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TARIFA 7-2 MORNING LINE FAVORITE FOR 150TH LONGINES KENTUCKY OAKS

LOUISVILLE, KY (Saturday, April 27, 2024) – Godolphin’s Tarifa, riding a three-race win streak, has been installed as the 7-2 morning line favorite for the 150th running of the \$1.5 million Longines Kentucky Oaks (GI) for 3-year-old fillies on Friday.

The 1 1/8-mile Oaks will serve as the centerpiece for a 13-race program that features seven stakes worth a combined \$5.25 million. First post is 10:30 a.m. (all times Eastern) with the Oaks going off as the 11th race with a 5:51 p.m. post time.

Trained by **Brad Cox**, Tarifa will attempt to follow Godolphin runner **Pretty Mischievous** into the Oaks winner’s circle and make Godolphin the fourth owner to win the Oaks in consecutive years. The most recent was **Cain Hoy Stable** in 1959 and 1960.

A winner of four of five starts, Tarifa posted victories in the Rachel Alexandra (GII) and Fair Grounds Oaks (GII) in her past two starts. **Flavien Prat**, who was aboard for those victories, has the mount Friday from post 8.

Cox, who won the Oaks in 2020 with **Shedaresthedevil** and in 2018 with **Monomoy Girl**, also will send out **Calumet Farm’s Gin Gin** (30-1). A winner of two of seven starts, Gin Gin will be ridden by **Florent Geroux** from post 2.

Whisper Hill Farm’s Leslie’s Rose, winner of the Ashland, is the second choice on the morning line at 4-1.

Trained by four-time Oaks winner **Todd Pletcher**, Leslie’s Rose has won three of four starts and will be ridden by **Irad Ortiz Jr.** from post 14.

Pletcher, who won the Oaks with **Malathaat** (2021), **Princess of Sylmar** (2013), **Rags to Riches** (2007) and **Ashado** (2004), also has **Eclipse Thoroughbred Partners’ Candied**, who is second on the also-eligible list.

Winner of the Alcibiades (GI) last fall before finishing third in the Breeders’ Cup, Candied will be ridden by **Luis Saez**. Saez won the 2022 Oaks on Secret Oath.

Third choice on the morning line at 9-2 is **George Krikorian’s** homebred **Just F Y I**, the champion 2-year-old filly of 2023.

Trained by **Bill Mott**, Just F Y I won the Frizette (GI) and Breeders’ Cup Juvenile Fillies (GI) en route to the Eclipse Award last year for her division. Just F Y I opened her 2024 campaign with a runner-up finish in the Ashland (GI) at Keeneland on April 5.

Junior Alvarado has the mount from post 13.

The co-fourth choices on the morning line at 5-1 are Fantasy (GII) winner **Thorpedo Anna** for trainer **Kenny McPeck** and **Ways and Means** for trainer **Chad Brown**.

Owned by the partnership of **Brookdale Racing, Mark Edwards, Judy Hicks** and **Magdalena Racing**, Thorpedo Anna has won three of four starts. **Brian Hernandez Jr.** has been aboard for all four starts and has the mount Friday from post 5.

Klaravich Stables’ Ways and Means enters the Oaks off a runner-up finish in the Gulfstream Park Oaks (GII). **Tyler Gaffalione**, who rode Pretty Mischievous to victory last year, will attempt to become the first jockey since **Eddie Arcaro** won the race three years in a row from 1951 to 1953. He will exit post 11 on Ways and Means.

Brown also will send out **Regulatory Risk** (20-1) for Klaravich. **Jose Ortiz**, who won the 2019 Oaks on **Serengeti Empress**, has the mount from post 4.

In addition to Cox and Pletcher, one other trainer will be seeking to add to his Oaks record: **D. Wayne Lukas**.

Lukas, tied with **Woody Stephens** for the most Oaks victories with five, will send out **Lemon Muffin** (30-1) for **Aaron Sones** and **Julie Gilbert**. **Keith Asmussen** has the mount from post 6.

Lukas’ Oaks victories started with **Blush With Pride** in 1982 and were followed by **Lucky Lucky Lucky** (1984), **Open Mind** (1988), **Seaside Attraction** (1990) and **Secret Oath** (2022).

The field for the Kentucky Oaks, from the rail out with riders and morning line odds, is: **Tapit Jenallie** (Manny Esquivel, 30-1), Gin Gin (Florent Geroux, 30-1), **Where’s My Ring** (Jose Lezcano, 15-1), Regulatory Risk (Ortiz, 20-1), Thorpedo Anna (Hernandez Jr., 5-1), Lemon Muffin (Asmussen, 30-1), **Fiona’s Magic** (Luis Saez, 30-1), Tarifa (Prat, 7-2), **Everland** (Abel Cedillo, 30-1), **Into Champagne** (Julien Leparoux, 30-1), Ways and Means (Gaffalione, 5-1), **Power Squeeze** (Daniel Centeno, 12-1), Just F Y I (Alvarado, 9-2), Leslie’s Rose (Ortiz Jr., 4-1). Also-eligible: **Our Pretty Woman** (Joel Rosario, 15-1), **Candied** (Luis Saez, 20-1).

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