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TOTAL OF 76 DERBY HOPEFULS TOP JEFF RUBY STEAKS NOMINATIONS

Six Stakes Races Worth \$1.7 Million On Tap for Closing Day of Turfway Park's Winter Meet Run on April 2

FLORENCE, Ky. (Wednesday, March 23, 2022) – A total of 76 3-year-olds were nominated for the 51st running of the \$600,000 Jeff Ruby Steaks (Grade III) – the centerpiece of Turfway Park's winter season that will be run on Saturday, April 2.

The 1 1/8-mile Jeff Ruby Steaks, a Road to the Kentucky Derby Championship Series Race, will be one of six stakes events carded at the Florence, Ky. oval. The Jeff Ruby Steaks will award the Top 4 finishers 100-40-20-10 points for the 148th running of the \$3 million Kentucky Derby presented by Woodford Reserve (GI) on Saturday, May 7.

Other stakes on the afternoon card will be the \$250,000 Bourbonette Oaks (Listed), a Championship Series race on the Road to the Kentucky Oaks worth 50-20-10-5 points to the \$1.25 million Longines Kentucky Oaks (GI); \$250,000 TwinSpires.com Kentucky Cup Classic (Listed); the \$200,000 Rushaway; the \$200,000 Latonia Stakes; and the \$200,000 Animal Kingdom Stakes.

Nominations for all six races closed Saturday. They can be viewed online via Equibase at <https://www.equibase.com/premium/eqbHorsemenAreaSNHW.cfm?trk=TP>.

This year's Jeff Ruby Steaks is headlined by Magdalena Racing's \$125,000 John Battaglia Memorial Stakes winner **Tiz the Bomb**. Trained by **Kenny McPeck**, Tiz the Bomb finished second by 1 ½ lengths behind **Modern Games (IRE)** in the \$1 million Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf (GI). The son of Hit a Bomb tried dirt in his first start as a 3-year-old in the \$250,000 Holy Bull (GIII) but was a non-threatening seventh. Tiz the Bomb was able to hold off the late charge of **Stolen Base** in last month's Battaglia Memorial.

The runner-up finisher in the Battaglia Memorial, **Three Diamonds Farm** and **Deuce Greathouse's Stolen Base**, is likely to contend the Jeff Ruby Steaks as well. Stolen Base is trained by six-time Jeff Ruby Steaks-winning conditioner **Mike Maker**.

The Bourbonette Oaks, run at 1 1/16 miles for 3-year-old fillies, closed with 46 nominations. Trainer **Brad Cox** won last year's race with **Godolphin's Adventuring** and nominated 13 fillies to this year's event including **Shortleaf Stable's** \$125,000 Cincinnati Trophy winner **Bubble Rock**.

Another featured event on the day is the 1 1/8-mile Kentucky Cup Classic for older horses. The 42 nominees included **Rob Comestro** and **Jeff Ganje's** locally-based \$100,000 Dust Commander winner **Beat Box**. Trained by **Bill Morey**, Beat Box is undefeated at Turfway through three starts including his much the best 2 ¾-length victory in the Dust Commander.

Turfway Park's closing day 12-race spectacular will be drawn Wednesday, March 30. Fans can watch and wager on Turfway Park at www.TwinSpires.com, the official wagering provider of the Kentucky Derby and Churchill Downs Incorporated.

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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