

# \$500,000 Lukas Classic (Grade II)

**10<sup>th</sup> Running – Saturday, Sept. 30, 2023 (September Meet)**  
**3-Year-Olds & Up at 1 1/8 Miles on Dirt at Churchill Downs**  
**Stakes Record – 1:47.85, Knicks Go (2021)**  
**Track Record – 1:47.28, Victory Gallop (1999)**

**Name Origin:** Known as the Homecoming Classic during the first two runnings, the race was renamed in 2015 to honor Hall of Fame trainer D. Wayne Lukas. The Lukas Classic was introduced in 2013 and designed to be a prep for the \$6 million Breeders' Cup Classic (GI). The former Homecoming Classic was renamed to salute Lukas' accomplishments, contributions and influence on Churchill Downs, the Kentucky Derby and Oaks, and the horse industry. The legendary horseman, a native of Antigo, Wisc., has been based at Churchill Downs' Barn 44 since 1989 and has conditioned an astounding 26 Eclipse Award-winning champions, as well as four winners of the Kentucky Derby and Kentucky Oaks. Lukas has recorded 14 victories in Triple Crown races and a record 20 triumphs in Breeders' Cup World Championship races. Also, he was recognized four times with an Eclipse Award as America's top trainer. "Along with the enormity of the numbers of his total victories, the stakes races he has won and earnings by his stable's horses throughout his Hall of Fame career, D. Wayne Lukas forever changed both the Kentucky Derby and North America's horse industry," said Kevin Flanery, former president of Churchill Downs Racetrack. "It is Churchill Downs' honor to salute Wayne Lukas by placing his name on this race. We are enthusiastic about the potential of the Lukas Classic and believe it will very soon be an important annual stop for older horses who are working to prepare for and earn starting spots in the Breeders' Cup Classic. We think the presence of Wayne Lukas' name on this race will enhance its attractiveness and its status. And we would love to see Mr. Lukas do one of the few things he has yet to do during his legendary career. Our team at Churchill Downs is confident that Wayne is a long way from entertaining any thoughts of retirement, and we hope that he will soon saddle a winner of this race, which would allow him – for the first time – to present a winner's trophy to himself."

Year (Race No.) Dis. (Starters)	Winner (Age/Sex) Owner(s)	Jockey (Weight) Trainer	Second Third	Time (Cond.) Odds (Margin)	Sire Bred (Color)	Gross Purse-Gr. Winner's Share-#
<b>2022-Oct 1 (10th)</b> 1 1/8 Miles (6)	<b>Hot Rod Charlie (4c)*</b> <small>Roadrunner Racing, Boat Racing, Strauss Bros Racing &amp; Gainesway</small>	Tyler Gaffalione (125) Doug O'Neill	D-Rich Strike King Fury	1:49.77 (fast) 1.33-1 (head)	Oxbow Kentucky (Dk B or Br.)	\$498,000 \$305,520—9
<b>2021-Oct 2 (8th)</b> 1 1/8 Miles (6)	<b>HM-Knicks Go (5h)*</b> Korea Racing Authority	Joel Rosario (125) Brad Cox	Independence Hall Shared Sense	<b>SR-1:47.85</b> (fast) 0.10-1 (4 lengths)	Paynter Maryland (Gr or Ro.)	\$337,000 \$184,140—8
<b>2020</b> No Running						
<b>2019-Sept 28 (9th)</b> 1 1/8 Miles (10)	<b>Mocito Rojo (5h)</b> Wayne T. Davis	Gerard Melancon (121) Shane Wilson	Silver Dust Sir Anthony	1:48.91 (fast) 8.80-1 (neck)	Mutadda Kentucky (Ch.)	\$250,000 \$147,250—7
<b>2018-Sept 29 (9th)</b> 1 1/8 Miles (8)	<b>Mind Your Biscuits (5h)*</b> <small>Hot Rod Charlie, Hot Rod Charlie, Hot Rod Charlie, Hot Rod Charlie &amp; Hot Rod Charlie</small>	Tyler Gaffalione (121) Chad Summers	Toast of New York Honorable Duty	1:48.64 (fast) 1.30-1 (4 3/4 lengths)	Posse New York (Ch.)	\$200,000 \$120,280—6
<b>2017-Sept 30 (9th)</b> 1 1/8 Miles (7)	<b>Honorable Duty (5g)*</b> DARRS Inc.	Corey Lanerie (123) Eddie Kenneally	Money Flows Seeking the Soul	1:49.42 (fast) 0.60-1 (4 3/4 lengths)	Distorted Humor Kentucky (B.)	\$200,000 \$121,520—5
<b>2016-Oct 1 (10th)</b> 1 1/8 Miles (9)	<b>Noble Bird (5h)</b> John C. Oxley	Julien Leparoux (123) Mark Casse	Hawaakom Bradester	1:49.03 (wet fast) 2.70-1 (1 1/2 lengths)	Birdstone Kentucky (Ch.)	\$175,000 \$104,160—4
<b>2015-Sept 26 (10th)</b> 1 1/8 Miles (7)	<b>Geothermal (6g)</b> A.L. Luedtke	Robby Albarado (121) Steve Margolis	Departing* Smack Smack	1:49.93 (fast) <b>12.30-1</b> (1 1/2 lengths)	Unbridled Energy Kentucky (Gr. or Ro.)	\$175,000 \$106,330—3
<b>2014-Sept 26 (9th)</b> 1 1/8 Miles (6)	<b>Cigar Street (5h)</b> Jake Ballis & Rashard Lewis	Shaun Bridgmohan (121) Bill Mott	Departing* Call Me George	1:49.86 (fast) 2.40-1 (1 3/4 lengths)	Street Sense Kentucky (Dk. B. or Br.)	\$135,500 \$83,170—2
<b>2013-Sept 28 (7th)</b> 1 1/8 Miles (6)	<b>Fort Larned (5h)*</b> Janis R. Whitham	Brian Hernandez Jr. (125) Jan Wilkes	Windswept Worldly	SR-1:48.58 (fast) 0.30-1 (1 1/2 lengths)	E Dubai Kentucky (B.)	\$191,275 \$117,405—1

\*-Favorite . . . H-Horse of the Year . . . M-Champion Older Male . . . D-Kentucky Derby winner . . . Known as Homecoming Classic, 2013-14... The 2022 featured a second-place finish by that year's upset Kentucky Derby winner Rich Strike. . . In 2021, Knicks Go prepped for his Breeders' Cup Classic win with a victory in the Lukas Classic . . . Reigning Breeders' Cup Classic winner Fort Larned won its first running in 2013 and subsequently finished fourth at Santa Anita in his bid for a repeat Classic victory. . . The race was won in 2014 by Cigar Street, who would finish seventh to Bayern in the 2014 Classic at Santa Anita.

<b>Most Wins, Jockey:</b>	2, Tyler Gaffalione (2018, '22)
<b>Most Wins, Trainer:</b>	no trainer with more than one win
<b>Most Wins, Owner:</b>	no owner with more than one win
<b>High \$2 Win:</b>	\$26.60, Geothermal (2015)
<b>Low \$2 Win:</b>	\$2.20, Knicks Go (2021)
<b>Largest Win Margin:</b>	4 3/4 lengths, Honorable Duty (2017) and Mind Your Biscuits (2018)
<b>Smallest Win Margin:</b>	head, Hot Rod Charlie (2022)
<b>Largest Field Size:</b>	10 (2019)
<b>Smallest Field Size:</b>	6 (2013-14, '21-22)
<b>Favorites Record:</b>	9-5-2-0 (Win=55.6%; ITM=77.8%)
<b>Favorites who finished off-the-board:</b>	Quip (6 <sup>th</sup> in 2019 at 2.10-1); Breaking Lucky (8 <sup>th</sup> in 2016 at 2.00-1)
<b>Fastest Splits – 1/4-mile:</b>	:23.32, Abraham (2015)
<b>Fastest Splits – 1/2-mile:</b>	:47.15, Fort Larned (2013)
<b>Fastest Splits – 3/4-mile:</b>	1:10.49, Fort Larned (2013)
<b>Disqualifications:</b>	none
<b>Off-tracks:</b>	Wet Fast (2016)