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KENTUCKY DERBY CONTENDERS HONOR MARIE, TRACK PHANTOM RECORD FIRST WORKOUTS SINCE LOUISIANA DERBY

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (Sunday, April 7, 2024) – On a brisk Sunday morning at Churchill Downs, TwinSpires.com Louisiana Derby (Grade II) runner-up **Honor Marie** and fourth-place finisher **Track Phantom** returned to the work tab as they continue to train towards the 150th running of the \$5 million Kentucky Derby presented by Woodford Reserve (GI) on May 4.

At 7:30 a.m. ET, Honor Marie breezed a solid half-mile in :47.80 and, two hours earlier, Track Phantom completed an easy five furlongs in 1:02.

Owned by **Ribble Farms, Michael Eiserman, Earl Silver** and **Kenneth and Dave Fishbein**, Honor Marie worked outside of recent Turfway Park maiden special weight winner **Anthem King**. The duo began their work through solid quarter-mile fractions of :12.20 and :24.20. Honor Marie finished one length in front of his workmate and easily galloped out five furlongs in 1:01.60, according to Churchill Downs clocker **John Nichols**.

“I thought it was a really good move for his first work back here at Churchill,” Beckman said. “He did well this winter down at Fair Grounds and the Risen Star (GII) is proving to be a very key race leading into the Derby.”

Honor Marie will make the third start of his 3-year-old season in the Kentucky Derby. After winning the Kentucky Jockey Club (GII) as a 2-year-old, Honor Marie made his first start of the year in the Risen Star at Fair Grounds, finishing fifth to **Sierra Leone**. He returned five weeks later in the Louisiana Derby and improved to finish second to **Catching Freedom**.

L and N Racing, Clark Brewster, Jerry Caroom, and **Breeze Easy**'s Track Phantom had a change of equipment for his work Sunday morning: a small set of blinkers. The speedy son of Quality Road had jockey **Joel Rosario** in the irons for his workout and breezed outside 4-year-old **Gatlinburg**. The duo completed eighth-mile fractions of :13.40, :26.20 and :37.80. At the wire, Track Phantom began to gain the slight advantage over his stablemate and galloped out six furlongs in 1:15.20.

“I thought it was a nice first work getting back to Churchill,” Asmussen’s assistant trainer **Scott Blasi** said.

Several connections of this year’s Kentucky Derby contenders are making plans to ship to Churchill Downs. Trainer **Danny Gargan** reported recent Blue Grass Stakes (GI) fourth-place finisher **Dornoch** and his stablemate, Wood Memorial (GII) runner-up **Society Man**, are scheduled to arrive at Churchill Downs on Wednesday.

For the latest information about Kentucky Derby 150, visit www.kentuckyderby.com.

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.

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