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**RECORD \$27.8 MILLION IN STAKES SET FOR CHURCHILL DOWNS' 44-DAY SPRING MEET;
DERBY DAY'S OLD FORESTER BOURBON TURF CLASSIC NOW WORTH \$1.5 MILLION;
16 OF THE 50 SPRING MEET STAKES RACES RECEIVE PURSE HIKE**

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (Monday, March 16, 2026) – The Old Forester Bourbon Turf Classic, which annually precedes the Kentucky Derby on the first Saturday in May, is now worth \$1.5 million. The \$500,000 boost to the 1 1/8-mile grass race for older horses is one of 16 stakes races that received a purse hike for the 152nd Spring Meet at Churchill Downs.

All told, 50 stakes races cumulatively worth a record \$27.8 million are scheduled to be run during the Spring Meet, which covers 44 race dates between April 25-June 28.

The highlights are the \$5 million Kentucky Derby presented by Woodford Reserve (GI) for 3-year-olds at 1 ¼ miles on Saturday, May 2 and the \$1.5 million Longines Kentucky Oaks (GI) for 3-year-old fillies at 1 1/8 miles held one day prior. Both races will be broadcast on NBC with the Oaks running under the lights in primetime for the first time.

During Kentucky Derby Week (April 25-May 2), there will be 22 stakes races cumulatively worth a record \$19.1 million, including nine stakes totaling \$12.05 million on Derby Day and seven totaling \$5.55 million on Oaks Day.

Other Spring Meet highlights include Stephen Foster Preview Day with seven stakes totaling \$1.975 million on Saturday, May 30; Stephen Foster Day featuring seven stakes tallying \$3.1 million on Saturday, June 27; and four closing day stakes worth \$1 million on Sunday, June 28.

One of the Foster Day stakes has been renamed to honor the horse who won more races than any other in documented history at Churchill Downs. The Kelly's Landing is now known as the Bango, who won 12 of his 28 career starts beneath the historic Twin Spires between 2019-25.

In addition to the Old Forester Bourbon Turf Classic, other Derby Day stakes races that received substantial purse increases were the Longines Churchill Distaff Turf Mile, which was increased by \$250,000 from \$750,000 to \$1 million, and Pat Day Mile presented by SAP, which rose \$150,000 from \$600,000 to \$750,000.

The Anchorage, Eight Belles presented by Sysco, Matt Winn, Modesty presented by Veritas Prime and Unbridled Sidney were boosted by \$100,000, while the Mamzelle presented by Kentucky Proud received a \$75,000 jump when it was repositioned to Thurby on Derby Week.

The American Derby, Bango (formerly the Kelly's Landing), Blame, Chorleywood, Old Forester Mint Julep, Shawnee and Tepin each received a \$25,000 raise.

Six stakes races were upgraded in status by the American Graded Stakes Committee last December. The Shawnee and Unbridled Sidney are now distinguished as Grade II races, while the Hanshin presented by JRA and Maxfield went from Listed events to Grade III status. The Anchorage and Leslie's Lady were elevated from Black-Type to Listed races.

Following its annual closure for wintertime renovations, the Churchill Downs stable area will reopen on Tuesday, March 17. The first day of training on the main dirt track will be Wednesday, March 18.

Here are the race-by-race changes to the 2026 Spring Meet stakes schedule compared to 2025:

American Derby

- Purse increased \$25,000 from \$250,000 in 2025 to \$275,000 in 2026.

Anchorage

- Upgraded status from Black-Type overnight stakes in 2025 to a Listed stakes in 2026.
- Purse increased \$100,000 from \$175,000 in 2025 to \$275,000 in 2026.
- Moved from Closing Day in 2025 to Stephen Foster Day in 2026.

Bango

- Formerly known as the Kelly's Landing; renamed to honor Churchill Downs' all-time winningest horse Bango.
- Purse increased \$25,000 from \$250,000 in 2025 to \$275,000 in 2026.

Blame

- Purse increased \$25,000 from \$275,000 in 2025 to \$300,000 in 2026.

Chorleywood

- Purse increased \$25,000 from \$200,000 in 2025 to \$225,000 in 2026.

Eight Belles presented by Sysco

- Purse increased \$100,000 from \$600,000 in 2025 to \$700,000 in 2026.

Hanshin presented by JRA

- Upgraded status from Listed in 2025 to Grade III in 2026.

Kentucky Juvenile presented by Resolute Racing

- Moved from Thurby in 2025 to Winsday in 2026.

Leslie's Lady

- Upgraded status from Black-Type in 2025 to Listed in 2026.

Longines Churchill Distaff Turf Mile

- Purse increased \$250,000 from \$750,000 in 2025 to \$1 million in 2026.

Mamzelle presented by Kentucky Proud

- Moved from one week after the Kentucky Derby to Thurby on Thursday, April 30.
- Purse increased \$75,000 from \$225,000 in 2025 to \$300,000 in 2026.

Matt Winn

- Purse increased \$100,000 from \$400,000 in 2025 to \$500,000 in 2026.

Maxfield

- Upgraded status from Listed in 2025 to Grade III in 2026.

Modesty presented by Veritas Prime

- Purse increased \$100,000 from \$400,000 in 2025 to \$500,000 in 2026.

Old Forester Bourbon Turf Classic

- Purse increased \$500,000 from \$1 million in 2025 to \$1.5 million in 2026.

Old Forester Mint Julep

- Purse increased \$25,000 from \$250,000 in 2025 to \$275,000 in 2026.
- Moved from the Sunday after Stephen Foster Preview Day in 2025 to Stephen Foster Preview Day in 2026.

Pat Day Mile presented by SAP

- Purse increased \$150,000 from \$600,000 in 2025 to \$750,000 in 2026.

Shawnee

- Upgraded status from Grade III in 2025 to Grade II in 2026.
- Purse increased \$25,000 from \$275,000 in 2025 to \$300,000 in 2026.

Tepin

- Purse increased \$25,000 from \$250,000 in 2025 to \$275,000 in 2026.

Unbridled Sidney

- Upgraded status from Grade III in 2025 to Grade II in 2026.
- Purse increased \$100,000 from \$400,000 in 2025 to \$500,000 in 2026.

William Walker

- Moved from Wednesday of Derby Week to one week after the Kentucky Derby on Saturday, May 9.
- Purse decreased \$75,000 from \$300,000 in 2025 to \$225,000 in 2026.

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.

2026 CHURCHILL DOWNS SPRING MEET STAKES SCHEDULE

Date	Running	Grade	Purse	+/- vs. 2025	Race	Conditions	Distance	Surface
Saturday, April 25	16 th	Listed	\$200,000		Roxelana presented by LG&E	4&cup, f&em	6 F	Dirt
Wednesday, April 29	32 nd		\$250,000		Kentucky Juvenile presented by Resolute Racing	2yo	5 F	Dirt
Wednesday, April 29	8 th	Listed	\$200,000		Isaac Murphy Marathon presented by Resolute Racing	4&cup	1 ½ M	Dirt
Thursday, April 30	7 th	III	\$300,000	+\$75,000	Mamzelle presented by Kentucky Proud	3yo f	5 ½ F	Turf
Thursday, April 30	21 st	Listed	\$350,000		Opening Verse	4&cup	1 M	Turf
Thursday, April 30	5 th		\$200,000		St. Matthews	4&cup ®	6 F	Dirt
Friday, May 1	152 nd	I	\$1,500,000		Longines Kentucky Oaks	3yo f	1 1/8 M	Dirt
Friday, May 1	41 st	I	\$1,000,000		Fasig-Tipton La Troienne	4&cup, f&em	1 1/16 M	Dirt
Friday, May 1	23 rd	II	\$750,000		Alysheba presented by U.S. Army	4&cup	1 1/16 M	Dirt
Friday, May 1	71 st	II	\$700,000	+\$100,000	Eight Belles presented by Sysco	3yo f	7 F	Dirt
Friday, May 1	42 nd	II	\$600,000		Edgewood presented by Accenture	3yo f	1 1/16 M	Turf
Friday, May 1	16 th	II	\$500,000	+\$100,000	Unbridled Sidney	3&cup, f&em	5 ½ F	Turf
Friday, May 1	69 th	III	\$500,000	+\$100,000	Modesty presented by Veritas Prime	4&cup, f&em	1 1/8 M	Turf
Saturday, May 2	152 nd	I	\$5,000,000		Kentucky Derby presented by Woodford Reserve	3yo	1 ¼ M	Dirt
Saturday, May 2	40 th	I	\$1,500,000	+\$500,000	Old Forester Bourbon Turf Classic	4&cup	1 1/8 M	Turf
Saturday, May 2	91 st	I	\$1,000,000		Churchill Downs presented by Ford	4&cup	7 F	Dirt
Saturday, May 2	40 th	I	\$1,000,000		Derby City Distaff presented by Ford	4&cup, f&em	7 F	Dirt
Saturday, May 2	35 th	I	\$1,000,000		American Turf	3yo	1 1/16 M	Turf
Saturday, May 2	41 st	II	\$1,000,000	+\$250,000	Longines Churchill Distaff Turf Mile	4&cup, f&em	1 M	Turf
Saturday, May 2	102 nd	II	\$750,000	+\$150,000	Pat Day Mile presented by SAP	3yo	1 M	Dirt
Saturday, May 2	32 nd	II	\$600,000		Twin Spires Turf Sprint presented by Accenture	3&cup	5 ½ F	Turf
Saturday, May 2	5 th	Listed ®	\$200,000		Knicks Go Overnight Stakes presented by L&N Federal Credit Union	4&cup ®	1 M	Dirt
Saturday, May 9	11 th	Listed	\$225,000	-\$75,000	William Walker	3yo	5 ½ F	Turf
Saturday, May 16	89 th	III	\$250,000		Louisville	4&cup	1 ½ M	Turf
Saturday, May 23	13 th	Listed	\$250,000		Kcertana	4&cup, f&em	1 ½ M	Turf
Monday, May 25	23 rd	III	\$250,000		Winning Colors	4&cup, f&em	6 F	Dirt
Saturday, May 30	7 th	II	\$300,000	+\$25,000	Shawnee	4&cup, f&em	1 1/16 M	Dirt
Saturday, May 30	7 th	III	\$300,000	+\$25,000	Blame	4&cup	1 1/8 M	Dirt
Saturday, May 30	90 th	III	\$275,000		Arlington	4&cup	1 1/16 M	Turf
Saturday, May 30	50 th	III	\$275,000	+\$25,000	Old Forester Mint Julep	4&cup, f&em	1 1/16 M	Turf
Saturday, May 30	57 th	III	\$275,000		Regret	3yo f	1 1/8 M	Turf
Saturday, May 30	38 th	III	\$275,000		Aristides	4&cup	6 F	Dirt
Saturday, May 30	7 th	Listed	\$275,000		Audubon	3yo	1 1/8 M	Turf
Saturday, June 6	10 th	Listed	\$225,000		Mighty Beau	3&cup	5 F	Turf
Sunday, June 7	29 th	III	\$500,000	+\$100,000	Matt Winn	3yo	1 1/16 M	Dirt
Sunday, June 7	5 th	Listed	\$225,000		Leslie's Lady	3yo f	7 F	Dirt
Saturday, June 13	4 th	Listed	\$225,000	+\$25,000	Chorleywood	4&cup	1 3/8 M	Turf
Saturday, June 13	5 th		\$175,000		Monomoy Girl Overnight Stakes	3yo f	1 1/16 M	Dirt
Saturday, June 20	36 th	II	\$300,000		Chicago	4&cup, f&em	7 F	Dirt
Saturday, June 27	45 th	I	\$1,000,000		Stephen Foster	4&cup	1 1/8 M	Dirt
Saturday, June 27	51 st	II	\$500,000		Fasig-Tipton Fleur de Lis	4&cup, f&em	1 1/8 M	Dirt
Saturday, June 27	37 th	II	\$500,000		Wise Dan	4&cup	1 1/16 M	Turf
Saturday, June 27	16 th	Listed	\$275,000	+\$25,000	Bango (formerly the Kelly's Landing)	3&cup	6 ½ F	Dirt
Saturday, June 27	5 th	Listed	\$275,000	+\$100,000	Anchorage	4&cup, f&em	1 1/8 M	Turf
Saturday, June 27	111 th	Listed	\$275,000	+\$25,000	American Derby	3yo	1 1/16 M	Turf
Saturday, June 27	7 th	Listed	\$275,000	+\$25,000	Tepin	3yo f	1 M	Turf
Sunday, June 28	5 th	III	\$250,000		Maxfield	3yo	7 F	Dirt
Sunday, June 28	73 rd	III	\$300,000		Hanshin presented by JRA	4&cup	1 M	Dirt
Sunday, June 28	125 th	Listed	\$225,000		Bashford Manor	2yo	6 F	Dirt
Sunday, June 28	125 th	Listed	\$225,000		Debutante	2yo f	6 F	Dirt

Every stakes race, excluding the Kentucky Oaks and Kentucky Derby, includes Kentucky Thoroughbred Development Fund prize money.

All Kentucky Thoroughbred Development Fund purse allotments are subject to KHRGC approval.

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