

\$500,000 Wise Dan (Grade II)

35th Running – Saturday, June 28, 2025 (Spring Meet)
3-Year-Olds & Up at 1 1/16 Miles on Matt Winn Turf Course at Churchill Downs
Stakes Record – 1:40.26, Kasaqui (ARG) (2017)
Course Record – 1:39.82, Green Light (2025)

Name Origin: The race formerly known as the Firecracker was renamed in 2016 to honor Mort Fink's two-time Horse of the Year who completed a spectacular racing career with a perfect four-race season in 2014. The Charlie LoPresti-trained gelding by Wiseman's Ferry compiled a remarkable lifetime record of 23-2-0 in 31 races with earnings of \$7,552,920 from 2010-14. He earned seven of those victories from his 11 starts at Churchill Downs, which included a pair of triumphs in the Firecracker that included his successful debut on the grass in its 2011 running and a hedge-skimming victory over yielding turf in a driving rain storm in 2013. Wise Dan's Churchill Downs success also included victories in the Woodford Reserve Turf Classic (GI) in 2013-14, and memorable runs on the main track that included a victory in the 2011 Clark Handicap Presented by Norton Healthcare (GI) and a runner-up finish in the 2012 Stephen Foster Handicap (GI) in which he lost by a head to Ron the Greek. Wise Dan also earned a pair of Eclipse Awards as both turf champion and champion older horse. "It means so much to us to have that race named to honor Wise Dan," LoPresti said. "He's been a great horse, and we've had so much fun with him and we're proud of him. I've often thought that someday somebody would name a race after him, and I'm glad that Churchill was the first to come up with it because he's won so many races there and is such a big part of Churchill Downs."

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-June 28 (10th) 1 1/16 Mile-Turf (7)	Brilliant Berti (4c)* Klein Racing	Brian Hernandez Jr. (118) Cherie DeVaux	Taking Candy Lagynos	1:43.41 (firm) 2.04-1 (¾ length)	Noble Mission-GB Kentucky (B.)	\$499,250-Gr. II \$303,230—35
2024-June 29 (7th) 1 1/16 Mile-Turf (6)	Ottoman Fleet-GB (5g)* Goddolphin LLC	Flavien Prat (120) Charlie Appleby	Chasing the Crown Strong Tide	1:41.26 (firm) 0.70-1 (1 ½ lengths)	Sea The Stars-IRE Great Britain (B.)	\$465,000-Gr. II \$276,210—34
2023-July 1 (Elp 9th) 1 1/16 Mile-Turf (10)	Sitched (4c) Nathan McCloskey, Michael W. Olszewski & William J. Minner	Flavien Prat (118) Greg Foley	Get Smokin Set Piece-GB*	1:40.97 (good) 46.25-1 (neck)	Mizzzen Mast Kentucky (B.)	\$395,000-Gr. II \$235,150—33
2022	Not Run					
2021-June 26 (10th) 1 1/16 Mile-Turf (10)	Set Piece-GB (5g)* Juddmonte	Florent Geroux (118) Brad Cox	Somelikeithotbrown Ride a Comet	1:40.50 (firm) 1.70-1 (1/2 length)	Dansili-GB Great Britain (Dk B or Br.)	\$300,000-Gr. II \$176,700—32
2020-June 20 (9th) 1 1/16 Mile-Turf (9)	Factor This (5h)* Gaining Ground Racing LLC	Shaun Bridgmohan (122) Brad Cox	English Bee Parlor	1:41.15 (firm) 1.00-1 (neck)	The Factor Kentucky (B.)	\$200,000-Gr. II \$119,040—31
2019-June 15 (6th) 1 1/16 Mile-Turf (13)	March to the Arch (4g) Live Oak Plantation	Tyler Gaffalione (121) Mark Casse	All Right Admission Office*	1:40.58 (firm) 10.50-1 (neck)	Arch Florida (B.)	\$250,000-Gr. II \$142,600—30
2018-June 16 (6th) 1 1/16 Mile-Turf (7)	Mr. Misunderstood (4g) Flurry Racing Stables LLC	Florent Geroux (121) Brad Cox	Inspector Lynley Mr. Cub	1:41.83 (firm) 2.80-1 (1/2 length)	Archarcharch Kentucky (Dk B or Br.)	\$200,000-Gr. II \$121,520—29
2017-June 17 (6th) 1 1/16 Mile-Turf (8)	Kasaqui-ARG (7h) Wimbome Farm	James Graham (121) Ignacio "Nacho" Correias IV	Chocolate Ride Conquest Panthera	1:40.26 (firm) 3.20-1 (2 ¾ lengths)	Lasting Approval Argentina (Gr or Ro.)	\$200,000-Gr. II \$120,280—28
2016-June 18 (7th) 1 1/16 Mile-Turf (10)	Plueven-FR (5g) Nelson McMakin	Channing Hill (121) Phil Sims	Kasaqui-ARG Thatcher Street	1:40.96 (firm) 7.60-1 (¾ length)	Turtle Bowl-IRE France (Dk. B. or Br.)	\$200,000-Gr. II \$117,800—27
2015-June 27 (8th) 1 Mile-Turf (8)	Departing (5g) Claiborne Farm & Adele Dilschneider	Miguel Mena (121) Al Stall Jr.	Knights Nation Sky Flight*	1:38.16 (good) 4.20-1 (½ length)	War Front Kentucky (B.)	\$200,000-Gr. II \$120,280—26
2014-June 28 (8th) 1 Mile-Turf (8)	Silver Max (5h)* Mark Bacon & Dana Wells	Robby Albarado (121) Dale Romans	Nikki's Sandcastle Guys Reward	1:34.21 (firm) 1.30-1 (1 ½ lengths)	Badge of Silver Kentucky (B.)	\$224,800-Gr. II \$135,195—25
2013-June 29 (10th) 1 Mile-Turf (5)	HO-Wise Dan (6g)* Mort Fink	John Velazquez (128)* Charlie LoPresti	Lea Seruni	1:39.82 (yielding) 0.20-1 (2 lengths)	Wiseman's Ferry Kentucky (Ch.)	\$168,450-Gr. II \$104,439—24
2012-July 1 (7th) 1 Mile-Turf (5)	Guys Reward (5h) Michael Bruder	Corey Lanerie (118) Dale Romans	Seruni Night Party	1:38.46 (firm) 3.50-1 (2 lengths)	Grand Reward Kentucky (Dk. B. or Br.)	\$165,900-Gr. II \$102,858—23
2011-July 4 (10th) 1 Mile-Turf (10)	Wise Dan (4g) Mort Fink	Jon Court (115) Charlie LoPresti	Baryshnikov* Strike Impact	1:34.59 (firm) 14.30-1 (2 ¾ lengths)	Wiseman's Ferry Kentucky (Ch.)	\$203,000-Gr. II \$119,567—22
2010-July 4 (10th) 1 Mile-Turf (14)	Tizdejavu (5h) Mike Cooper & Pamela Ziebarth	Jesus Castanon (119) Greg Fox	Public Speaker Inca King	1:35.98 (firm) 4.10-1 (1 ½ lengths)	Tiznow Kentucky (B.)	\$205,625-Gr. II \$116,016—21
2009-July 4 (10th) 1 Mile-Turf (7)	Mr. Sidney (5h)* Circle K Racing	Kent Desormeaux (120) Bill Mott	Inca King Seaspeak	1:37.28 (yielding) 2.20-1 (1 ½ lengths)	Storm Cat Kentucky (B.)	\$167,700-Gr. II \$101,896—20
2008-July 4 (10th) 1 Mile-Turf (5)	Thorn Song (5h) Zayat Stables LLC	Kent Desormeaux (118) Dale Romans	Einstein-BRZ* Steve's Double	1:36.69 (yielding) 1.80-1 (1 length)	Unbridled's Song Kentucky (Gr. or Ro.)	\$213,250-Gr. II \$135,780—19
2007-June 30 (10th) 1 Mile-Turf (8)	Remarkable News-VEN (5h)* Holly Rincon	Ramon Dominguez (122) Angel Penna Jr.	Brilliant Outperformance	1:34.74 (firm) 1.70-1 (2 ¾ lengths)	Chayim Venezuela (Ch.)	\$232,000-Gr. II \$122,387—18
2006-July 1 (10th) 1 Mile-Turf (7)	TM-Miesque's Approval (7h)* Live Oak Plantation	Eddie Castro (120) Marty Wolfson	Free Thinking Therecomesatiger	1:34.52 (firm) 0.60-1 (1 ½ lengths)	Miesque's Son Florida (B.)	\$269,500-Gr. II \$170,605—17
2005-July 4 (10th) 1 Mile-Turf (6)	Kitten's Joy (4c)* Ken and Sarah Ramsey	Edgar Prado (124) Dale Romans	Old Forester America Alive	1:35.25 (firm) 0.60-1 (1 length)	El Prado-IRE Kentucky (Ch.)	\$274,000-Gr. II \$169,880—16
2004-July 3 (8th) 1 Mile-Turf (9)	Quantum Merit (5g) Very Un Stable & Joseph Gioia	Shane Sellers (117) Del Carroll II	Perfect Soul-IRE* Senor Swinger	1:34.15 (firm) 5.70-1 (1 ½ lengths)	Hansel New York (Dk. B. or Br.)	\$287,750-Gr. II \$178,405—15
2003-July 5 (9th) 1 Mile-Turf (9)	Tap the Admiral (5h) Stanley Ettinger	John McKee (115) Del Carroll II	Freefourinternet Package Storage*	1:35.48 (firm) 7.20-1 (1 ½ lengths)	Pleasant Tap Kentucky (Ch.)	\$288,500-Gr. II \$178,870—14
2002-July 4 (10th) 1 Mile-Turf (9)	Good Journey (6h) Flaxman Holdings Ltd. & Jarvis Margolis et al	Pat Day (118) Wally Dollase	Morluc Even the Score	1:34.83 (firm) 2.20-1 (1 ¼ lengths)	Nureyev Kentucky (Ch.)	\$292,500-Gr. II \$181,350—13
2001-July 4 (10th) 1 Mile-Turf (7)	Irish Prize (5g)* Gainsborough Farm LLC	Gary Stevens (122) Neil Drysdale	Aly's Alley Where's Taylor	1:34.68 (good) 0.90-1 (nose)	Irish River-FR Kentucky (Ch.)	\$276,000-Gr. II \$175,770—12
2000-July 4 (9th) 1 Mile-Turf (8)	Conserve (4g) Claiborne Farm	Shane Sellers (116) Frank Brothers	Riviera-FR* King Slayer-GB	1:35.12 (firm) 2.80-1 (neck)	Boundary Kentucky (B.)	\$287,000-Gr. II \$177,940—11
1999-June 27 (12th) 1 Mile-Turf (9)	Joe Who-BRZ (6h) James Helzer	Robby Albarado (113) Bob Baffert	Middlesex Drive Wild Event*	1:36.78 (yielding) 12.90-1 (neck)	Jolly Quick-BRZ Brazil (Ch.)	\$238,750-Gr. III \$132,680—10
1998-June 28 (8th) 1 Mile-Turf (9)	Claire's Honor (4g) Mereworth Farms	Tony D'Amico (109) Michael Tammaro	Soviet Line-IRE Optic Nerve	1:35.93 (firm) 23.00-1 (nose)	Iron Courage Kentucky (Gr. or Ro.)	\$286,500-Gr. III \$177,630—9
1997-June 29 (8th) 1 Mile-Turf (10)	Soviet Line-IRE (7g)* Gainsborough Farm LLC	Pat Day (114) Kiaran McLaughlin	Volochine-IRE Same Old Wish	1:37.67 (yielding) 1.90-1 (3 ½ lengths)	Soviet Star Ireland (B.)	\$203,350-Gr. III \$126,077—8
1996-June 30 (8th) 1 Mile-Turf (9)	Rare Reason (5g) Mason Rudd	Patrick Johnson (115) Walter Binder Jr.	Artema-IRE Wavy Run-IRE	1:33.81 (firm) 14.80-1 (1 length)	Rare Performer Kentucky (B.)	\$203,000-Gr. III \$131,950—7
1995-July 4 (10th) 1 Mile-Turf (10)	Jaggery John (4c) Tom Carey	Dean Kutz (113) Pete Vestal	Rare Reason Fly Cry	1:33.78 (firm) 15.10-1 (1/2 length)	Blushing John Kentucky (Ch.)	\$114,400-Gr. III \$74,360—6
1994-July 4 (9th) 1 Mile-Turf (8)	First and Only (7h) Mason Rudd	Tracy Hebert (118) Walter Binder Jr.	Weekend Madness-IRE Avid Affection	1:35.33 (firm) 3.70-1 (1/2 length)	Avatar Kentucky (Ch.)	\$113,200 \$73,580—5
1993-July 4 (7th) 1 Mile-Turf (9)	Cleone (4c)* Allen Paulson	Craig Perret (115) Bill Mott	Magisterial Cheer Harlan	1:35.90 (firm) 0.90-1 (1 ¼ lengths)	Theatrical-IRE Kentucky (Dk. B. or Br.)	\$115,100 \$74,815—4
1986-92	No Runnings					

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-#
1985-June 29 (9th) 7 F (5)	Rapid Gray (6g)* William F. Lucas	Larry Melancon (122) Bill Mott	Silahis Silver Wraith	1:21.20 (fast) 0.40-1 (2 ½ lengths)	White Buffalo Kentucky (Ro.)	\$54,250 \$35,262—3
1984-July 4 (9th) 7 F (7)	Turn and Cheer (4c)* A. J. Foyt Jr.	Jim McKnight (113) A. J. Foyt III	Coax Me Matt Keep At It	1:25.60 (sloppy) 2.40-1 (3/4 lengths)	Best Turn Kentucky (Dk. B. or Br.)	\$55,250 \$35,913—2
1983-July 4 (9th) 7 F (9)	Shot n' Missed (6h) William Lucas	Leroy Moyers (121) Brenda Wilson	Dave's Friend* Rackensack	1:23.20 (sloppy) 1.10-1 (neck)	Naskra Tennessee (B.)	\$44,800 \$28,145—1

*-Favorite . . . HO-Horse of the Year and Champion Older Male . . . TM-Champion Turf Male . . . Race run at seven furlongs on dirt from 1983-84 . . . Previously known as the Firecracker Breeders' Cup Handicap from 1996-2006; Firecracker Handicap from 2007-13; Firecracker from 2014-15 . . . The Firecracker was first held for 3-year-olds and up during Churchill Downs' extended Spring Meets in 1983 and 1984, when racing was scheduled through the Fourth of July holiday. It also was staged in 1985 . . . Renamed to honor Wise Dan in 2016 . . . Kitten's Joy named champion turf male in 2004 . . . Wise Dan was named Horse of the Year and champion turf male in 2012. . . . Race moved to Ellis Park in 2023.

Most Wins, Jockey:	2, Pat Day (1997, 2002), Shane Sellers (2000, '04), Kent Desormeaux (2008-09), Robby Albarado (2014), Florent Geroux (2021) and Flavien Prat (2023-24)
Most Wins, Trainer:	4, Dale Romans (2005, '08, '12, '14)
Most Wins, Owner:	2, Mason Rudd (1994, '96), Gainsborough Farm LLC (1997, 2001) and Live Oak Plantation (2006, '19)
Most Wins, Horse:	2, Wise Dan (2011, '13)
Most Starts:	3, Soviet Line-IRE (1997-99)
High \$2 Win:	\$94.50, Stitched (2023)
Low \$2 Win:	\$2.40, Wise Dan (2013)
Largest Win Margin:	3 ½ lengths, Soviet Line-IRE (1997)
Smallest Win Margin:	nose, Claire's Honor (1998) and Irish Prize (2001)
Largest Field Size:	14 (2010)
Smallest Field Size:	5 (1985, 2008, '12-13)
Oldest Winner:	7-years-old, First and Only (1994), Soviet Line-IRE (1997), Miesque's Approval (2006) and Kasaqui-ARG (2017)
Youngest Winner:	4-years-old
Favorites Record:	35-15-5-5 (Win=42.9%; ITM=71.4%)
Favorites who finished off-the-board:	World Approval (6 th in 2018 at 1.10-1); Pleuven-FR (6 th in 2017 at 2.20-1); The Pizza Man (4 th in 2016 at 1.40-1); Turallure (4 th in 2012 at 0.70-1); Mine That Bird (8 th in 2010 at 2.80-1); Strut the Stage (dead-heated for 6 th with Pyrus in 2002 at 1.80-1); Lasting Approval (5 th in 1998 at 1.00-1); Petit Poucet-GB (8 th in 1996 at 2.00-1); Dove Hunt (4 th in 1995 at 1.20-1); Llandaff (4 th in 1994 at 1.00-1)
Fastest Splits on turf at 1 mile – ¼-mile:	:22.48, Hello Paradise (1995)
Fastest Splits on turf at 1 mile – ½-mile:	:45.21, Hello Paradise (1995)
Fastest Splits on turf at 1 mile – ¾-mile:	1:09.42, Hello Paradise (1995)
Disqualifications:	Where's Taylor (2001, 2 nd to 3 rd) and Senor Swinger (2004, 2 nd to 3 rd)
Off-tracks:	Sloppy (1983-84); Yielding (1997, '99, 2008-09, '13); Good-turf (2001, '15, '23)