

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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## ON TIME GIRL DELIVERS AS FAVORITE IN EIGHT BELLES

LOUISVILLE, KY (Friday, May 1, 2026) – **Albaugh Family Stables'** homebred **On Time Girl** swept past dueling leaders at midstretch and drew off for a 1 1/2-length victory over **Luv Your Neighbor** to win the 71st running of the \$680,000 Eight Belles (GII) presented by Sysco for 3-year-old fillies Friday afternoon at Churchill Downs.

Trained by **Brad Cox** and ridden by **Irad Ortiz Jr.**, On Time Girl completed the seven furlongs on a fast main track in 1:22.16. It is the fourth victory in the race for Cox, whose previous winners were **Benner Island** (2017), **Break Even** (2019) and **Matareya** (2022).

**French Friction** and **River Wind** dueled through early fractions of :22.55 and :45.48 while Ortiz kept On Time Girl in the clear from her outside post while racing in mid pack. Moving widest of all at the top of the stretch, On Time Girl began picking off horses and cleared off with enough to hold off an inside bid from Luv Your Neighbor.

Now a two-time graded stakes winner, On Time Girl is a Kentucky-bred daughter of Not This Time out of the Uncle Mo mare Girl Daddy. On Time Girl has a record of 7-5-1-1 and is unbeaten in three starts at Churchill Downs.

Favored in the field of nine, On Time Girl returned \$5.92, \$4.14 and \$3.02. Luv Your Neighbor, ridden by **Luis Saez**, returned \$9.12 and \$5.14 with **Paradise** finishing another 1 ½ lengths back and returning \$5.10 to show under **John Velazquez**.

River Wind was another 2 lengths back in fourth and followed in order by **Goodall**, **Sippin Pretty**, **Solemn Vow**, **Front Runnin** and **French Friction**.

## EIGHT BELLES QUOTES

**Irad Ortiz Jr. (Jockey, On Time Girl, winner)** – “We got a beautiful trip. We were a little wide around the turn, but she really responded when I asked for her best. She is a nice filly.”

**Brad Cox (Trainer, On Time, winner)** --- “We asked her to stretch out in distance and she gave us an honest effort. I think one turn is what she's best at right now. She ran a big race today.”

**Luis Saez (Jockey, Luv Your Neighbor, second)** – “She ran big. She had a good trip and thought she would be better at this distance (seven furlongs). She simply got beat by a better filly. I wish I could have been outside but that’s just how racing goes sometimes.”

**John Velazquez (Jockey, Paradise, third)** – “I got excited at the quarter-pole as I thought I had a real chance to get up there. We knew it was going to be really fast up front and my horse made a good run but just not good enough to pass the top two.”

## 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 saddling paddock and 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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