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Contact: Gary Yunt
Kentucky Derby Notes Team Captain
Churchill Downs Racetrack
(502) 636-4460 (office)
Gary.Yunt@KyDerby.com

CHAMPION IDIOMATIC RETURNS IN STYLE WITH FASIG-TIPTON LA TROIENNE VICTORY

LOUISVILLE, KY (May 3, 2024) – Juddmonte’s Idiomatic, the champion older dirt female of 2023, returned to the races in style by posting a 3 ¾-length victory over **Free Like a Girl** in the 39th running of the \$1 million Fasig-Tipton La Troienne (GI) for fillies and mares Friday afternoon, the first of seven stakes races on the Kentucky Oaks program.

Trained by **Brad Cox** and ridden by **Florent Geroux**, Idiomatic completed the mile and sixteenth over a sloppy track in 1:43.24. It is the third victory in the race for Cox and Geroux, who teamed up to score in 2020 with **Monomoy Girl** and in 2021 with **Shedaresthedevil**.

Dorth Vader set the pace, cutting out fractions of :23.53 and :47 with Idiomatic in closest pursuit. On the far turn, Idiomatic slipped to the inside of Dorth Vader to take command.

In the stretch, Idiomatic disposed of Dorth Vader and repulsed a bid from 2023 Kentucky Oaks winner and champion 3-year-old filly of last year **Pretty Mischievous** to pull away for her sixth consecutive victory and ninth in her past 10 starts.

Idiomatic returned \$3.66, \$2.66 and \$2.10. Free Like a Girl, ridden by **Corey Lanerie**, returned \$5.80 and \$2.92 and finished a length and a half in front of Pretty Mischievous, who paid \$2.48 to show under **Tyler Gaffalione**.

It was another three-quarters of a length back to Dorth Vader with **Xigera** finishing fifth.

LA TROIENNE QUOTES

Florent Geroux (jockey, Idiomatic, winner) – “Yeah for sure, she was the class of the field. We didn’t break as fast as I anticipated. There were a couple fillies in there who weren’t settling well and I broke a little flat-footed. I tried to get her in a good spot and I was very content to sit off the flank of the leader on the backside. My filly once she started getting into her stride, you could tell she was getting into a nice rhythm and from there she just went on. You could tell she was looking around a little bit, she gets a little distracted sometimes but she looks like she’s back to her old self.”

Brad Cox (trainer, Idiomatic, winner) – “Great effort. I was hoping we’d either get the lead or track the outside horse. We found ourselves traveling in the inside position, which is not ideal. There was a little concern when he (Florent Geroux) started knuckling down on her a little bit but she really responded. She cut the corner and kind of felt some of that pressure and kicked away.

“I think she runs on anything. I really do believe that. I mean, she obviously put in a good effort here today and she’s performed on synthetics, she’s performed on the fast dirt obviously. But (the wet track) is always a concern. There is always a lot of pressure when they’re the price she is and coming off a layout and with the resume she got being a champion. I enjoy being in the position but race had some anxiety behind it.”

Corey Lanerie (jockey, Free Like a Girl, second) – “She ran great. This is one of the toughest tasks she has had in a while. I was a little worried when the favorite (Idiomatic) didn’t break so well but he (Florent Geroux) got up there and got his position. The race set up like I thought. I was hoping my mare would relax and I was hoping they would bang heads up front and come back to me. They all came back but one.”

Tyler Gaffalione (jockey, Pretty Mischievous, third) – “I thought it was a credible effort. It was the first time off a layoff and she was bound to get tired. The sloppy track didn’t do us any favors today. It’s never been her favorite surface and she struggled quite a bit down the lane. Very proud of her effort and hopefully it’s a good year for her.”

ABOUT CHURCHILL DOWNS RACETRACK

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