



# THE DERBY DISPATCH

Contacts: Darren Rogers (502) 636-4461 (o), (502) 345-1030 (m) or [Darren.Rogers@KyDerby.com](mailto:Darren.Rogers@KyDerby.com) @DerbyMedia  
Kevin Kerstein (502) 635-4712 (o), (610) 420-6971 (m) or [Kevin.Kerstein@KyDerby.com](mailto:Kevin.Kerstein@KyDerby.com) @HorseRacingKK

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Contact: Kevin Kerstein  
Kentucky Racing Communications  
Churchill Downs, Ellis Park, Turfway Park  
(610) 420-6971 (mobile)  
(502) 635-4712 (office)  
[Kevin.Kerstein@KyDerby.com](mailto:Kevin.Kerstein@KyDerby.com)

## ROAD TO THE KENTUCKY DERBY CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES KICKS OFF WITH RISEN STAR

**LOUISVILLE, Ky. (Thursday, Feb. 12, 2026)** – The road to the \$5 million Kentucky Derby presented by Woodford Reserve (Grade I) shifts into high gear Saturday as the Championship Series on the Road to the Kentucky Derby continues with the \$500,000 Fasig-Tipton Risen Star Stakes (GII) at Fair Grounds.

The Risen Star is the first of 15 races in the Championship Series that will determine the field for the Kentucky Derby on Saturday, May 2. Saturday's 1 1/8-mile test in New Orleans features a competitive cast of eight, including highly regarded Remsen Stakes (GII) winner **Paladin**, who has risen to one of the early Kentucky Derby favorites following the defection of Eclipse Award champion **Ted Noffey** due to bone bruising.

Action on the Road to the Kentucky Derby is also well underway internationally with five races remaining on the Euro/Mideast Road to the Kentucky Derby. Saturday's \$1.5 million Saudi Derby (GIII) marks a new addition to the series and will award 30 qualifying points to the winner. The field features a well-rounded mix of local contenders along with runners from North America and Japan. Two invitations to the Kentucky Derby are available through the series with preference given to the top two point earners.

Interest remains strong on the Japan Road to the Kentucky Derby with 37 Japanese-based contenders among the 367 overall Triple Crown nominees. The group is led by **Godolphin's Pyromancer (JPN)** whose connections have indicated a trip to the UAE Derby (GII) following his victory in the Dec. 17 Zen-Nippon Nisai Yushun. The next stop on the Japan Road to the Kentucky Derby is the Feb. 22 Hyacinth Stakes at Tokyo Racecourse which awards 30 qualifying points to the winner. One invitation to the Kentucky Derby is available through the Japan Road.

With 11 weeks remaining until the 152<sup>nd</sup> running of the Kentucky Derby, the Championship Series will play a decisive role in shaping the field for the Run for the Roses, set for Saturday, May 2 at Churchill Downs.

For a preview, the "Inside the Kentucky Derby" podcast is available on Apple Podcasts, Spotify and <https://www.kentuckyderby.com/horses/news/inside-the-kentucky-derby-risen-star-preview/>.

**PALADIN SLATED AS SOLID 8-5 FAVORITE IN SATURDAY'S \$500,000 FASIG-TIPTON RISEN STAR** – Mrs. **John Magnier, Michael Tabor, Derrick Smith, Peter Brant, Brook T. Smith** and **Summer Wind Equine's** Remsen Stakes (Grade II) winner **Paladin** is set to make his first start as a 3-year-old when he faces seven Kentucky Derby hopefuls in Saturday's \$500,000 Fasig-Tipton Risen Star Stakes (GII) at Fair Grounds Race Course & Slots, the kickoff race on the Road to the Kentucky Derby Championship Series.

The Risen Star, contested at 1 1/8 miles, is the featured 12<sup>th</sup> race on the Fair Grounds card with a post time of 6:30 p.m. ET. The program begins at 1 p.m. and includes the \$300,000 Fasig-Tipton Rachel Alexandra Stakes in Race 11 at 6 p.m., the opening race on the Road to the Kentucky Oaks Championship Series.

Paladin is undefeated from two starts after being placed first via disqualification in his debut at Aqueduct. A son of 2018 Risen Star winner Gun Runner, Paladin followed with a two-length victory in the Dec. 6 Remsen Stakes, defeating eventual Sam F. Davis Stakes winner **Renegade**. Jockey **Tyler Gaffalione** will ride the **Chad Brown** trainee for the first time and break from post No. 4.

Gaffalione, Brown and several of Paladin's co-owners teamed to win the 2024 Risen Star with **Sierra Leone**.

The Risen Star field also includes **Phipps Stable** and **St. Elias Stable's** Lecomte Stakes (GIII) winner **Golden Tempo**. Trained by **Cherie DeVaux**, Golden Tempo is undefeated from two starts, both at Fair Grounds. The son of Curlin won a six-furlong maiden special weight in his debut before returning four weeks later to capture the 1 1/16-mile Lecomte. **Jose Ortiz** has the mount from post 2.

Also entered are Lecomte third- and fourth-place finishers **Carson Street** and **Chip Honcho**, along with the highly sought-after colt **Courting**, a lofty \$5 million purchase at the 2024 Keeneland September Yearling Sale.

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The Risen Star field from the rail out (with jockey, trainer and morning line odds):

- **Universe** (Christopher Elliott, Kenny McPeck, 8-1)
- Golden Tempo (Ortiz, DeVaux, 3-1)
- Carson Street (Ben Curtis, Brendan Walsh, 8-1)
- Paladin (Gaffalione, Brown, 8-5)
- Chip Honcho (Luis Saez, Steve Asmussen, 6-1)
- **Colt Foty Seven** (James Graham, Keith Desormeaux, 20-1)
- Courting (John Velazquez, Todd Pletcher, 6-1)
- **Quality Mischief** (Florent Geroux, Brad Cox, 10-1)

Fans can watch and wager on all the action from Fair Grounds on [www.twinspires.com](http://www.twinspires.com), the official wagering provider of Churchill Downs Incorporated and the Kentucky Derby.

The final major local prep for the Louisiana contingent on the Road to the Kentucky Derby comes March 21 with the \$1 million TwinSpires.com Louisiana Derby (GII) at 1 3/16 miles.

**MY WORLD LEADS FOUR NORTH AMERICAN CONTENDERS IN SAUDI DERBY** – Robert LaPenta and Madaket Stables' multiple stakes winner **My World** leads four North American contenders entered in Saturday's \$1.5 million Saudi Derby (GIII), a new edition to the Euro/Mideast Road to the Kentucky Derby.

Run at one mile, the Saudi Derby will be the fourth race on the Saudi Cup program with a post time of 9 a.m. ET.

Trained by **Brad Cox**, My World is a three-time winner from four-career starts with stakes victories in the Nashua (Listed) and Jerome. Jockey **Irad Ortiz Jr.** has the mount in the Saudi Derby and will exit out of gate No. 6.

Other North American hopes entered in the race are **Purple Rein Racing** and **Mark Davis' Acknowledgemeplz**; **Leland Ackerley Racing**, **James Sherwood**, **Jode Shupe** and **John Cilia's Obliteration** and **Dream Big Racing** and **Magdalena Racing's Very Connected**.

The deep field for the Saudi Derby also includes several international contenders such as Triple Crown nominees **Best Green (JPN)**, **Kei Agito (JPN)**, **Tokai Ma Cherie (JPN)** and **Wonder Dean (JPN)**.

The field for the Saudi Derby in gate order (with jockey and trainer):

- **+Tuwajeri (IRE)** (Muhammad Aldaham, Abdullah Alsidrani)
- **+Al Haram (IRE)** (Ricardo Ferreira, Abdullah Alsidrani)
- Tokai Ma Cherie (JPN) (Katsuma Sameshima, Daisuke Takayanagi)
- Acknowledgemeplz (Flavien Prat, Doug O'Neill)
- **+Shayem (IRE)** (James Doyle, Karl Burke)
- My World (Ortiz, Cox)
- Wonder Dean (JPN) (Oisin Murphy, Daisuke Takayanagi)
- Obliteration (Joel Rosario, Steve Asmussen)
- **+Cielo Di Roma (FR)** (Mickael Barzalona, Gianluca Bietolini)
- **+Union Security** (Connor Beasley, Ahmad Bin Harmash)
- **+Satono Voyage (JPN)** (Keita Tosaki, Hiroyasu Tanaka)
- Very Connected (Adel Alfouraidi, Kenny McPeck)
- Best Green (JPN) (Ryusei Sakai, Junji Tanaka)
- Keai Agito (JPN) (Joao Moriera, Yukihiro Kato)

+ = Al Haram, Satono Voyage, Shayem, Tuwajeri and Union Security are not currently nominated to the Triple Crown but can become eligible with a late \$6,000 payment due by Monday, April 6 at [www.thetriplecrown.com](http://www.thetriplecrown.com).

The Saudi Derby will award qualifying points to the top five finishers on a 30-15-9-6-3 scale for a possible invitation to compete in the 152<sup>nd</sup> running of the Kentucky Derby presented by Woodford Reserve (GI).

**SPRINGBOARD MILE WINNER EXPRESS KID HEADLINES SUNDAY'S SUNLAND DERBY** – Paradise Equine Farm, **Bradley Kleven** and **Sharon Kleven's Express Kid** makes his next stop on the Road to the Kentucky Derby as the 3-1 morning line favorite in Sunday's \$500,000 Sunland Derby (Listed).

The Sunland Derby, part of the Prep Season on the Road to the Kentucky Derby, awards the top five finishers qualifying points on a 20-10-6-4-2 scale toward a spot in the starting gate for the 152<sup>nd</sup> running of the \$5 million Kentucky Derby presented by Woodford Reserve (Grade I) on Saturday, May 2.

Contested at 1 1/16 miles, the Sunland Derby goes as Race 9 with a post time of 6:17 p.m. ET.

Now in the care of **Justin Evans**, Express Kid was a recent \$800,000 purchase at a Fasig-Tipton Digital Sale in January. Previously owned by **Steve Haahr** and trained by **Wade Rarick**, Express Kid was a dominant 6 1/4-length winner of the Springboard Mile (Listed) at odds of 34-1. A California-bred son of Bodexpress, Express Kid will break from the rail in the Sunland Derby under **Juan Hernandez**, who was victorious in last year's race aboard **Getaway Car**.

Among Express Kid's rivals in the race includes **Imagine Racing's Bricklin**, who scratched from last week's Southwest Stakes (GIII) in favor of this spot. Trained by **Rodolphe Brisset**, Bricklin was a 3 1/4-length allowance winner on Jan. 3 at Oaklawn. He'll be ridden by **Cristian Torres** from post 6.

The field for the Sunland Derby from the rail out (with jockey, trainer and morning line odds):

- Express Kid (Hernandez, Evans, 3-1)
- **Sharons Beach** (John Velazquez, Jonathan Thomas, 10-1)
- **Pavlovian** (Edwin Maldonado, Doug O'Neill, 8-1)
- **Forty Twenty** (Orlando Mojica, Robertino Diodoro, 6-1)
- **+Way Beyond** (Keith Asmussen, Steve Asmussen, 4-1)
- Bricklin (Torres, Brisset, 7-2)
- **+Daneyko** (Alfredo Juarez Jr., Edward Kereluk, 9-2)
- **Buntus Foclura** (Rey Gutierrez, Amelia Green, 12-1)

+ = Daneyko and Way Beyond are not currently nominated to the Triple Crown but can do so with a late \$6,000 payment due by Monday, April 6 at [www.thetriplecrown.com](http://www.thetriplecrown.com).

#### HOW TO WATCH THE RISEN STAR

- FanDuel TV featuring live, on-site coverage from an array of analysts and reporters.
- Churchill Downs LIVE app/TwinSpires.com will feature the simulcast show at Fair Grounds with chief analyst **Joe Kristufek** leading the coverage.

#### RISEN STAR BY THE NUMBERS

- Risen Star has produced 76 Kentucky Derby starters since 1985 including 33 in the past 10 years.
- Three horses have won the Kentucky Derby after exiting the Risen Star: **War Emblem** (2002), **Country House** (2019) and **Mandaloun** (2021).
- Most wins by a jockey (3): **Shane Romero** (1988-89 and '92); **Robby Albarado** (2003-04 and '07); and **Florent Geroux** (2016 and '20-21).
- Most wins by a trainer (3): **Steve Asmussen** (2008, '16, '22 and '25)
- Number of favorites that won in the last 10 runnings (3): **War of Will** (2019, 1-1); **Mandaloun** (2021, 2-1); and **Sierra Leone** (2024, 5-2).
- Average winning odds in last 10 runnings: 10.97-1
- Stakes Record: 1:48.85, **Magnitude** (2025)
- Track Record: 1:47.64, **Nate's Mineshaft** (2012)

#### HOW TO WATCH THE SUNLAND DERBY

- FanDuel TV
- TwinSpires.com

#### SUNLAND DERBY BY THE NUMBERS

- The Sunland Park Derby has produced 12 Kentucky Derby starters since 2003 including 2009 Kentucky Derby winner **Mine That Bird**. Overall, the Derby starters who exited the race have a record of 12-1-1-0 on the first Saturday in May.
- Most wins by a trainer (3): **Bob Baffert** (2006, 2013, 2014) and **Doug O'Neill** (2003, 2005, 2022).
- Most wins by a jockey (2): **Victor Espinoza** (2006, 2007) and **Martin Garcia** (2013, 2014).

**KEY RACES TO WATCH TO WATCH** – This weekend there are several races around the world that could have implications on the Kentucky Derby and Kentucky Oaks. Here are some of the key races:

**Saturday**

- FG, R2 (1:30 p.m.), Mdn 65k, 3yo, 6 F (nine entries)
- FG, R4 (2:30 p.m.), Mdn 65k, 3yo f, 6 F (10 entries)
- FG, R7 (4 p.m.), Mdn 65k, 3yo, 1 1/16 M (12 entries)
- OP, R9 (5:38 p.m.), \$150,000 Dixie Belle Stakes, 3yo f, 6 F (10 entries)
- FG, R11 (6 p.m.), \$300,000 Fasig-Tipton Rachel Alexandra (GII), 3yo f, 1 1/16 M (eight entries)
- FG, R12 (6:30 p.m.), \$500,000 Fasig-Tipton Risen Star (GII), 3yo, 1 1/8 M, (eight entries)
- TP, R5 (7:55 p.m.), Mdn 100k, 3yo, 1 M (14 entries, 12 eligible to run)

**Sunday**

- SUN, R7 (5:15 p.m.), \$250,000 Sunland Park Oaks, 3yo F, 1 M (eight entries)
- SUN, R9 (6:17 p.m.), \$500,000 Sunland Park Derby, 3yo, 1 1/16 M (eight entries)

**PALADIN TABBED AS 8-1 INDIVIDUAL FAVORITE IN POOL 4 OF KENTUCKY DERBY FUTURE WAGER** – Pool 4 of the Kentucky Derby Future Wager opens Friday through Sunday alongside the start of the Road to the Kentucky Derby Championship Series with Remsen Stakes (Grade II) winner **Paladin** tabbed as the 8-1 individual morning line favorite and “**All Other 3-Year-Olds**” not named within the 39 individual interests as the overall 4-1 choice.

The three-day pool, featuring \$2 Win and Exacta wagering, will open Friday at noon (all times Eastern) and close Sunday at 6 p.m.

Pool 4 reflects a shift in the wagering landscape following the removal of Eclipse Award champion **Ted Noffey** from the Derby trail due to bone bruising. The colt closed as the individual favorite in each of the first three pools at 10-1, 7-1 and 6-1.

Paladin, owned in partnership by **Mrs. John Magnier, Michael Tabor, Derrick Smith, Peter Brant, Brook T. Smith** and **Summer Wind Equine**, is entered in Saturday's \$500,000 Fasig-Tipton Risen Star Stakes (GII) at Fair Grounds. He closed as the 14-1 third choice in Pool 3 behind All Other 3-Year-Olds (7-2) and Ted Noffey (6-1).

The complete field for Pool 4 of the Kentucky Derby Future Wager (with trainer, sire and morning line odds):

- #1 **Blackout Time** (Kenny McPeck, Not This Time, 40-1)
- #2 **Boyd** (Bob Baffert, Violence, 40-1)
- #3 **Brant** (Bob Baffert, Gun Runner, 20-1)
- #4 **Bravaro** (Saffie Joseph Jr., Upstart, 80-1)
- #5 **Canaletto** (Chad Brown, Into Mischief, 40-1)
- #6 **Carson Street** (Brendan Walsh, Street Sense, 75-1)
- #7 **Chief Wallabee** (Bill Mott, Constitution, 20-1)
- #8 **Chip Honcho** (Steve Asmussen, Connect, 90-1)
- #9 **Class President** (Todd Pletcher, Uncle Mo, 90-1)
- #10 **Commandment** (Brad Cox, Into Mischief, 25-1)
- #11 **Courting** (Todd Pletcher, Curlin, 90-1)
- #12 **Emerging Market** (Chad Brown, Candy Ride (ARG), 30-1)
- #13 **Englishman** (Cherie DeVaux, Maxfield, 40-1)
- #14 **Ewing** (Mark Casse, Knicks Go, 50-1)
- #15 **Further Ado** (Brad Cox, Gun Runner, 25-1)
- #16 **Golden Tempo** (Cherie DeVaux, Curlin, 20-1)
- #17 **Intrepido** (Jeff Mullins, Maximus Mischief, 30-1)
- #18 **Iron Honor** (Chad Brown, Nyquist, 60-1)
- #19 **Jackson Hole** (Todd Pletcher, Nyquist, 50-1)
- #20 **Litmus Test** (Bob Baffert, Nyquist, 40-1)
- #21 **Mesquite** (Cherie DeVaux, Union Rags, 75-1)
- #22 **My World** (Brad Cox, Essential Quality, 80-1)
- #23 **Napoleon Solo** (Chad Summers, Liam's Map, 25-1)
- #24 **Nearly** (Todd Pletcher, Not This Time, 10-1)
- #25 **Paladin** (Chad Brown, Gun Runner, 8-1)
- #26 **Plutarch** (Bob Baffert, Into Mischief, 20-1)
- #27 **Potente** (Bob Baffert, Into Mischief, 50-1)

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- #28 **Powershift** (Todd Pletcher, Constitution, 80-1)
- #29 **Pyromancer (JPN)** (Kenji Yoshimura, Pyro, 80-1)
- #30 **Renegade** (Todd Pletcher, Into Mischief, 20-1)
- #31 **Secured Freedom** (Tim Yakteen, Practical Joke, 90-1)
- #32 **Silent Tactic** (Mark Casse, Tacitus, 30-1)
- #33 **Six Speed** (Bhupat Seemar, Not This Time, 50-1)
- #34 **So Happy** (Mark Glatt, Runhappy, 40-1)
- #35 **Soldier N Diplomat** (Steve Asmussen, Army Mule, 75-1)
- #36 **Solitude Dude** (Saffie Joseph Jr., Yaupon, 50-1)
- #37 **Talk to Me Jimmy** (Rudy Rodriguez, Modernist, 80-1)
- #38 **The Puma** (Gustavo Delgado, Essential Quality, 90-1)
- #39 **Thunderously** (Bill Mott, Gun Runner, 25-1)
- #40 All Other 3-Year-Olds (4-1)

Along with Paladin, Pool 4 of the Kentucky Derby Future Wager also includes Risen Star entrants Carson Street, Chip Honcho, Courting and Golden Tempo.

There are no refunds in the Kentucky Derby Future Wager. If Churchill Downs officials determine during the duration of this week's pool that one of the wagering interests experiences an injury, illness, or other circumstance that would prevent the horse from participating in the Kentucky Derby, betting on the individual horse will be suspended immediately.

Other Future Wager dates are set for March 13-15 (Pool 5) and April 2-4 (Pool 6). Pool 5 also will include the Longines Kentucky Oaks Future Wager.

More information, Brisnet.com past performances and real-time odds on the Kentucky Derby Future Wager will be available before the pools open Thursday at [KentuckyDerby.com](https://KentuckyDerby.com).

**TWINSPIRES BOOSTS KENTUCKY DERBY BETTING CHALLENGE PRIZE POOL TO \$300,000; ADDS NEW \$25,000 KENTUCKY OAKS BETTING CHALLENGE** – TwinSpires.com will offer horseplayers expanded opportunities on the Road to the Kentucky Derby and Kentucky Oaks with a guaranteed \$300,000 prize pool for the Kentucky Derby Betting Challenge (KDBC) on Saturday, May 2, along with the debut of the \$25,000 Kentucky Oaks Betting Challenge (KOBC) on Friday, May 1.

The KDBC, one of the premier live-money handicapping tournaments in horse racing, returns with the same \$5,000 buy-in structure, while increasing its overall prize pool to \$300,000. The newly added KOBC will have a seeded cash prize pool of \$25,000 and will award one KDBC seat for every 10 entries.

Beginning Saturday, "Championship Series" races on the Road to the Kentucky Derby and Road to the Kentucky Oaks will anchor weekly TwinSpires tournaments, which offer qualifying opportunities for the KDBC.

KDBC Tournament Highlights:

- \$5,000 Total Buy-In
  - \$3,500 Live Bankroll
  - \$1,500 Prize Pool
- Wager Types: Win, Place, Show, Daily Double, Exacta, Trifecta
- Contest includes cash prizes, seats to the 2026 Breeders' Cup Betting Challenge, 2027 National Horseplayers Championship and 2027 KDBC

KDBC Qualifying Schedule:

Date	Track	Buy-In
Saturday, Feb. 14	Fair Grounds	\$800
Saturday, Feb. 21	Fair Grounds	\$1,000
Saturday, Feb. 28	Oaklawn	\$800
Saturday, March 7	Tampa Bay Downs/Oaklawn	\$800
Saturday, March 14	Colonial Downs/Oaklawn	\$800
Saturday, March 21	Turfway/Fair Grounds	\$1,000
Saturday, March 28	Oaklawn	\$1,000
Saturday, April 4	Keeneland	\$1,000
Sunday, April 12	Keeneland	\$1,000
Saturday, April 18	Keeneland	\$1,000
Saturday, April 25	Churchill Downs	\$1,000
Thursday, April 30	Churchill Downs	\$1,000
Friday, May 1 (KOBC)	Churchill Downs	\$1,000

### ROAD TO KENTUCKY DERBY LEADERBOARD –

Here are the Top 20 horses on the Road to the Kentucky Derby Leaderboard including a possible three invitational spots, two from the Euro/Mideast Road to the Kentucky Derby and one from Japan:

<u>Position</u>	<u>Horse</u>	<u>Trainer</u>	<u>Resume</u>	<u>Possible Next Start</u>	<u>Points</u>
1	Silent Tactic	Mark Casse	1 <sup>st</sup> – Southwest 2 <sup>nd</sup> – Smarty Jones	March 1 Rebel	25
2	Renegade	Todd Pletcher	1 <sup>st</sup> – Tampa Bay Derby 2 <sup>nd</sup> – Remsen	March 28 Arkansas Derby	25
3	Intrepido	Jeff Mullins	1 <sup>st</sup> – American Pharoah 2 <sup>nd</sup> – Robert B. Lewis 5 <sup>th</sup> – Breeders' Cup Juvenile	March 7 San Felipe	23
4	Plutarch	Bob Baffert	1 <sup>st</sup> – Robert B. Lewis 3 <sup>rd</sup> – American Pharoah	March 7 San Felipe	23
5	Nearly	Todd Pletcher	1 <sup>st</sup> – Holy Bull	March 28 Florida Derby	20
6	Golden Tempo	Cherie DeVaux	1 <sup>st</sup> – Lecomte	Feb. 14 Risen Star	20
7	Talk to Me Jimmy	Rudy Rodriguez	1 <sup>st</sup> – Withers	April 4 Wood Memorial	20
8	Litmus Test	Bob Baffert	1 <sup>st</sup> – Los Al Futurity 3 <sup>rd</sup> – Breeders' Futurity 4 <sup>th</sup> – Breeders' Cup Juvenile	March 7 San Felipe	19
9	Chip Honcho	Steve Asmussen	1 <sup>st</sup> – Gun Runner 4 <sup>th</sup> – Lecomte	Feb. 14 Risen Star	14
10	Soldier N Diplomat	Steve Asmussen	2 <sup>nd</sup> – Southwest 3 <sup>rd</sup> – Kentucky Jockey Club	March 1 Rebel	13
11	Universe	Kenny McPeck	2 <sup>nd</sup> – Street Sense 2 <sup>nd</sup> – Kentucky Jockey Club 3 <sup>rd</sup> – Champagne	Feb. 14 Risen Star	13
12	Grittiness	Todd Pletcher	2 <sup>nd</sup> – Withers 5 <sup>th</sup> – Remsen	TBA	11
13	Napoleon Solo	Chad Summers	1 <sup>st</sup> – Champagne	Feb. 28 Gotham or Fountain of Youth	10
14	Further Ado	Brad Cox	1 <sup>st</sup> – Kentucky Jockey Club	March 7 Tampa Bay Derby	10
15	Express Kid	Justin Evans	1 <sup>st</sup> – Springboard Mile	Feb. 15 Sunland Derby	10
16	Strategic Risk	Mark Casse	1 <sup>st</sup> – Smarty Jones	TBA	10
17	My World	Brad Cox	1 <sup>st</sup> – Jerome	Feb. 14 Saudi Derby	10
18 (Euro/Mideast)	Six Speed	Bhupat Seemar	1 <sup>st</sup> – UAE Guineas	March 28 UAE Derby	20
19 (Euro/Mideast)	Puerto Rico (IRE)	Aidan O'Brien	1 <sup>st</sup> – Prix Jean-Luc Lagardere	March 28 UAE Derby or May 2 2000 Guineas or May 10 French 2000 Guineas	10
20 (Japan)	Pyromancer (JPN)	Keiji Yoshimura	1 <sup>st</sup> – Hyacinth	March 28 UAE Derby	20

## UPCOMING ROAD TO KENTUCKY DERBY RACES

**Feb. 21 (10 weeks out) – \$175,000 John Battaglia Memorial (Listed), 1 1/16 miles (Tapeta), Turfway Park (Top 5 points: 20-10-6-4-2)**

Known possible starters (with trainer): Aces Honor (Ethan West); Great White (John Ennis); Time for Money (John Ennis); Two Out Hero (Kevin Attard)

**Feb. 28 (nine weeks out) – \$400,000 Coolmore Fountain of Youth (GII), 1 1/16 miles, Gulfstream Park (Top 5 points: 50-25-15-10-5)**

Known possible starters (with trainer): Bravaro (Saffie Joseph Jr.); Commandment (Brad Cox); *Napoleon Solo* (Chad Summers); Solitude Dude (Saffie Joseph Jr.)

**Feb. 28 (nine weeks out) – \$300,000 Gotham (GIII), one mile, Aqueduct (Top 5 points: 50-25-15-10-5)**

Known possible starters (with trainer): Creole Chrome (Joe Sharp); *Napoleon Solo* (Chad Summers); Talkin (Danny Gargan)

**March 1 (nine weeks out) - \$1 million Rebel (GII), 1 1/16 miles, Oaklawn (Top 5 points: 50-25-15-10-5)**

Known possible starters (with trainer): Blackout Time (Kenny McPeck); *Brant* (Bob Baffert); Honey's To Blame (Kenny McPeck); Mesquite (Cherie DeVaux); Silent Tactic (Mark Casse); Strategic Risk (Mark Casse).

**March 7 (eight weeks out) – \$200,000 San Felipe presented by DK Horse (GII), 1 1/16 miles, Santa Anita (Top 5 points: 50-25-15-10-5)**

Known possible starters (with trainer): *Brant* (Bob Baffert); Litmus Test (Bob Baffert); So Happy (Mark Glatt)

**March 7 (eight weeks out) – \$400,000 ESMARK Tampa Bay Derby (GIII), 1 1/16 miles, Tampa Bay Downs (Top 5 points: 50-25-15-10-5)**

Known possible starters (with trainer): Canaletto (Chad Brown); Further Ado (Brad Cox); The Puma (Gustavo Delgado)

**March 14 (seven weeks out) - \$500,000 Virginia Derby, 1 1/8 miles, Colonial Downs (Top 5 points: 50-25-15-10-5)**

Known possible starters (with trainer): Balboa (Brittany Russell)

**March 21 (six weeks out) – \$1 million TwinSpires.com Louisiana Derby (GII), 1 3/16 miles, Fair Grounds (Top 5 points: 100-50-25-15-10)**

**March 21 (six weeks out) – \$777,000 Jeff Ruby Steaks (GIII), 1 1/8 miles (Tapeta), Turfway Park (Top 5 points: 100-50-25-15-10)**

**March 28 (five weeks out) – \$1.5 million Arkansas Derby (GI), 1 1/8 miles, Oaklawn (Top 5 points: 100-50-25-15-10)**

Known possible starters (with trainer): Renegade (Todd Pletcher)

**March 28 (five weeks out) – \$1 million Curlin Florida Derby (GI), 1 1/8 miles, Gulfstream Park (Top 5 points: 100-50-25-15-10)**

Known possible starters (with trainer): Nearly (Todd Pletcher); Wayne's Law (Amador Sanchez)

**April 4 (four weeks out) – \$1.25 million Toyota Blue Grass (GI), 1 1/8 miles, Keeneland (Top 5 points: 100-50-25-15-10)**

**April 4 (four weeks out) – \$500,000 Santa Anita Derby (GI), 1 1/8 miles, Santa Anita (Top 5 points: 100-50-25-15-10)**

**April 4 (four weeks out) – \$750,000 Wood Memorial (GII), 1 1/8 miles, Aqueduct (Top 5 points: 100-50-25-15-10)**

Known possible starters (with trainer): Talk to me Jimmy (Rudy Rodriguez)

**April 11 (three weeks out) – \$400,000 Stonestreet Lexington (GIII), 1 1/16 miles, Keeneland (Top 5 points: 20-10-6-4-2)**

Note: The possible fields for upcoming Kentucky Derby Championship Series races are fluid as owners and trainers vie for points. Known possible horses mentioned to be under consideration for each race are based on published news reports and other sources. Horses listed in *italics* are possible for multiple races.

#### **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. [www.ChurchillDowns.com](http://www.ChurchillDowns.com).

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