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## **MAHOMES TO COMMAND ‘RIDERS UP’ FOR KENTUCKY DERBY 149**

**LOUISVILLE, Ky. (Wednesday, May 3, 2023)** – Star quarterback Patrick Mahomes, the two-time NFL and Super Bowl MVP for the Kansas City Chiefs, has been granted the special honor of commanding the jockeys to mount their horses as the announcer for this year’s Riders Up for Kentucky Derby 149 at Churchill Downs on Saturday.

Hosted at the Derby by the Barnstable Brown team, Mahomes will make the official call in the paddock on NBC just before the Kentucky Derby race, which has a post time of 6:57 p.m. (all times Eastern).

Ahead of Derby Day, Louisville native and seven-time Paralympian gold medalist Oksana Masters will be giving the Riders Up command for Friday’s Longines Kentucky Oaks, which is scheduled for 5:51 p.m.

“Riders Up!” is the traditional command from the Paddock Judge for jockeys to mount their horses in advance of the upcoming race. But since 2012, Churchill Downs has reserved that special honor for a dignitary or celebrity attendee when it comes to the Kentucky Derby.

Other celebrities who have had Riders Up honors include John Calipari (2012), Charlie Strong (2013), Julius Irving (2014), Teddy Bridgewater (2015), Sean Peyton (2016), Jeff Bridges (2017), Laila Ali (2018), Baker Mayfield (2019), D. Wayne Lukas (2021) and Jack Harlow (2022).

### **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 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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