



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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## **CHURCHILL DOWNS TO HOST 11 STAKES WORTH \$3.575 MILLION DURING 14-DAY SEPTEMBER MEET THAT RUNS SEPT. 12-29**

**LOUISVILLE, Ky. (Tuesday, Aug. 27, 2024)** – Eleven stakes races cumulatively worth \$3,575,000 will be offered during the 14-day September Meet at Churchill Downs, which runs Sept. 12-29.

The 12<sup>th</sup> annual September Meet, which runs for three weeks, will offer horsemen plenty of opportunities to prep for the Nov. 1-2 Breeders' Cup World Championships at Del Mar, led by the \$500,000 Lukas Classic (Grade II) for 3-year-olds and up at 1 1/8 miles and the \$400,000 Ack Ack (GIII) for 3-year-olds and up at one mile – a Breeders' Cup "Win and You're In" race for the Dirt Mile – on Saturday, Sept. 28.

Additionally, the Road to the Kentucky Derby and Kentucky Oaks series will kick-off Saturday, Sept. 14 with the \$300,000 Iroquois (GIII) and \$300,000 Pocahontas (GIII), respectively. Both races for 2-year-olds will be run at the one turn, one-mile distance.

Two changes have been made to the stakes schedule compared to last year's lineup. The distance of the \$300,000 Open Mind (Listed) for fillies and mares, one of five stakes on Sept. 14, has been increased from six furlongs to 6 ½ furlongs. Additionally, the \$200,000 Jefferson Cup for 3-year-olds at one mile on turf has been placed on hiatus because all races during this year's September Meet will be run on dirt to ensure the turf course reaches its maximum performance for the Oct. 27-Dec. 1 Fall Meet and into next year's Spring Meet.

Churchill Downs' 14-day meet will be staged over three weeks from Thursday, Sept. 12 through Sunday, Sept. 29 with racing on Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. Outside of the three Twilight Thursdays (5 p.m. ET) and Downs After Dark on Sept. 28 (6 p.m. ET), the first race for all other race days will be 12:45 p.m. ET. Nine races are scheduled on Wednesdays, eight races are scheduled on Thursdays with 10-race programs on Fridays and Sundays. Eleven races will be showcased each Saturday.

Tickets for the September Meet are on sale at <https://www.churchilldowns.com/day-at-the-races/>, and there are plenty of special events and entertainment to complement the world-class racing:

- **Twilight Thursdays (Thursdays, Sept. 12, Sept. 19 and Sept. 26)** – Churchill Downs will host three Twilight Thursdays from 5-8 p.m. in the Paddock Plaza. Weekly features include \$2 select domestic can beer, live music (Piper Madison on Sept. 12; Kevin Niehoff on Sept. 19; and Shane Dawson on Sept. 26) and food trucks. The Sept. 19 event will include a Louisville City FC and Racing Louisville FC "Purple Takeover" to support the city's professional soccer clubs.
- **Military Appreciation Day (Thursday, Sept. 12)** – Churchill Downs will celebrate Military Appreciation Day in partnership with USA Cares, an organization committed to supporting post-9/11 military veterans, service members and their families. They provide essential financial aid and skills training for long-term stability. Their efforts significantly improve the quality of life for veterans and help prevent factors that can lead to veteran suicide. Military members who show a valid military ID will receive free general admission or can purchase discounted tickets to Millionaires Row or Sky Terrace (subject to availability) by calling (502) 636-4450

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- **Road to the Kentucky Derby and Kentucky Oaks Kickoff (Saturday, Sept. 14)** – The Road to the 151<sup>st</sup> Kentucky Derby and Kentucky Oaks will launch with the first points-bearing prep races for each series. The Road to the Kentucky Derby starts with the \$300,000 Iroquois (GIII) at one mile and the top five finishers will be awarded points to qualify for America's greatest race next May. The \$300,000 Pocahontas (GIII) at one mile begins the Road to the Kentucky Oaks.
- **College Day (Saturday, Sept. 14)** – College students will receive free general admission with a valid college I.D. and full-time students are eligible to enter drawings for \$20,000 in scholarships thanks to a partnership with KTA-KTOB: one \$10,000 scholarship and five \$2,000 scholarships that include one designated scholarship to children of backside workers at Churchill Downs and another to a student enrolled in the University of Louisville Equine Industry Program. There also will be prize drawings for exclusive Churchill Downs merchandise and a \$250 gift card to The Outlet Shoppes of the Bluegrass, as well as giveaways of limited-edition Churchill Downs ball caps in area college colors and Churchill Downs tote bags.
- **Senior Day (Friday, Sept. 20)** – Guests 60 and up will receive \$3 general admission or can enjoy lunch and a day at the races in Millionaires Row for \$45. Senior Day tickets can be purchased by calling (502) 636-4450.
- **Stakes Room Brunch (Sundays, Sept. 15, Sept. 22 and Sept. 29)** – On Sundays, Churchill Downs is offering a brunch special in the Stakes Room. The \$87 package for adults and \$34 package for children includes a seat in the Stakes Room on the fourth floor of the Clubhouse and all-you-can-eat access to the brunch menu that includes scrambled eggs; biscuits and country gravy; French toast; hot brown; carved honey ham; crispy bacon; sausage patties; hash brown potatoes with peppers and onions; fresh fruit; garden vegetables; salads; breakfast breads; and a chef's dessert display.
- **Family Adventure Day (Sunday, Sept. 22)** – Family Adventure Day on Sunday, Sept. 22 is the perfect event for everyone in the family to experience a fun-filled day at Churchill Downs. There will be more than 15 kid-friendly activities for children under 12 to enjoy, including stick-horse races; face painting; inflatables; bubble station; game zone; arts and craft station; and an appearance by Kona ice truck and DonutNV. Guests are encouraged to bring up to five cans of soup to help support Blessings in a Backpack Louisville Chapter and win opportunities for special Family Adventure Day experiences, including a personal meet and greet with popular track bugler Steve Buttleman. The day also will mark the second annual Thoroughbred Aftercare Day to introduce young learners to the interesting life of Thoroughbreds after retirement and bring awareness of family opportunities to engage with these magnificent animals after their career in racing.
- **Downs After Dark: Oktoberfest (Saturday, Sept. 28)** – The final **Downs After Dark** of the year will take place Saturday, Sept. 28 as Churchill Downs presents "Oktoberfest" where the spirit of Munich will come to the Twin Spires with an array of local brews from West Sixth Brewing and Gravely Brewing Co in a beer garden; sizzling bratwurst and savory pretzels; lively polka dancing; yodeling contest; live music and world-class horse racing. Admission gates will open at 5 p.m. and the 11-race program will be conducted between 6-11:10 p.m. General admission to Downs After Dark is \$20 and includes an official program. Guests under the age of 18 will only be admitted to the track if accompanied by a parent or adult guardian. Outdoor box seats range from \$28 to \$38 per person. Limited premium dining packages are available starting at \$91 per person including our new and exclusive Oktoberfest VIP Package. Experience Churchill Downs like never before in our new Paddock-facing Loges with seating for four or six guests. Each package includes the following per guest: Covered loge seating that overlooks the newly renovated Paddock, a Churchill Downs-branded beer stein and two beer tickets. For the group: a shareable Oktoberfest-themed charcuterie board and a guided Paddock tour.

**2024 CHURCHILL DOWNS SEPTEMBER MEET STAKES SCHEDULE**

Date	Running	Grade	Purse	Race	Conditions	Distance	Surface
Saturday, Sept. 14	40 <sup>th</sup>	II	\$400,000	Fasig-Tipton Locust Grove	3&cup, f&m	1 1/16 M	Dirt
Saturday, Sept. 14	43 <sup>rd</sup>	III	\$300,000	Iroquois	2yo	1 M	Dirt
Saturday, Sept. 14	56 <sup>th</sup>	III	\$300,000	Pocahontas	2yo f	1 M	Dirt
Saturday, Sept. 14	15 <sup>th</sup>	Listed	\$300,000	Open Mind	3&cup, f&m	6 ½ F	Dirt
Saturday, Sept. 14	4 <sup>th</sup>		\$300,000	Louisville Thoroughbred Society	3&cup	6 F	Dirt
Saturday, Sept. 21	49 <sup>th</sup>	III	\$300,000	Dogwood	3yo f	7 F	Dirt
Saturday, Sept. 21	4 <sup>th</sup>		\$300,000	Bourbon Flight	3yo	1 3/16 M	Dirt
Saturday, Sept. 21	4 <sup>th</sup>		\$300,000	Harrods Creek	3yo	7 F	Dirt
Saturday, Sept. 21	4 <sup>th</sup>	Listed	\$175,000	Seneca Overnight Stakes	3yo f	1 1/16 M	Dirt
Saturday, Sept. 28	11 <sup>th</sup>	II	\$500,000	Lukas Classic	3&cup	1 1/8 M	Dirt
Saturday, Sept. 28	32 <sup>nd</sup>	III	\$400,000	Ack Ack (Win & You're In Dirt Mile Division)	3&cup	1 M	Dirt

Purse offerings for the September Meet are pending approval from the Kentucky Thoroughbred Development Fund.

**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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