	1 1/8 M	Turf
Sunday, June 30	3 rd	Listed	\$175,000		Maxfield Overnight Stakes	3yo	7 F	Dirt
Sunday, June 30	71 st	Listed	\$300,000	\$25,000	Hanshin presented by JRA	4&cup	1 M	Dirt
Sunday, June 30	123 rd	Listed	\$225,000		Bashford Manor	2yo	6 F	Dirt
Sunday, June 30	123 rd	Listed	\$225,000		Debutante	2yo f	6 F	Dirt

Every stakes race, excluding Grade I events, includes Kentucky Thoroughbred Development Fund prize money.

All Kentucky Thoroughbred Development Fund purse allotments are subject to KHRC approval.

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