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CHAMPION FIERCENESS LEADS 346 EARLY TRIPLE CROWN NOMINATIONS

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (Tuesday, Feb. 6, 2024) – The anticipation for the 2024 Triple Crown is well underway as 346 of the world's most promising 3-year-old Thoroughbreds, led by reigning 2-year-old champion and Breeders' Cup Juvenile (Grade I) winner **Fierceness**, were nominated to the three-race series for \$600 during first closing on Jan. 29.

The 2024 Triple Crown is set to open Saturday, May 4 with the 150th running of the \$5 million Kentucky Derby presented by Woodford Reserve (Grade I) over 1 ¼ miles at Churchill Downs in Louisville, Ky. The 149th running of the \$1.5 million Preakness, at 1 3/16 miles, will take place two weeks later on Saturday, May 18 at Pimlico Race Course in Baltimore, Md. This year's 156th running of the \$2 million Belmont Stakes, the series' 1 ¼-mile final leg, will be run at Saratoga Race Course on Saturday, June 8.

This year's total of early Triple Crown nominees was down from last year's 369 nominations. The nominees included many horses stabled around the world including a record 47 from Japan, 10 more than last year's mark of 37.

Fierceness, one of **Repole Stable's** 20 nominees to lead all owners, was one of 54 horses under the care of **Todd Pletcher** that nominated to the Triple Crown. He led all conditioners and was followed by **Bob Baffert** and **Brad Cox** with 18 each. Baffert's trainees are only eligible for the Preakness and Belmont because horses under his care are ineligible to compete at Churchill Downs Incorporated-owned racetracks in 2024.

Overall, 44 stakes winners were nominated to the Triple Crown. Some of the most notable are **Catching Freedom** (Smarty Jones); **Hades** (Holy Bull); **Honor Marie** (Kentucky Jockey Club); **Locked** (Breeders' Futurity); **Mystik Dan** (Southwest); **Nysos** (Robert B. Lewis); **Track Phantom** (Lecomte) and **Uncle Heavy** (Withers).

Early Triple Crown Nominees by the numbers:

- \$2,300,000: Highest public auction purchase – **Sierra Leone** (2022 Fasig-Tipton August Sale)
- \$1,127,250: Highest earnings of an individual horse nominated (Fierceness). The other top earners (as of Feb. 3): **Muth** (\$716,600), **Locked** (\$608,400), **Candied** (\$595,800), **Forever Young (JPN)** (\$569,451) and **Mystik Dan** (\$510,110).
- \$5,000: Lowest public auction purchase – **Stretch Ride** (2022 Fasig Tipton October Sale)
- 259: Number of Kentucky-bred horses. Other states represented are Florida (15), New York (13), California (7), Maryland (3), Pennsylvania (2), Colorado (1) Iowa (1), Indiana (1), Louisiana (1) and West Virginia (1).
- 159: Number of registered Bay horses. Other registered colors are Dark Bay or Brown (83), Chestnut (72), Gray or Roan (28), Gray (2), Brown (1) and White (1).
- 129: Number of trainers that nominated horses to the Triple Crown.
- 65: Number of unraced horses that nominated to the Triple Crown.
- 42: Horses foaled outside the United States. Other countries are Canada (1), Great Britain (1), Ireland (3) and Japan (37).
- 41: Horses who were foaled after Kentucky Derby Day (May 6).
- 16: Horses produced by sire **Constitution**. He's followed by **Gun Runner** (14), **Justify** (14), **Into Mischief** (13), **Arrogate** (11), **City of Light** (11) and **Curlin** (11).
- 4: Fillies nominated. They are **Candied**, **Gun Song**, **Life Talk** and **Kopion**.

Three-year-olds that were not nominated to the Triple Crown during the early nomination phase can pay a late payment of \$6,000 through Monday, April 1 on www.thetriplecrown.com.

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Thirteen horses have swept the Triple Crown series: **Sir Barton** (1919), **Gallant Fox** (1930), **Omaha** (1935), **War Admiral** (1937), **Whirlaway** (1941), **Count Fleet** (1943), **Assault** (1946), **Citation** (1948), **Secretariat** (1973), **Seattle Slew** (1977), **Affirmed** (1978), **American Pharoah** (2015) and **Justify** (2018).

2024 Triple Crown Nominees (in alphabetical order):

(21)Bible Belt	Candied	El Grande O
(21)Cambiocorsa	Can't You See	El Magnifico
(21)Excited	Capital Idea	Eliminate
(21)Gaudete	Carbone	Elko County
(21)Lee Gage	Cardinale	Elysian Meadows
(21)Mannerly	Carolo Rapido	Encino
(21)Marseillaise	Catalytic	Endlessly
(21)Stellar Wind	Catching Freedom	Enlighten
(21) Walk of Stars	Celebrate Yell (JPN)	Epic Ride
Acclaimed Victor	Change of Command	Ethan Energy
Agate Road	Chaperone	Eusebius
Aigle Noir (JPN)	Circle P	Everdoit
Air Cav	Classic Joke	Factor Analysis
Air It Out	Coach Prime	Fausto
Alotaluck	Coin Miner	Feel the Magic
Amante Bianco (JPN)	Coinvest	Fevrier (GB)
American Hope	Collmus	Fidget
American Runner	Colorado Cruiser	Fierceness
American War Hero	Common Defense	Flashy Fast
And Uwish	Conquest Warrior	Footprint
Antiquarian	Copper Tax	For Your Pleasure
Antonio of Venice	Cornell	Forever Young (JPN)
Arare Tabashiru (JPN)	Cornishman	Foxhole
Ari's Magic	Corporate Power	Freedom Principle
Awesome Road	Count Dracula	Fulmineo
Awesome Wind	Crazy Mason	Gaura Spark (JPN)*
Bail Us Out	Crimson Light	George Tesoro (JPN)
Ballon d'Or (JPN)	Crossfield	Gettysburg Address
Banned for Life	Crushed It	Give Me Liberty
Barong	Curlin's Kaos	Gonbade Qabus (JPN)
Baytown Bruiser	Daily Grind	Good Bali
Baytown Chatterbox	Dancing Groom	Good Money
Be You	Danon K Two (JPN)	Goodstone
Bear River	Danon Pyrenees (JPN)	Gran Orca
Bee Dancer	Dats My Pharaoh	Grand Mo the First
Bergen	Deposition	Gun Barrel City
Better Than Gold	Derby Street	Gun Party
Big City	Deterministic	Gun Song
Big Walt	Dimatic	Habire (JPN)
Bisc Wizard (JPN)*	Direct Channel	Hades
Bishop Creek	Distant Sky	Hall of Fame
Blood Brother	Django	Hawks Creek
Blue Eyed George	Do Tap	Heartened
Blue Whirl	Doc Sullivan	Heavenly Hand (JPN)
Bob John Ray	Domestic Product	Held (JPN)
Boltage	Dornoch	Henry Adams (IRE)
Born Noble	D'oro Unbridled	Hold the Phone
Bricklayer	Eagles Dare	Honor Marie
British Isles	Eclipse Ruban (JPN)	Hortobagy (JPN)
Bushin	Ecoro Gaia	Howard Wolowitz
Call Sign (JPN)	Edified	Illuminare
Call the Cavalry	Eikai Soul (JPN)	Imagination

Imperial Gun
Indispensable
Informed Patriot
Into Aces
Inveigled
Iron Tap
It's My Life
J Dutton
Jasper Robusto
Jayhawk
Jefferson Street
Just a Touch
Just Before Dawn
Just Steel
Justifiably So
Justifreak
Juventus
Kanji
Kazu Vitosha (JPN)
Khanate
Killargue Vizzini
Killer Collect
Kitty Hawk
Knightsbridge
Kopion
Kurodabushi (JPN)
Laevateinn (JPN)
Lagynos
Lake Superior
Lambo
Lat Long
Le Gris
Legalize
Liberal Arts
Life Talk
Lightline
Linebacker
Linesman
Locked
Lord Bullingdon
Lucky Jeremy
Malarchuk
Malibu Rain
Malibu Rocks
Maravich
Marceau
Mardy's Fish
Market Street
Masherbrum (JPN)
Maximus Meridius
Maycocks Bay
Maymun
Mc Vay
McQueen
Melo's Boy
Mena
Mendelssohn Bay
Merit
Mikealicious
Mikki Fight (JPN)
Military Road
Mission Beach

Mister Lincoln
Mo Go
Money Magician
Moonlight
Moonlit Sonata
Mount Fuji
Mr Fabricator
Mr. McMahon
Muth
My Boy Prince
Mystik Dan
Nash
Native Land
Navy Seal (IRE)
Next Level
Ngannou
Nice and Good
No More Time
Normandy Landing
Northern Flame
Northshore Drive
Not Enough (JPN)
Noted
Nysos
Old Triangle
One Red Cent
Otello
Otto the Conqueror
Pandagate
Papa Linguine
Parchment Party
Perfectify
Phantom Speed
Pilot Commander
Pirate
Pony Express
Prince of Monaco
Prince of Power
Proprietary Trade
Protective
Puff (JPN)
Ramjet (JPN)
Real Macho
Real Men Violin
Rebellious Type
Record Time
Red Flyer
Refuel
Regalo
Resilience
Revised Statute
Reynolds Channel
Ridgewood Runner
Rocketeer
Ronaldinho
Roughshod
Satono Phoenix (JPN)
Scatify
Secret Crush
Seize the Grey
Seminole Chief
Sequential

Series
Sierra Leone
Skip the Line
Slider
Snead
Sneak Preview
Society Man
Speak Easy
Special Dispatch
Speed Runner
Startswithadream
Sticky McShnicks
Stoke the Fire
Stolen Magic
Strait Rush
Strategic Decision
Strength (JPN)
Stretch Ride
Stronghold
Sturdy
Sunrise Earth (JPN)
Sunrise Soleil (JPN)
T O Drucker (JPN)
T O Password (JPN)
Taif
Taisei Real (JPN)
Tapit'staeofverve
Taraj (IRE)
Tejon Pass
Tennessee
Tessuto
The Wine Steward
Thousand Springs
Timberlake
Time for Truth
Tireless
Tizzy Indy
Tommy Two Socks
Top Conor
Tornado Road
Track Phantom
Trikari
Triple Espresso
Triple Pass
Troublemeister
Turn Up the Trees
Tuscan Gold
Tuscan Sky
Twirling Point
Two Tons of Fun
Unbridled Vision
Uncle Heavy
Victory Avenue
Vino Lux
Vote No
Waitlist
Warhol
Warring Thunder
We Live This Game
West Saratoga
Wide Blizzard (JPN)
Windfall (JPN)

Wine Me Up
Winterfell
Wynstock
Y Y Legend (JPN)

*Bisc Wizard and Guara Spark, both unraced horses based in Japan, will have their official profiles loaded at a later date on any past performance files.



