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CLASSIC Q WINS LONGINES CHURCHILL DISTAFF TURF MILE

LOUISVILLE, KY (Saturday, May 2, 2026) – Gary Barber, Blue Crevalle Racing and Eclipse Thoroughbred Partners’ Classic Q took over from pacesetter Italian Soiree after a half-mile and then held off favored Portfolio Duration (GB) to post a neck victory in the 41st running of the \$1 million Longines Churchill Distaff Turf Mile (GI) for fillies and mares Saturday afternoon.

Trained by Mark Casse and ridden by John Velazquez, Classic Q completed the mile over a firm Matt Winn Turf Course in 1:34.71. It is the third victory in the race for Casse who won with Tepin in 2015 and 2016.

It is the fourth win for Velazquez, with his other scores coming with Shires Ende in 1999, Hungry Island in 2012 and Proctor’s Ledge in 2018.

Italian Soiree ran the first quarter-mile in :24.26 with Classic Q right alongside with the latter taking over after a half-mile in :47.93. Classic Q opened a daylight advantage leaving the backstretch, maintained a clear edge in the stretch and staved off the final bid from Portfolio Duration.

The victory was worth \$595,680 for Classic Q and increased her earnings to \$1,044,865 with his first graded stakes victory. A 4-year-old Kentucky-bred daughter of Classic Empire out of the Scat Daddy mare Lovely Em, Classic Q has a 14-4-3-1 record.

Classic Q rewarded her backers with payoffs of \$15.62, \$6.14 and \$4.52. Portfolio Duration returned \$4.20 and \$3.08 under Flavien Prat with Pin Up Betty in third and paying \$3.62 to show under Juan Hernandez.

Movin’ On Up finished fourth and was followed by Vina Arana (IRE), Sweet Rebecca, Temptable, Maggie Go (ARG) and Italian Soiree.

LONGINES CHURCHILL DISTAFF TURF MILE QUOTES

John Velazquez (Jockey, Classic Q, winner) – “I tried to rate her but she started getting aggressive and throwing her head. I decided just to take a long hold and see how long I could hold it. I waited until the quarter pole and she spurted away, which was enough to win it.”

Mark Casse (Trainer, Classic Q, winner) – “It’s so rewarding. She’s run so hard so many times. I’m so grateful we’re able to get the job done in this race. She likes it here. She really likes the shorter turns.”

Flavien Prat (Jockey, Portfolio Duration-GB, second) – “It was a good race for me. My horse ran well. I told Chad (trainer Chad Brown) that I think she’ll run better when we go up to New York. The races are longer up there and I think that will suit her better.”

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.

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