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Contact: Darren Rogers
Senior Director, Communications & Media Services
Churchill Downs Racetrack
(502) 636-4461 (office)
(502) 345-1030 (mobile)
Darren.Rogers@KyDerby.com

LEPAROUX BECOMES FIFTH JOCKEY TO COLLECT 1,000 CHURCHILL DOWNS WINS

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (Saturday, June 4, 2022) – French-born jockey **Julien Leparoux** became only the fifth rider in Churchill Downs history to record 1,000 victories beneath the historic Twin Spires when the **Ian Wilkes**-trained 3-year-old filly **Walkathon** captured Saturday's 53rd running of the \$200,000 Regret Stakes (Grade III).

"It feels great and I'm glad to get it done today for Ian," Leparoux said. "I've ridden for him for about 15 years now and it's special to be able to get this milestone with him. I can't really pick a moment that stands out above the others for the 1,000 wins but I'm very thankful for everyone who's gotten me this far."

Leparoux joined **Pat Day** (2,482 Churchill Downs wins), **Calvin Borel** (1,232), **Robby Albarado** (1,192) and **Corey Lanerie** (1,169) in a select group of jockeys that reached the 1,000-win milestone at Churchill Downs.

Leparoux, who will turn 39 on July 15, is the son of the late **Robert Leparoux**, a former jockey who became an assistant trainer. After working as a stable hand at Chantilly Racecourse in his native homeland, Leparoux ventured to the U.S. and worked as an exercise rider for fellow Frenchman **Patrick Biancone** before taking out his riding license in 2005.

Leparoux began riding at Churchill Downs during the 1995 Fall Meet and recorded his first victory at the Louisville track on Nov. 26, 2005 aboard **Three Steps Ahead**. It was his only win of that meeting.

Since then, he's earned a pair of Eclipse Awards as the nation's outstanding apprentice jockey of 2006 and America's outstanding jockey of 2009. Also, he's piloted 50 Grade I winners, including millionaires **Tepin** (\$3,714,800), **Forever Together** (\$2,633,200), **Classic Empire** (\$2,520,220), **Einstein (BRZ)** (\$1,726,893), **Informed Decision** (\$1,691,839), **Pure Clan** (\$1,536,624), **Heart to Heart** (\$1,276,068), **Turallure** (\$1,216,775), **Sadler's Joy** (\$1,214,800), **She Be Wild** (\$1,084,500), **Carina Mia** (\$1,073,520) and **Concrete Rose** (\$1,041,900).

Walkathon, trained by **Ian Wilkes**, was Leparoux's 2,872nd career win. His more than 16,000 lifetime mounts have amassed more than \$182 million.

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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