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IT'S MYSTIK DAN BY A NOSE OVER SIERRA LEONE IN \$5 MILLION KENTUCKY DERBY BEFORE CROWD OF 156,710

LOUISVILLE, KY (May 4, 2024) – 4 G Racing, Lance Gasaway, Daniel Hamby III and Valley View Farm's **Mystik Dan**, under a ground-saving trip from **Brian Hernandez Jr.**, held off the late charges of **Sierra Leone** and **Forever Young (JPN)** to win the 150th running of the \$5 million Kentucky Derby presented by Woodford Reserve (GI) before a crowd of 156,710.

Trained by **Kenny McPeek**, **Mystik Dan** completed the mile and a quarter over a fast track in 2:03.34. The most recent time the Derby was decided by a nose was in 1996 when **Grindstone** edged **Cavonnier**. It was the closest three-horse photo finish since 1947 when **Jet Pilot** finished a head in front of **Phalanx**, who was another head ahead of **Faultless**.

It is the first Kentucky Derby victory for Hernandez and McPeek, who teamed to win the Longines Kentucky Oaks (GI) on Friday with **Thorpedo Anna**.

It is the first time since 1952 that a trainer has swept both races in the same year. That was **Ben Jones** with **Real Delight** in the Oaks and **Hill Gail** in the Derby.

It also is the first time since 2009 that a rider has won both races on the same weekend. That was **Calvin Borel** with **Rachel Alexandra** in the Oaks and **Mine That Bird** in the Derby.

Track Phantom and **Just Steel** led the field through fractions of :22.97 and :46.63 with favored **Fierceness** racing three wide just off the leaders. The top three remained unchanged as the leaders completed six furlongs in 1:11.31 and a mile in 1:37.46. At the top of the stretch, the whole complexion changed.

Track Phantom drifted off the rail opening a hole that Hernandez sent **Mystik Dan** through and quickly opened up a daylight advantage on the field.

To his outside, **Sierra Leone** and **Forever Young** were on the move, six- and seven-wide respectively.

As **Mystik Dan** maintained a straight course along the rail, **Sierra Leone** and **Forever Young** were exchanging bumps in the middle of the track as they closed in only to come up just short at the wire.

The victory was worth \$3.1 million and increased **Mystik Dan's** career earnings to \$3,741,360 with a record of 7-3-1-1. **Mystik Dan** is a Kentucky-bred son of **Goldencents** out of the Colonel John mare **Ma'am**. He was bred by 4 G Racing, Gasaway and Hamby.

Mystik Dan paid \$39.22, \$16.32 and \$10. **Sierra Leone** returned \$6.54 and \$4.64 with **Forever Young** returning \$5.58 to show.

Completing the order of finish were **Catching Freedom**, **T O Password (JPN)**, **Resilience**, **Stronghold**, **Honor Marie**, **Endlessly**, **Dornoch**, **Track Phantom**, **West Saratoga**, **Domestic Product**, **Epic Ride**, **Fierceness**, **Society Man**, **Just Steel**, **Grand Mo the First**, **Catalytic** and **Just a Touch**.

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