

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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## **BEJARANO BECOMES 15<sup>TH</sup> JOCKEY TO COLLECT 500 CHURCHILL DOWNS WINS**

**LOUISVILLE, Ky. (Friday, June 17, 2022)** – Rafael Bejarano became only the 15<sup>th</sup> rider in Churchill Downs history to record 500 victories beneath the historic Twin Spires when debuting 2-year-old filly Just Cindy prevailed in Friday's seventh race.

Bejarano joined **Pat Day** (2,482 Churchill Downs wins), **Calvin Borel** (1,232), **Robby Albarado** (1,192) and **Corey Lanerie** (1,172), **Julien Leparoux** (1,002), **Don Brumfield** (925), **Larry Melancon** (914), **Jim McKnight** (883), **Charlie Woods Jr.** (757), **Brian Hernandez Jr.** (740), **Shane Sellers** (738), **Shaun Bridgmohan** (728), **Julio Espinoza** (642) and **Jon Court** (583) in a select group of jockeys that reached the 500-win milestone at Churchill Downs.

Bejarano, who will turn 40 on June 23, became riding in his native Peru in 1999. He began riding at Churchill Downs in 2003 and won three local riding titles (2004-05 Spring and 2005 Fall) before moving his tack to California in 2008. He returned to the Kentucky circuit in 2020.

A winner of 61 Grade I races in his career, some of Bejarano's most prestigious victories at Churchill Downs include the 2010 Longines Kentucky Oaks (**Blind Luck**); 2010 Old Forester Turf Classic (**General Quarters**); 2007 Derby City Distaff (**Hystericalady**); 2020 Clark (**Bodexpress**); and 2004 Stephen Foster (**Colonial Colony**).

Just Cindy, trained by **Eddie Kenneally**, was Bejarano's 4,281<sup>st</sup> career win. His more than 21,000 lifetime mounts have amassed more than \$217 million in prize money.

### **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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