



**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)

## **CHURCHILL DOWNS TO HOST 11 STAKES WORTH \$3.575 MILLION DURING 14-DAY SEPTEMBER MEET**

### ***Fall Meet to Feature 16 Stakes Worth \$5 Million, Including Blockbuster Thanksgiving Weekend***

**LOUISVILLE, Ky. (Thursday, Aug. 7, 2025)** – A stakes schedule packed with \$3.575 million in purses will headline this year's 14-day September Meet at Churchill Downs, which runs Thursday, Sept. 11 through Sunday, Sept. 28 and features 11 stakes contests over three action-packed weekends.

Saturday, Sept. 13 sets the tone with five high-quality stakes races led by the \$400,000 Fasig-Tipton Locust Grove (Grade II) and the first points events on the Road to the Kentucky Derby and Kentucky Oaks: the \$300,000 Iroquois (GIII) and \$300,000 Pocahontas (GIII). The program also features the \$300,000 Louisville Thoroughbred Society (Listed) and \$300,000 Open Mind (Listed).

The second Saturday of the meet on Sept. 20 includes four more stakes topped by the \$300,000 Dogwood presented by Resolute Racing (GIII) along with the \$300,000 Bourbon Flight, \$300,000 Harrods Creek and \$175,000 Seneca Overnight Stakes (Listed).

The stakes action concludes Saturday, Sept. 27 with a duo of marquee races: the \$500,000 Lukas Classic (GII) and \$400,000 Ack Ack (GIII). Named for Hall of Fame trainer D. Wayne Lukas, who passed away earlier this summer, the Lukas Classic has developed into a key local prep for the Breeders' Cup Classic (GI), which takes place this year on Saturday, Nov. 1 at Del Mar.

The September Meet will open with a Thursday-Sunday schedule during the first week, followed by Wednesday-Sunday racing during the final two weeks. First post is 12:45 p.m. (all times Eastern) most days, with a special 5 p.m. first post each Thursday for Twilight Thursday.

Four weeks later, Churchill Downs will host its 26-day Fall Meet from Sunday, Oct. 26 through Sunday, Nov. 30 with 16 stakes worth \$5 million.

Thanksgiving weekend once again anchors the Fall Meet with two of the season's biggest race days: Friday, Nov. 28 will be headlined by the \$600,000 Clark presented by Norton Healthcare (GII) and \$300,000 Mrs. Revere (GII); and Saturday, Nov. 29 features the Stars of Tomorrow II card headlined by the \$400,000 Kentucky Jockey Club (GII) and \$400,000 Golden Rod (GII).

The meet will open with the first Stars of Tomorrow card on Sunday, Oct. 26 led by the \$200,000 Street Sense (GIII) and \$200,000 Rags to Riches (Listed).

#### **September Meet On-Track Events:**

- **Twilight Thursdays** featuring \$2 select domestic beer, live music and food trucks (Sept. 11, Sept. 18, Sept. 25)
- **First Responders Day** with free admission for all first responders (Thursday, Sept. 11)
- **College Day** with \$20,000+ in scholarships, free general admission for students with a valid college I.D. and a meet-and-greet with the Bellarmine Men's Basketball Team (Saturday, Sept. 13)
- **Stakes Room Brunch** (Sundays: Sept. 14, Sept. 21, Sept. 28)
- **Senior Day** with discounted admission and dining (Friday, Sept. 19)
- **Family Adventure Day** in partnership with Louisville City FC, Racing Louisville and Blessings in a Backpack featuring player meet and greets, a soccer activation and player stick pony races in the paddock (Sunday, Sept. 21)
- **Thoroughbred Aftercare Day in partnership with Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance** recognizing the work of equine aftercare organizations (Saturday, Sept. 27)

**Fall Meet On-Track Events:**

- **Trick or Treat at the Track** with more than 15 kid-friendly activities and trick-or-treat stations (Sunday, Oct. 26)
- **Stakes Room Brunch** (Sundays: Oct. 26, Nov. 2, Nov. 9, Nov. 16, Nov. 23, Nov. 30)
- **Breeders' Cup Watch Parties** (Friday, Oct. 31 and Saturday, Nov. 1)
- **Senior Days** (Wednesdays: Nov. 5 and Nov. 19)
- **Military Appreciation Day presented by Coca-Cola** (Sunday, Nov. 9)
- **27<sup>th</sup> Claiming Crown Championship Series** (Saturday, Nov. 15)
- **Family Photos at the Track** (Sunday, Nov. 16)
- **Thanksgiving Weekend** with five days of racing and major stakes (Wednesday, Nov. 26 – Sunday, Nov. 30)
- **Football Day in the Bluegrass** (Saturday, Nov. 29)

For more information about the September or Fall Meets, visit [churchilldowns.com](http://churchilldowns.com).

Below are the September and Fall Meet stakes schedules (all purses include contributions from the Kentucky Thoroughbred Development Fund and are pending final approval from the Kentucky Horse Racing and Gaming Corporation):

Date	Race	Purse	Age	Distance	Grade
Saturday, Sept. 13	Fasig-Tipton Locust Grove	\$400,000	4yo and up (F&M)	1 1/16 M	Grade II
Saturday, Sept. 13	Iroquois	\$300,000	2yo	1 M	Grade III
Saturday, Sept. 13	Pocahontas	\$300,000	2yo (f)	1 M	Grade III
Saturday, Sept. 13	Open Mind	\$300,000	3yo and up (F&M)	6 ½ F	Listed
Saturday, Sept. 13	Louisville Thoroughbred Society	\$300,000	3yo and up	6 F	Listed
Saturday, Sept. 20	Dogwood presented by Resolute Racing	\$300,000	3yo (f)	7 F	Grade III
Saturday, Sept. 20	Bourbon Flight	\$300,000	3yo	1 3/16	
Saturday, Sept. 20	Harrods Creek	\$300,000	3yo	7 F	
Saturday, Sept. 20	Seneca Overnight Stakes	\$175,000	3yo (f)	1 1/16 M	Listed
Saturday, Sept. 27	Lukas Classic	\$500,000	3yo and up	1 1/8 M	Grade II
Saturday, Sept. 27	Ack Ack	\$400,000	3yo and up	1 M	Grade III
Sunday, Oct. 26	Street Sense	\$200,000	2yo	1 1/16 M	Grade III
Sunday, Oct. 26	Rags to Riches	\$200,000	2yo (f)	1 1/16 M	Listed
Saturday, Nov. 1	Bet On Sunshine	\$300,000	3yo and up	6 F	Listed
Saturday, Nov. 8	River City	\$300,000	3yo and up	1 1/8 M (T)	Grade III
Saturday, Nov. 8	Dream Supreme	\$300,000	3yo and up (F&M)	6 F	Listed
Saturday, Nov. 15	Chilukki	\$300,000	3yo and up (F&M)	1 M	Grade III
Saturday, Nov. 22	Commonwealth Turf	\$300,000	3yo	1 1/16 M (T)	Grade III
Thursday, Nov. 27	Falls City	\$400,000	3yo and up (F&M)	1 1/8 M	Grade III
Thursday, Nov. 27	Cardinal	\$300,000	3yo and up (F&M)	1 1/8 M (T)	Listed
Friday, Nov. 28	Clark presented by Norton Healthcare	\$600,000	3yo and up	1 1/8 M	Grade II
Friday, Nov. 28	Mrs. Revere	\$300,000	3yo (f)	1 1/16 M (T)	Grade II
Saturday, Nov. 29	Kentucky Jockey Club	\$400,000	2yo	1 1/16 M	Grade II
Saturday, Nov. 29	Golden Rod	\$400,000	2yo (f)	1 1/16 M	Grade II
Saturday, Nov. 29	Ed Brown	\$225,000	2yo	6 ½ F	
Saturday, Nov. 29	Fern Creek	\$225,000	2yo (f)	6 ½ F	
Sunday, Nov. 30	Cherokee Mile	\$250,000	3yo and up	1 M	

**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).

-END-