



# THE DERBY DISPATCH

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## ROAD TO KENTUCKY DERBY HEADS SOUTH FOR TAMPA BAY DERBY

**LOUISVILLE, Ky. (Friday, March 8, 2024)** – This week’s lone stop on the Road to the Kentucky Derby will be contested in the “Sunshine State” where a field of 10 3-year-olds were entered in the \$400,000 Tampa Bay Derby (Grade III), a race that’s produced two winners of the “Run for the Roses.”

Situated eight weeks from the 150<sup>th</sup> running of the \$5 million Kentucky Derby presented by Woodford Reserve (GI), the Tampa Bay Derby could be used as a prep for the first Saturday in May as it was for **Super Saver** and **Street Sense** prior to their victories in 2010 and 2007, respectively, or it might be used as the final prep before the Derby like 2021 Tampa Bay Derby winner **Helium**.

The Tampa Bay Derby will award the top five finishers qualifying points on a 50-25-15-10-5 scale towards a spot in the starting gate in the Kentucky Derby. While 50 points will vault the winner of the Tampa Bay Derby up the Road to the Kentucky Derby Leaderboard, it is not a mathematically guaranteed spot in the race.

However, based on the last 11 years of the Road to the Kentucky Derby point system, it could be just enough to sneak in the field.

**SAM F. DAVIS WINNER NO MORE TIME RETURNS TO FACE NINE RIVALS IN TAMPA BAY DERBY** – Morplay Racing’s Sam F. Davis (Grade III) winner **No More Time** will return to Tampa Bay Downs and face nine fellow 3-year-olds that entered Saturday’s \$400,000 Tampa Bay Derby (GIII), the next stop on the Road to the Kentucky Derby.

Run at 1 1/16 miles, the Tampa Bay Derby was carded as Race 11 on the 12-race program with a post time of 5:18 p.m. (all times Eastern).

The 10 runners in the Tampa Bay Derby, the marquee race of the Tampa Bay Downs season, will be vying for a total of 105 qualifying points, awarded to the top five finishers on a 50-25-15-10-5 scale toward a spot in the starting gate for the 150<sup>th</sup> running of the \$5 million Kentucky Derby presented by Woodford Reserve (GI) on Saturday, May 4.

No More Time, trained by **Jose D’Angelo**, enters the Tampa Bay Derby after winning the Sam F. Davis by 1 ¼ lengths, the local prep for Saturday’s race. In the Sam F. Davis, No More Time was sent to the early lead by jockey **Paco Lopez** and held clear of runner-up **Agate Road** in the final stages to earn 20 points during the Road to the Kentucky Derby “Prep Season.” The Iowa-bred son of Not This Time will have a change of jockey for the Tampa Bay Derby to Kentucky Derby 149 winning rider **Javier Castellano**. The duo will break from post No. 7.

Another accomplished 3-year-old entered is **Klaravich Stables’** Holy Bull (GII) runner-up **Domestic Product**. Trained by **Chad Brown**, Domestic Product returned in the Holy Bull following a two-month layoff to finish two-lengths behind **Hades** at odds of 14-1. The homebred son of Practical Joke will be ridden by **Tyler Gaffalione**, whose father, **Steve**, won this race in 1989 aboard **Storm Prediction**. Domestic Product will break from post 5.

Recent Tampa Bay Downs maiden special weight winner **Heartland** will break from the rail under jockey **Jose Ortiz** for six-time Tampa Bay Derby winning conditioner **Todd Pletcher**. He will be followed in post-position order by (with jockey and trainer) **Everdoit** (Antonio Gallardo, Kevin Rice); **Give Me Liberty** (Pablo Morales, Robertino Diodoro); **Good Money** (Irak Ortiz Jr., Brown); Domestic Product (Gaffalione, Brown); **Catire Vizcaya** (Marco Meneses, Juan Avila); No More Time (Castellano, D’Angelo); **Crazy Mason** (Mychel Sanchez, Gregory Sacco); **Grand Mo the First** (Samy Camacho, Victor Barboza Jr.); and **Sturdy** (Junior Alvarado, George Weaver).

Catire Vizcaya is the lone horse in the race that is not nominated to the Triple Crown. His connections can make him eligible for the three-race series by paying a \$6,000 late nomination fee due Monday, April 1.

Fans can watch and wager on the Tampa Bay Derby by logging on to [TwinSpires.com](http://TwinSpires.com), the official wagering provider of Churchill Downs Incorporated and the Kentucky Derby.

## TAMPA BAY DERBY QUOTES

- **Jose D'Angelo, trainer, No More Time:** "I think he is going to get better. He is still improving and he knows the track there, which is a big advantage for him. ... It was very similar to his workout before the Sam F. Davis (when he worked a half-mile in :47.95 Saturday at Palm Meadows Training Center) and his gallop out was amazing. He's a horse who doesn't need too much anyway because he's not too big. He was very nervous and green when I started with him but he's more focused now and more mature. I think he's perfect to go for longer distances."

**TV/WAGERING SCHEDULE** – Fans can watch and wager on all the action for the Road to the Kentucky Derby on FanDuel TV or [TwinSpires.com](https://www.twinspires.com), the official wagering provider of Churchill Downs Incorporated and the Kentucky Derby.

**DIFFERENT WINNERS ON ROAD TO KENTUCKY DERBY** – So far, this year's Road to the Kentucky Derby closely resembles last year's in terms of point earners.

Like last year at this time, there have been three different winners on the Road to the Kentucky Derby: **Dornoch** (Remsen and Fountain of Youth); **Timberlake** (Champagne and Rebel) and **Track Phantom** (Gun Runner and Lecomte). In 2023, **Forste**, **Instant Coffee** and **Practical Move** were the lone multiple-race winners.

Through 25 Road to the Kentucky Derby races this season, there have been 83 horses to earn qualifying points, three more than last year.

It took 45 points to make the field for Kentucky Derby 149.

Including the Tampa Bay Derby, 10 races remain to be run on the traditional Road to the Kentucky Derby, along with one each on the European and Japan series.

**TAMPA BAY DERBY PROUDCED 45 KENTUCKY DERBY STARTERS, TWO WINNERS** – Since 2004, the Tampa Bay Derby has produced at least one starter in the Kentucky Derby including two winners of the "Run for the Roses": **Super Saver** (2010) and **Street Sense** (2007).

Overall, since 1982, the Tampa Bay Derby has produced 45 starters in the Kentucky Derby. On average, the horses exiting the Tampa Bay Derby have finished ninth in the Kentucky Derby.

To put that number in perspective, last week's Fountain of Youth Stakes has produced more than double the starters in the Kentucky Derby, 97 since 1982. Like the Tampa Bay Derby, horses exiting the Fountain of Youth have finished an average of ninth in the Kentucky Derby.

**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

- 6:25 p.m. ET, OP 10, MSW, 3yo, 6 F
- 9:55 p.m. ET, TP 9, Alw, n2L, 3yo, 1 M

### Saturday

- 4:18 p.m. ET, OP 8, MSW, 3yo f, 1 M
- 5:03 p.m. ET, SA 4, MSW, 3yo, 6 ½ F
- 5:18 p.m. ET, TAM 11, \$400,000 Tampa Bay Derby (GIII), 3yo, 1 1/16 M
- 5:22 p.m. ET, OP 8, MSW, 3yo, 1 1/8 M
- 5:27 p.m. ET, AQU 9, MSW, 3yo, 1 M
- 6:07 p.m. ET, SA 6, \$100,000 Santa Ysabel (GIII), 3yo f, 1 1/16 M

**TIMBERLAKE REMAINS AT TOP OF LEADERBOARD** – Through 25 races on the Road to the Kentucky Derby, Rebel Stakes (GII) winner Timberlake remains at the top the leaderboard with 66 points. Following last Saturday’s Fountain of Youth (GII), Dornoch has asserted himself in second place with 60 points.

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	Timberlake	Brad Cox	1 <sup>st</sup> - Rebel 1 <sup>st</sup> – Champagne 4 <sup>th</sup> – Breeders’ Cup Juvenile	March 30 Arkansas Derby (GI); April 6 Blue Grass (GI)	66
2	Dornoch	Danny Gargan	1 <sup>st</sup> – Fountain of Youth 1 <sup>st</sup> – Remsen	March 30 Florida Derby (GI) or April 6 Blue Grass (GI)	60
3	Sierra Leone	Chad Brown	1 <sup>st</sup> – Risen Star 2 <sup>nd</sup> – Remsen	April 6 Blue Grass (GI)	55
4	Track Phantom	Steve Asmussen	1 <sup>st</sup> – Lecomte 1 <sup>st</sup> – Gun Runner 32 <sup>nd</sup> Risen Star	March 23 Louisiana Derby (GII)	55
5	Deterministic	Christophe Clement	1 <sup>st</sup> – Gotham	March 30 Florida Derby (GI); March 30 Arkansas Derby (GI); April 6 Blue Grass (GI) or April 6 Wood Memorial (GII)	50
6	Fierceness	Todd Pletcher	1 <sup>st</sup> – Breeders’ Cup Juvenile 3 <sup>rd</sup> – Holy Bull	March 30 Florida Derby (GI)	36
7	El Grande O	Linda Rice	2 <sup>nd</sup> – Withers 2 <sup>nd</sup> – Jerome 3 <sup>rd</sup> – Gotham	April 6 Wood Memorial (GII)	30
8	Common Defense	Kenny McPeek	2 <sup>nd</sup> – Rebel 5 <sup>th</sup> - Southwest	March 23 Louisiana Derby (GII)	27
9	Stronghold	Phil D’Amato	1 <sup>st</sup> – Sunland Derby 2 <sup>nd</sup> – Los Alamitos Derby	TBA	25
10	Catching Freedom	Brad Cox	1 <sup>st</sup> – Smarty Jones 3 <sup>rd</sup> – Risen Star	March 23 Louisiana Derby (GII)	25
11	Le Dom Bro	Eniel Cordero	2 <sup>nd</sup> – Fountain of Youth	March 30 Florida Derby (GI)	25
12	Just a Touch	Brad Cox	2 <sup>nd</sup> – Gotham	April 6 Wood Memorial (GII) or April 6 Blue Grass (GI)	25
13	Mystik Dan	Kenny McPeek	1 <sup>st</sup> – Southwest 5 <sup>th</sup> – Smarty Jones	March 30 Arkansas Derby (GI)	21
14	Hades	Joe Orseno	1 <sup>st</sup> – Holy Bull	March 30 Florida Derby (GI)	20
15	Uncle Heavy	Butch Reid	1 <sup>st</sup> – Withers	April 6 Wood Memorial (GII)	20
16	No More Time	Jose D’Angelo	1 <sup>st</sup> – Sam F. Davis	March 9 Tampa Bay Derby (GIII)	20
17	Encino	Brad Cox	1 <sup>st</sup> – John Battaglia Memorial	TBA	20
18	Locked	Todd Pletcher	1 <sup>st</sup> – Breeders’ Futurity 3 <sup>rd</sup> – Breeders’ Cup Juvenile	TBA	19
19	Liberal Arts	Robert Medina	1 <sup>st</sup> – Street Sense 3 <sup>rd</sup> – Southwest 3 <sup>rd</sup> – Iroquois	March 30 Arkansas Derby (GI)	19
20	Northern Flame	Kenny McPeek	3 <sup>rd</sup> – Rebel 4 <sup>th</sup> – Breeders’ Futurity 5 <sup>th</sup> – Street Sense	March 23 Hot Springs Stakes; March 30 Arkansas Derby (GI); April 13 Lexington (GIII)	18

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## DOWN THE STRETCH

The connections of **Le Dom Bro** have submitted their \$6,000 payment to become a late nominee for the Triple Crown. Therefore, his 25 points earned in last week's Fountain of Youth have been credited on the leaderboard. Additionally, **Awesome Ruta**, sixth in the Risen Star, has been made a late nominee. Late nominations are due Monday, April 1. ...

The Road to the Longines Kentucky Oaks heads to Santa Anita on Saturday for the rescheduled \$100,000 Santa Ysabel Stakes (GIII). The field of eight 3-year-old fillies will go to post in Race 6 at 6:07 p.m. The **Bob Baffert**-trained and 4-5 favorite **Kinza** is ineligible to compete in the Kentucky Oaks. Longshots **Pacific Rose** and **Ifusaintfirsturlast** were not early Kentucky Oaks nominees. ...

The connections of impressive maiden special weight winner **Drip** have bypassed running in the Tampa Bay Derby (GIII) to give the horse additional training time. Trainer **Whit Beckman** stated nothing is wrong with Drip but they wanted to give him extra spacing between races. ...

The 10<sup>th</sup> season of "Inside Churchill Downs" with **Darren Rogers** and **Kevin Kerstein** will begin Friday, April 5 on ESPN 680/105.7 in Louisville. ...

Only 11 days remain until horses will return to the backside of Churchill Downs to begin preparing for the Spring Meet. The first day of training is Friday, March 22 from 6-9 a.m.

## UPCOMING ROAD TO KENTUCKY DERBY RACES

### March 23 (six weeks out) – \$1 million Louisiana Derby (GII), 1 3/16 miles, Fair Grounds (Top 5: 100-50-25-15-10)

Known possible starters (with trainer): Agate Road (Todd Pletcher); Awesome Ruta (Joseph Foster); Catching Freedom (Brad Cox); Common Defense (Kenny McPeck); *Hall of Fame* (Steve Asmussen); Honor Marie (Whit Beckman); *Nash* (Brad Cox); Real Men Violin (Kenny McPeck); *Resilience* (Bill Mott); Track Phantom (Steve Asmussen); and Tuscan Sky (Brad Cox).

### March 30 (five weeks out) – \$1 million UAE Derby (GII), 1 3/16 miles, Meydan Racecourse (Top 5: 100-50-25-15-10)

Known possible starters (with trainer): Forever Young (Yoshito Yahagi); Killer Collect (Bhupat Semar); and Mendelssohn Bay (Bhupat Semar).

### March 23 (six weeks out) – \$700,000 Jeff Ruby Steaks (GIII), 1 1/8 miles (Tapeta), Turfway Park (Top 5: 100-50-25-15-10)

Known possible starters (with trainer): Endlessly (Michael McCarthy); Le Gris (Al Stall Jr.); Moonlight (Todd Pletcher); Mugatu (Jeff Engler); Tennessee (Brad Cox); and West Saratoga (Larry Demeritte).

### March 30 (five weeks out) – \$1 million Florida Derby (GI), 1 1/8 miles, Gulfstream Park (Top 5: 100-50-25-15-10)

Known possible starters (with trainer): *Born Noble* (Todd Pletcher); *Conquest Warrior* (Shug McGaughey III); *Dancing Groom* (Antonio Sano); *Deterministic* (Christophe Clement); *Dornoch* (Danny Gargan); Fierceness (Todd Pletcher); Hades (Joe Orseno); *Le Dom Bro* (Eniel Cordero); *Locked* (Todd Pletcher); and *Resilience* (Bill Mott).

### March 30 (five weeks out) – \$1.25 million Arkansas Derby (GI), 1 1/8 miles, Oaklawn Park (Top 5: 100-50-25-15-10)

Known possible starters (with trainer): *Born Noble* (Todd Pletcher); *Coach Prime* (Bob Baffert); *Deterministic* (Christophe Clement); *Hall of Fame* (Steve Asmussen); Liberal Arts (Robert Medina); *Locked* (Todd Pletcher); *Maymun* (Bob Baffert); *Muth* (Bob Baffert); *Mystik Dan* (Kenny McPeck); *Northern Flame* (Kenny McPeck); *Stronghold* (Phil D'Amato); *Timberlake* (Brad Cox); and *Time for Truth* (Ron Moquett).

### April 6 (four weeks out) – \$750,000 Wood Memorial (GII), 1 1/8 miles, Aqueduct (Top 5: 100-50-25-15-10)

Known possible starters (with trainer): *Be You* (Todd Pletcher); *Born Noble* (Todd Pletcher); *Deposition* (Uriah St. Lewis); *Deterministic* (Christophe Clement); El Grande O (Linda Rice); *Just a Touch* (Brad Cox); *Locked* (Todd Pletcher); *Tuscan Sky* (Todd Pletcher); and *Uncle Heavy* (Butch Reid).

### April 6 (four weeks out) – \$1 million Blue Grass (GI), 1 1/8 miles, Keeneland (Top 5: 100-50-25-15-10)

Known possible starters (with trainer): *Born Noble* (Todd Pletcher); *Deterministic* (Christophe Clement); *Dornoch* (Danny Gargan); *Epic Ride* (John Ennis); *Hall of Fame* (Steve Asmussen); *Just a Touch* (Brad Cox); Lat Long (Kenny McPeck); *Locked* (Todd Pletcher); *Sierra Leone* (Chad Brown); *Seize the Grey* (D. Wayne Lukas); *Stronghold* (Phil D'Amato); and *Timberlake* (Brad Cox).

**April 6 (four weeks out) – \$750,000 Santa Anita Derby (GI), 1 1/8 miles, Santa Anita (Top 5: 100-50-25-15-10)**

Known possible starters (with trainer): *Coach Prime* (Bob Baffert); *Imagination* (Bob Baffert); *Mc Vay* (John Shirreffs); *Muth* (Bob Baffert); *Nysos* (Bob Baffert); *Stronghold* (Phil D'Amato); *Tessuto* (George Papaprodromou); and *Wine Me Up* (Bob Baffert).

**April 13 (three weeks out) – \$400,000 Lexington (GIII), 1 1/16 miles, Keeneland (Top 5: 20-10-6-4-2)**

Known possible starters (with trainer): *Northern Flame* (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 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](http://www.ChurchillDowns.com).

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