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BREEDERS' CUP WINNER TWILIGHT GLEAMING (IRE) PREVAILS IN MAMZELLE

LOUISVILLE, KY. (Saturday, May 14, 2022) – Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf Sprint (Grade II) winner **Twilight Gleaming (IRE)** stumbled leaving the gate but quickly recovered and scored a front-running head victory over **Devine Charger** at odds of 1-5 in Saturday night's third running of the \$114,500 Mamzelle Overnight Stakes for 3-year-old fillies, the featured event on an 11-race Downs After Dark card before 14,627 fans at Churchill Downs.

Ridden by **Tyler Gaffalione** and trained by **Wesley Ward, Stonestreet Stables'** Twilight Gleaming (IRE) clocked five furlongs on firm turf in :58.22.

Breaking from post position No. 5 in the field of 11, Twilight Gleaming (IRE) went to her knees when the gates opened but only lost a length to her rivals and rapidly went to the front – her customary running style. Racing from the two-path into the turn, she clocked the first quarter mile in :22.35 had a one length advantage over **Artos (IRE)**, who was chasing just off Twilight Gleaming (IRE)'s right hip. She opened up a 1 ½-length advantage at the top of the stretch and then, after a half-mile in :45.88, desperately held off a rallying Devine Charger and Artos (IRE), who were separated for the place by a scant nose.

Twilight Gleaming (IRE) paid \$2.60, \$2.40 and \$2.20. Devine Charger, at odds of 31-1 under **Brian Hernandez Jr.**, returned \$13.20 and \$7.60. Artos (IRE), with **Julien Leparoux** up at 12-1, paid \$4.40.

Majestic d'Oro, Boxing Day, Sunday Grace, Tizplenty, Margie's Kitchen, Trobairitz, 5-1 second choice **Mystic Eyes** and **Street Tapper** completed the order of finish. **Royal County** was scratched.

The victory was worth \$55,366 and increased Twilight Gleaming (IRE)'s earnings to \$721,867 with a record of 7-4-3-0.

The Mamzelle was her second start of the year. She made her 3-year-old debut last month in the \$200,000 Palisades at Keeneland where she was narrowly defeated as the 4-5 favorite by **Slipstream**. As a 2-year-old she placed in the Group 2 Queen Mary at Royal Ascot before winning the Prix de la Vallee d'Auge at Deauville and \$1 million Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf Sprint (GII) against males at Del Mar.

"We'll talk things over but I'd say sending her back to Royal Ascot would be a logical next step," Ward said.

Twilight Gleaming (IRE) is a daughter of **National Defense (GB)** out of the **Dansili (GB)** mare **Thames Pageant (GB)** and was bred in Ireland by **Pier House Stud**.

MAMZELLE QUOTES

Tyler Gaffalione (jockey, Twilight Gleaming, winner) – “We got away just a step slow. She got to the front pretty easily after that and I had to ask her a bit mid-stretch but she responded well. I worked her the other week and she got over the course well so I had confidence she’d run well tonight.”

Wesley Ward (trainer, Twilight Gleaming, winner) – “Tyler (Gaffalione) said she stumbled a little bit going out of the gate but she was able to establish things on the front end. The Palisades was her first race without blinkers but I thought she was able to relax better without them. We’ll talk things over but I’d say sending her back to Royal Ascot would be a logical next step.”

ABOUT CHURCHILL DOWNS RACETRACK

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