

\$350,000 Opening Verse (Listed)

20th Running – Thursday, May 1, 2025 (Spring Meet)
4-Year-Olds & Up at One Mile on Matt Winn Turf Course at Churchill Downs
Stakes Record – 1:34.69, Mr Cub (2018)
Course Record – 1:32.91, Classic Q (2025)

Name Origin: Race named for Opening Verse, who won the Grade III Early Times Turf Classic (now named the Old Forester Bourbon Turf Classic) in 1991 and then returned to Churchill Downs later that year to pull off a major upset in the Breeders' Cup Mile. The win marked the second stakes win over the Matt Winn Turf Course for the Allen Paulson-owned and Richard Lundy-trained horse, who retired with 10 wins in 30 starts and \$1.6 million in earnings.

Year (Race No.) Dis. (Starters)	Winner (Age/Sex) Owner(s)	Jockey (Weight) Trainer	Second Third	Time (Condition) Odds (Margin)	Sire Bred (Color)	Gross Purse-Gr. Winner's Share-#
2025-May 1 (10th) 1 M (T) (9)	Brilliant Berti (4c)* Klein Racing	Brian Hernandez Jr. (122) Cherie DeVaux	Lagynos Major Dude	1:34.93 (firm) 1.87-1 (½ length)	Noble Mission-GB Kentucky (B.)	\$346,250 \$208,680—20
2024-May 2 (11th) 1 M (T) (10)	Carl Spackler-IRE (4c)* e Five Racing Thoroughbreds LLC	Tyler Gaffalione (120) Chad Brown	Talkofthenation Smokin' T	1:35.31 (firm) 1.99-1 (head)	Lope de Vega-IRE Ireland (Ch.)	\$304,100 \$161,975—19
2023-May 4 (10th) 1 M (T) (11)	Annapolis (4c)* Bass Racing LLC	Irad Ortiz Jr. (124) Todd Pletcher	Churchtown Set Piece-GB	1:35.73 (firm) 0.83-1 (head)	War Front Kentucky (B.)	\$297,500 \$175,270—18
2022-May 5 (8th) 1 M (T) (7)	Gray's Fable (7g) Steve Goldfine, Kari Provost & Jeff Zlonis	Luis Saez (118) Roger Attfield	Hidden Stash Mr Dumas*	1:36.22 (firm) 2.20-1 (head)	Gio Ponti Kentucky (Gr or Ro.)	\$157,400 \$96,722—17
2021-April 29 (8th) 1 M (T) (8)	Set Piece-GB (5g)* Juddmonte	Florent Geroux (118) Brad Cox	Snapper Sinclair Gray's Fable	1:38.26 (good) 2.90-1 (1 ½ lengths)	Dansili-GB Great Britain (Dk B or Br.)	\$105,734 \$54,126—16
2020-Sept 3 (8th) 1 M (Off Turf) (4)	Crafty Daddy (4g) Lucky Seven Stable	Brian Hernandez Jr. (120) Kenni McPeck	Captivating Moon* Renaissance Frolic	1:34.10 (fast) 3.90-1 (head)	Scat Daddy Kentucky (Dk B or Br.)	\$112,505 \$71,730—15
2019-May 2 (8th) 1 M (T) (10)	Siem Riep (5g) Marc Detampel	James Graham (122) Ben Colebrook	Hembree Ballagh Rocks	1:35.07 (firm) 35.00-1 (1 ½ lengths)	Tapit Kentucky (Ch.)	\$116,300 \$68,776—14
2018-May 3 (8th) 1 M (T) (9)	Mr Cub (4g)* Turf Stable II LLC (Rusty Jones)	Chris Landeros (122) Ian Wilkes	First Premio Flatlined	1:34.69 (firm) 2.40-1 (1 ¼ lengths)	Artie Schiller Kentucky (B.)	\$71,600 \$42,960—13
2017-May 4 (9th) 1 M (T) (7)	Pleuven-FR (6g)* Nelson McMakin	Corey Lanerie (122) Phil Sims	Take the Stand-ARG Thatcher Street	1:36.15 (good) 2.40-1 (2 ½ lengths)	Turtle Bowl-IRE France (Dk B or Br.)	\$56,340 \$32,993—12
2016-May 21 (11th) 1 M (T) (9)	Thatcher Street (5g) Randy Bloch, Phil Milner, John Seiler & Amintian LLC	Brian Hernandez Jr. (122) Ian Wilkes	Pleuven-FR Aztec Brave (FR)	1:38.22 (good) 4.60-1 (½ length)	Street Sense Kentucky (B.)	\$62,640 \$39,780—11
2015-May 30 (9th) 1 1/16 M (T) (8)	The Pizza Man (6g)* Midwest Thoroughbreds, Inc.	Florent Geroux (123) Roger Brueggemann	Frac Daddy Departing	1:43.29 (firm) 2.10-1 (2 ½ lengths)	English Channel Illinois (B.)	\$58,450 \$32,400—10
2014-May 31 (10th) 1 1/16 M (T) (7)	Regally Ready (7g)* Vinery Stables LLC	Rosie Napravnik (123) Steve Asmussen	Villandry Paris Vegas	1:42.26 (firm) 0.60-1 (¾ length)	More Than Ready Kentucky (Ch.)	\$64,907 \$39,660—9
2013-June 1 (10th) 1 1/16 M (Off Turf) (4)	Silver Max (4c) Mark Bacon & Dana Wells	Robby Albarado (123) Dale Romans	Daddy Nose Best Cease *	1:44.34 (sloppy) 1.60-1 (9 ½ lengths)	Badge of Silver Kentucky (B.)	\$62,415 \$39,420—8
2012-June 9 (5th) 1 1/16 M (T) (6)	Guys Reward (5h) Michael J. Bruder	Corey Lanerie (123) Dale Romans	Seruni* Scotus	1:41.98 (firm) 2.20-1 (1/2 length)	Grand Reward Kentucky (Dk. B. or Br.)	\$73,392 \$44,820—7
2011-June 17 (4th) 1 1/16 M (T) (5)	Turallure (4c)* Four D Stable	Julien Leparoux (119) Charlie LoPresti	Tajaaweed Kingofthebluegrass	1:40.41 (firm) 1.20-1 (1 length)	Wando Kentucky (Gr. or R.)	\$74,874 \$46,380—6
2009-10	No Runnings					
2008-May 31 (9th) 1 1/16 M (T) (10)	Inca King (4g)* Heiligbrodt Racing Stable	Shaun Bridgmohan (116) Steve Asmussen	Seaside Retreat Corrupt	1:42.39 (firm) 3.60-1 (2 ¼ lengths)	Sir Cat Kentucky (Dk. B. or Br.)	\$119,700 \$70,503—5
2007-June 2 (8th) 1 1/16 M (T) (4)	Therecomesatiger (5g) Charles R. Patton	Jamie Theriot (116) Tom Proctor	Icy Atlantic* Go Between	1:43.64 (firm) 4.10-1 (1/2 length)	Tiger Ridge Florida (Dk. B. or Br.)	\$105,245 \$67,270—4
2006-June 3 (8th) 1 1/16 M (T) (5)	Rush Bay (4c) Mueller Thoroughbred Stable, Ltd. & Phoebe Mueller	Rafael Bejarano (118) Tom Amoss	Purim* Free Thinking	1:42.52 (firm) 2.70-1 (head)	Cozzene Kentucky (B.)	\$109,000 \$67,580—3
2005-June 18 (11th) 1 1/16 M (T) (8)	Senor Swinger (5h) Robert B. and Beverly Lewis	Brice Blanc (118) Bob Baffert	G P Fleet* Seeking Answers-IRE	1:42.07 (firm) 2.10-1 (neck)	El Prado-IRE Kentucky (Gr. or R.)	\$111,200 \$68,944—2
2004-June 12 (10th) 1 1/16 M (T) (7)	Senor Swinger (4c) Robert B. and Beverly Lewis	Pat Day (117) Bob Baffert	Hard Buck-BRZ* Majestic Thief	1:45.82 (yielding) 2.10-1 (1 ¼ lengths)	El Prado-IRE Kentucky (Gr. or R.)	\$110,900 \$68,758—1

*-Favorite

Most Wins, Jockey: 3, Brian Hernandez Jr. (2016, '20, '25)
Most Wins, Trainer: 2, Bob Baffert (2004-05), Dale Romans (2012-13), Steve Asmussen (2008, '14) and Ian Wilkes (2016, '18)
Most Wins, Owner: 2, Robert B. & Beverly Lewis
High \$2 Win: \$72.00, Siem Riep (2019)
Low \$2 Win: \$3.20, Regally Ready (2014)
Largest Win Margin: 9 ½ lengths, Silver Max (2013)
Smallest Win Margin: head, Rush Bay (2006); Gray's Fable (2022); Annapolis (2023); Carl Spackler-IRE (2024)
Largest Field Size: 11 (2023)
Smallest Field Size: 4 (2007, '13, '20)
Favorites Record: 20-10-6-2 (Win=50.0%; ITM=90.0%)
Favorites who finished off-the-board: First Premio (4th in 2019 at 3.20-1); Green Mask (6th in 2016 at 1.00-1)
Fastest Splits – ¼-mile: :23.16, Amun Re (2011)
Fastest Splits – ½-mile: :46.11, Exchanging Kisses (2011)
Disqualifications: none
Off-tracks: Off the Turf/Sloppy (2013); Off the Turf/Fast (2020); Yielding (2004); Good (2016-17, '21)