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SANTIN PREVAILS IN GRADE I ARLINGTON MILLION AT CHURCHILL DOWNS

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (Saturday, Aug. 13, 2022) – Godolphin’s homebred **Santin**, winner of the \$1 million Old Forester Bourbon Turf Classic (Grade I) on Kentucky Derby day, prevailed in a protracted duel over **Smooth Like Strait** by 1 ¾ lengths to win Saturday’s 39th running of the \$1 million Arlington Million (Grade I), which was held for the first time at Churchill Downs.

Trained by **Brendan Walsh** and ridden by **Tyler Gaffalione**, Santin completed the 1 1/8 miles on a Matt Winn Turf Course rated “firm” in 1:46.88 to become horse racing’s newest millionaire.

California-invader Smooth Like Strait set the pace with Santin glued to his right hip through fractions of :23.85, :47.43 and 1:10.64. Leaving the turn, Santin asserted himself, grabbed the lead and did not relinquish the advantage for his Million triumph.

“He’s got some speed and when we saw how the Beverly D. was playing we thought we needed to sit a little closer,” Gaffalione said. “We were in a good spot and around the turn and (Smooth Like Strait) came out a little bit but I had a lot of horse beneath me. In the past we thought he may have underperformed in his races. We know how much talent he has and he showed that in the (Old Forester Bourbon) Turf Classic and here this afternoon in the Million. It’s so special to win this race. Its history speaks for itself and I’m glad we are able to be a part of it.”

Santin is a 4-year-old Kentucky-bred son of **Distorted Humor** out of the **Medaglia d’Oro** mare **Sentiero Italia**. In notching his second Grade I stakes victory of the year at Churchill Downs, Santin improved his record to 4-2-0 in seven starts and increased his earnings to \$595,200 with Saturday’s \$601,400 check.

Santin also became the seventh horse to win dual U.S. Grade I races this year, joining **Count Again** (Frank E. Kilroe Mile and Shoemaker Mile), **Cyberknife** (Arkansas Derby and Haskell), **Jackie’s Warrior** (Churchill Downs and A.G. Vanderbilt), **Life Is Good** (Pegasus World Cup and Whitney), **Nest** (Ashland and Coaching Club American Oaks) and **Regal Glory** (Jenny Wiley and Just a Game) as dual U.S. Grade I winners in 2022.

“We were able to watch how things played in the Beverly D. and in Santin’s best races he sits a little closer to the pace,” Walsh said. “We decided to make that the game plan. Tyler gave him a beautiful trip. I think the (1 1/8 miles) is as far as he wants to go. He broke his maiden and won his second start at one mile. We found ourselves in several 1 1/8-mile races and have performed admirably. I think the goal is the Breeders’ Cup Mile (GI). We’ve got a couple of options we’ll talk about how to get there.”

Santin returned \$6.90, \$3.32 and \$2.90. Smooth Like Strait, ridden by **John Velazquez**, returned \$3.26 and \$2.80 with **Sacred Life (FR)** finishing another 5 ¾ lengths back in third under **Manny Franco** and paying \$3.90 to show.

Set Piece (GB), who emerged as the 2-1 favorite, was another head back in fourth and was followed in order by **Cavalry Charge**, **Admission Office**, **Cellist** and **Field Pass**. **Megacity** was scratched.

DALIKA (GER) RE-RALLIED TO WIN GRADE I, \$500,000 BEVERLY D.

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (Saturday, Aug. 13, 2022) – **Dalika (GER)** went straight to the front and was collared by **Princess Grace** at the top of the stretch but re-rallied along the inside to determinedly win Saturday’s 32nd running of the \$500,000 Beverly D. Stakes (Grade I) at Churchill Downs.

Dalika (GER), ridden by **Brian Hernandez Jr.**, clocked nine furlongs on “firm” turf in 1:46.31, which shaved .03 off **Lure’s** 1993 course record of 1:46.34. **Al Stall Jr.** trained the winner for owner **Paul Varga’s Bal Mar Equine LLC.**

Dalika (GER) broke alertly from the rail and led the compact field of five fillies and mares through fractions of :23.14, :46.44 and 1:10.13 with Princess Grace stalking in second.

Around the final turn, Princess Grace drew even with Dalika (GER) and poked her head in front at the top of the stretch, but Dalika (GER) was resolute on the rail and came back inside the final sixteenth of a mile for a half-length win.

“I really have to thank trainer **Tom Drury** who helps us out with this horse at Skylight (Training Center),” Stall Jr. said. “She’s a little bit tough to train so we’ve been keeping her out there where it’s pretty quiet. She was pretty comfortable on this course. Things played out exactly how we thought it would. We figured (Princess Grace) would be next to us and she ran a really game race, too.”

It was another two lengths back to third-place finisher **Family Way**, who was followed by Irish invader **Lily Pond (IRE)** and 8-5 favorite **Rougir (FR).**

“She’s a pretty funny horse so the less you can do with her the better,” Hernandez said of Dalika (GER). “We let her have things her own way on the front end and I didn’t want to try and fight her at all. In the stretch, (Princess Grace) came up alongside her but she was really game. She dug back in and turned her back. She ran a huge race and showed a lot of heart.”

The win was worth \$310,000 and improved Dalika (GER)’s career earnings to \$954,856 with a record of 8-7-0 in 28 starts. It was the fifth stakes victory of her career and first Grade I triumph. Additionally, the Beverly D. is part of the Breeders’ Cup “Win and You’re In” series and Dalika (GER) earned an automatic berth into the \$2 million Filly & Mare Turf (GI) on Nov. 5 at Keeneland Race Course.

“She’s not Breeders’ Cup nominated so we’ll have to figure out what’s next,” Stall Jr. said. “We’re thrilled to get this win today.”

Dalika (GER) paid \$17.02, \$6.80 and \$3.44 as the 7-1 longest shot in the field. Princess Grace, at odds of 7-2, returned \$5.10 and \$2.96 under **Florent Geroux.** Family Way, with **Tyler Gaffalione** up at 2-1, paid \$2.28 to show.

Dalika (GER), a 6-year-old gray or roan daughter of Pastorius (GER) out of the Hurricane Run (IRE) mare Drawn to Run (IRE), was bred in Germany by **Gestut Ammerland.** Twenty of the last 21 Beverly D. winners have been bred outside the United States.

BELL’S THE ONE RALLIES TO WIN \$200,000 LADY TAK

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (Saturday, Aug. 13, 2022) – **Lothenbach Stables Inc.’s Bell’s the One** returned to the Churchill Downs winner’s circle for the first time in nine months after she rallied from last in the stretch and surged past pacesetters Joyful Cadence and Lovemesomeme inside the final sixteenth of a mile to win Saturday’s inaugural running of the \$200,000 Lady Tak by 1 ½ lengths.

Ridden by **Corey Lanerie** for trainer **Neil Pessin**, Bell’s the One ran six furlongs over a fast track in 1:09.22.

It was Bell’s the One’s 10th career stakes win and first in four tries this year. Her 2021 campaign includes wins in the \$110,000 Roxelana Overnight Stakes at Churchill Downs; \$200,000 Honorable Miss (GII) at Saratoga; \$250,000 Thoroughbred Club of America (GII) at Keeneland; and \$300,000 Dream Supreme last November at Churchill Downs.

Joyful Cadence was the expected early leader in the compact field of five fillies and mares and rattled off the first quarter mile in :22.42 and the half in :45.42 with Lovemesomeme in close pursuit, who was followed by Music City Star, 4-5 favorite Sconsin and the trailing Bell’s the One. Leaving the turn, Bell’s the One commenced her wide rally and loomed boldly from the outside as she got up for the victory inside the final sixteenth of a mile.

“No matter what she always comes with a late kick and she did that today,” Lanerie said. “We sat a perfect trip behind the pacesetters and she really responded well when I asked her to go. She’s a really special mare and I’m very thankful to be able to ride her.”

The win was worth \$124,000 and improved Bell's the One's career earnings to \$1,795,675 with a record of 12-5-3 in 26 starts. She's earned \$952,325 from five wins and three seconds and one third in 11 career starts at Churchill Downs.

"She's taken us on a lot of journeys and I'm so thankful most of them have been successful here at Churchill," Pessin said. "She's a special mare and backs that up every time on the track. They didn't go too fast on the lead but it was a contentious pace. She was able to rally past them and show the strong kick in the stretch."

Bell's the One returned \$4.82, \$3.06 and \$3.02 as the 7-5 second betting choice. Joyful Cadence, the 5-1 third choice under **Rey Gutierrez**, paid \$4.34 and \$5.58. Lovemesomeme, with **Brian Hernandez Jr.** up at 9-1, was another half-length back in third and paid \$5.74 to show. Sconsin and Music City Star completed the order of finish.

Bell's the One is a 6-year-old daughter of Majesticperfection out of the Street Cry (IRE) mare Street Mate and was bred in Kentucky by **Bret Jones**.

TWILIGHT BLUE HEAD-BOBBED STABLEMATE INTREPID HEART IN FORT LARNED

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (Saturday, Aug. 13, 2022) – After matching strides throughout the stretch, 6-5 favorite **Twilight Blue** emerged as a narrow head winner over tracking stablemate **Intrepid Heart** in Saturday's inaugural running of the \$200,000 Fort Larned for 3-year-olds and up at Churchill Downs.

Trained by **Joe Sharp** and ridden by **Brian Hernandez Jr.**, Twilight Blue covered the 1 3/16 miles on a fast main track in 1:57.09.

After longshot **Artemus Eagle** led the field of five older horses through a first quarter mile in :24.11, Twilight Blue asserted himself to the front down the backstretch and a half-mile in :49.33 with Intrepid Heart in close pursuit. Passing the six-furlong marker in 1:13.77, Twilight Blue and Intrepid Heart engraved their prolonged drive midway around the far turn. The two battled shoulder to shoulder to the finish with a head bob deciding the victor.

"He was really gutsy today," Hernandez Jr. said. "He took me to the front up the backside and really battled late. It was really cool to win a race named after Fort Larned in the first edition."

The win was worth \$122,760 and increased Twilight Blue's earnings to \$444,594 with a record of 5-3-1 in 12 starts. Three of his wins have come at Churchill Downs.

"Both of these horses try so hard all the time and give it their all," said Sharp, who trains the winner and the hard-luck runner-up. "It's great to win it with one of them but you're gutted at the same time for the other to run so well and lose. Both of these horses have been on the right and wrong sides of tight photos in the past. It's nice to run on this day at Churchill Downs. This is our home track and I'm glad we're able to be here to support it."

Twilight Blue is a Kentucky-bred son of Air Force Blue out of the Rahy mare Lily the Pink and was bred by **Knowles Bloodstock Inc.**

Twilight Blue returned \$4.76, \$2.72 and \$2.10. Intrepid Heart, with **Tyler Gaffalione** up at odds of 7-2, returned \$3.44 and \$2.48 with **King Fury** finishing another 1 ¼ lengths back in third under **Julien Leparoux** and paying \$2.46 to show as the 9-5 second betting choice.

It was another 1 ¾ lengths back to **Mr. Wireless**, who was followed in order by **Treasure Trove** and Artemus Eagle. **Keystone Field** was scratched.

ARLINGTON MILLION QUOTES

Tyler Gaffalione, (jockey, Santin, winner) – “He’s got some speed and when we saw how the Beverly D. was playing we thought we needed to sit a little closer. We were in a good spot and around the turn and (Smooth Like Strait) came out a little bit but I had a lot of horse beneath me. In the past we thought he may have underperformed in his races. We know how much talent he has and he showed that in the (Old Forester Bourbon) Turf Classic and here this afternoon in the Million. It’s so special to win this race. Its history speaks for itself and I’m glad we are able to be a part of it.”

Brendan Walsh, (trainer, Santin, winner) – “We were able to watch how things played in the Beverly D. and in Santin’s best races he sits a little closer to the pace. We decided to make that the game plan. Tyler gave him a beautiful trip. I think the (1 1/8 miles) is as far as he wants to go. He broke his maiden and won his second start at one mile. We found ourselves in several 1 1/8-mile races and have performed admirably. I think the goal is the Breeders’ Cup Mile (GI). We’ve got a couple of options we’ll talk about how to get there.”

Justin Curran, (assistant trainer, Smooth Like Strait, runner-up) – “You know, we really don’t have any excuses. He ran a great race this afternoon. We’re proud of his effort. He always seems to show up and run hard and did so again today.”

BEVERLY D. QUOTES

Brian Hernandez Jr., (jockey, Dalika, winner) – “She’s a pretty funny horse so the less you can do with her the better. We let her have things her own way on the front end and I didn’t want to try and fight her at all. In the stretch, (Princess Grace) came up alongside her but she was really game. She dug back in and turned her back. She ran a huge race and showed a lot of heart.”

Al Stall Jr., (trainer, Dalika, winner) – “I really have to thank trainer Tom Drury who helps us out with this horse at Skylight. She’s a little bit tough to train so we’ve been keeping her out there where it’s pretty quiet. She was pretty comfortable on this course. Things played out exactly how we thought it would. We figured (Princess Grace) would be next to us and she ran a really game race, too. She’s not Breeders’ Cup nominated so we’ll have to figure out what’s next. We’re thrilled to get this win today.”

Mike Stidham (trainer, Princess Grace, runner-up) – “We extremely proud of how she ran today. It was the first time going this distance so maybe that had a little to do with the defeat but she still ran a really great race.”

LADY TAK QUOTES

Corey Lanerie, (jockey, Bell’s the One, winner) – “No matter what she always comes with a late kick and she did that today. We sat a perfect trip behind the pacesetters and she really responded well when I asked her to go. She’s a really special mare and I’m very thankful to be able to ride her.”

Neil Pessin, (trainer, Bell’s the One, winner) – “She’s taken us on a lot of journeys and I’m so thankful most of them have been successful here at Churchill. She’s a special mare and backs that up every time on the track. They didn’t go too fast on the lead but it was a contentious pace. She was able to rally past them and show the strong kick in the stretch.”

Rey Gutierrez, (jockey, Joyful Cadence, runner-up) – “We battled hard on the lead. We got beat by Bell’s the One and finished ahead of Sconsin, two very talented mares. I’m really proud of her.”

Greg Foley, (trainer, Sconsin, fourth as 4-5 favorite) – “She had a tough trip. She was in a good spot behind the speed but got stuck inside and didn’t really respond being inside them.”

FORT LARNED QUOTES

Brian Hernandez Jr., (jockey, Twilight Blue, winner) – “He was really gutsy today. He took me to the front up the backside and really battled late. It was really cool to win a race named after Fort Larned in the first edition.”

Joe Sharp, (trainer, Twilight Blue and Intrepid Heart, winner and runner-up) – “Both of these horses try so hard all the time and give it their all. It’s great to win it with one of them but you’re gutted at the same time for the other to run so well and lose. Both of these horses have been on the right and wrong sides of tight photos in the past. It’s nice to run on this day at Churchill Downs. This is our home track and I’m glad we’re able to be here to support it.”

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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