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FRANK'S ROCKETTE ROLLS IN ROXELANA ON OPENING NIGHT OF DERBY WEEK

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (Saturday, April 29, 2023) – **Frank's Rockette** collected the 10th stakes win of her four-year career when she out-finished **Last Leaf** down the stretch to win Saturday night's 13th running of the \$175,000 Roxelana Overnight Stakes Powered by LG&E and KU on Opening Night of the 2023 Spring Meet before 20,077 fans at Churchill Downs.

Reduced to a field of five fillies and mares, **Frank Fletcher Racing's** Frank's Rockette ran six furlongs over a fast track in a stakes record 1:09.26 to beat Last Leaf by three-quarters of a length. It was another seven lengths back to pacesetter **Pretty Birdie** in third. **Junior Alvarado** rode the winner for Hall of Fame trainer **Bill Mott**.

Pretty Birdie broke fastest of all and rattled off a first quarter-mile in :21.97 and the half-mile in :45.12 as **Coppelia** chased from the outside and the favorite Frank's Rockette tracked in third along the rail. Leaving the turn for home, Frank's Rockette cut between horses and put away the two early leaders as Last Leaf attempted to close along the rail. Frank's Rockette was able to turn back the inside charge from the 16-1 longshot and won in game fashion.

Frank's Rockette, who was the odds-on 2-5 post time favorite, paid \$2.90 to win.

The winner is a 6-year-old daughter of Into Mischief out of the Indian Charlie mare Rocket Twentyone. She was bred in Kentucky by her owner.

It was the 12th career win in 26 starts for Frank's Rockette, and the \$108,500 winner's share boosted her earnings to \$1,410,033. She's won three of her five starts at Churchill Downs.

Frank's Rockette has won three straight stakes races. Previously, she won the Sugar Swirl (GIII) on Dec. 31 and Hurricane Bertie (GIII) on March 11 at Gulfstream Park.

"She was in good form going into last year and I think going into this year she's as good as ever," Mott said. "We certainly wouldn't rule out eventually trying to get her a Grade I but we'll take it one race at a time and see how she's doing."

Saturday's Roxelana annually honors the crack female sprinter who won seven of 11 starts and \$264,726 between 2000-03 for owner/breeder **William Landes III** and trainer **William "Blackie" Huffman**. Landes was on hand Saturday night to present the winning trophy.

After dark days on Sunday and Monday, Kentucky Derby Week continues Tuesday for live racing at 12:45 p.m. Tickets to "502'sDay" are available at www.KentuckyDerbyWeek.com.

ROXELANA QUOTES

Junior Alvarado (jockey, Frank's Rockette, winner) – “Whenever you ride a horse for a great trainer like Bill Mott you're confident going into a race. We broke a little slow but I let her just settle and gather her footing before asking her to get into position. She's a very nice filly that seems to get better with age.”

Bill Mott (trainer, Frank's Rockette, winner) – “She was in good form going into last year and I think going into this year she's as good as ever. We certainly wouldn't rule out eventually trying to get her a Grade I but we'll take it one race at a time and see how she's doing.”

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.

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