

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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## **BAYERNESS EASILY WINS ROXELANA ON OPENING NIGHT AT CHURCHILL DOWNS**

**LOUISVILLE, Ky. (Saturday, April 30, 2022)** – **Bayerness**, winner of the \$120,000 Shine Again at Saratoga last August, returned from an eight-month layoff to run away with Saturday night's 12<sup>th</sup> running of the \$139,400 Roxelana Overnight Stakes on Opening Night of the 2022 Spring Meet before 22,207 fans at Churchill Downs.

Reduced to a field of three fillies and mares and delayed by 27 minutes because of inclement weather, **Belladonna Racing LLC** (Porsche Brooks)'s Bayerness, ridden by **Luis Saez**, ran six furlongs over a floated "muddy" track in 1:09.74 to beat **Club Car** by 4 ½ lengths. It was another 3 ¼ lengths back to **Cheetara (CHI)**.

Cheetara (CHI) led in the early stages with Bayerness on her right hip through a first quarter mile in :22.07. Around the turn, Bayerness swung wide and poked her head in front after a half-mile in :45.52 before drawing away in the stretch.

Bayerness, who was the 4-5 post time favorite, paid \$3.60 to win.

The winner is a 5-year-old daughter of Bayern out of the Pure Prize mare Weight No More. She was bred in Kentucky by **Machmer Hall**.

It was the fifth career win in 11 starts for Bayerness, and the \$97,900 winner's share boosted her earnings to \$427,928. She's won three of five starts at Churchill Downs.

"We thought this would be a good spot to bring her back to begin her 5-year-old campaign," winning trainer **Cherie Devaux** said. "We brought her back at the same time last year. She likes it here at Churchill and we weren't too worried when it started to rain because she's won on a sloppy track here in the past."

Two years ago, Bayerness finished sixth in the \$1.25 million Longines Kentucky Oaks (GI) but she's been limited to one-turn sprints in her last five starts.

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 are available at [www.churchilldowns.com/tickets](http://www.churchilldowns.com/tickets).

### **ROXELANA QUOTES**

**CHERIE DEVAUX (Trainer, Bayerness, winner)** – "We thought this would be a good spot to bring her back to begin her 5-year-old campaign. We brought her back at the same time last year. She likes it here at Churchill and we weren't too worried when it started to rain because she's won on a sloppy track here in the past."

### **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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