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## KENTUCKY DERBY WINNER MYSTIK DAN CONFIRMED FOR PREAKNESS

**LOUISVILLE, Ky. (Saturday, May 11, 2024)** – Kentucky Derby 150 winner **Mystik Dan** continued his training Saturday morning at Churchill Downs with a 1 ½-mile gallop under rider **Robby Albarado** as he prepared for a start in the second jewel of racing's Triple Crown, the \$2 million Preakness Stakes (GI).

Under the watchful eye of trainer **Kenny McPeek** and **Sonny**, his trusty Yellow Lab sidekick, Mystik Dan trained at 7:30 a.m. during the period reserved for horses recording published workouts or the Kentucky Derby winner.

McPeek confirmed late Saturday morning that Mystik Dan will run in the Preakness and ship to Pimlico on Sunday morning. **Brian Hernandez Jr.** has the return-call.

“Kenny (McPeek) told me to get my travel plans ready for the Preakness so we can work the magic again like we did a couple years ago with **Swiss Skydiver**,” Albarado said. “I’ve galloped Mystik Dan most of his career. I was based this winter for Kenny in Arkansas and Mystik Dan was there for the early part of the winter but went to Fair Grounds when the weather started to get a little colder. I was actually aboard his workmate in one of his first works and I joked with Kenny that I wanted to ride (Mystik Dan) after that work. He just did everything the right way early on in his career. It’s certainly panned out that way now.”

Three other local horses are possible to enter the Preakness Stakes: Kentucky Derby fourth-place finisher **Catching Freedom** and trainer **Wayne Lukas**’ duo of **Just Steel** and **Seize the Grey**.

Entries for the Preakness are Monday.

**EUROPEAN INVADER BOLD ACT HEADLINS \$250,000 LOUISVILLE STAKES** – **Godolphin**’s multiple graded stakes winner **Bold Act (IRE)**, a talented European invader from top trainer **Charlie Appleby**, headlines a field of 11 turf marathoners entered in Saturday’s 87<sup>th</sup> running of the \$250,000 Louisville Stakes (Grade III) at Churchill Downs.

Run at 1 ½ miles on the Matt Winn Turf Course, the Louisville Stakes is the featured seventh race on the 11-race “Downs After Dark” program at 9:05 p.m. (all times Eastern). The first race begins at 6 p.m. and fans are invited to enjoy a simulcast of the Preakness Stakes (GI) on the Big Board and television monitors throughout the facility following the third race at approximately 7:01 p.m.

Prior to the Louisville, Bold Act has competed in North America twice in his 14-race career, winning the Sycamore Stakes (GIII) in October at Keeneland then returning to the Bluegrass State for a third-place effort in the Elkhorn (GII) in late April. A 4-year-old gelded son of New Approach, Bold Act achieved his most notable victory nine weeks ago when he easily defeated eight rivals in the Dubai City of Gold (GII) at Meydan Racecourse. Jockey **Florent Geroux**, who won the 2021 Louisville Stakes aboard **Arklow**, will have the call in Saturday’s race from post No. 8.

Another accomplished turf marathoner that entered in the Louisville is **Nice Guys Stables**’ Mac Diarmida Stakes (GII) winner **Starting Over**, one of four horses in the race for trainer **Mike Maker**’s barn. A 7-year-old son of Liam’s Map, Starting Over pulled a narrow 11-1 upset victory in the Mac Diarmida two months ago at Gulfstream Park. Starting Over is set to join stablemates **Guntown**, **Quadra Island** and **Sugoi** in the starting gate for the Louisville.

Here is the complete field for the Louisville Stakes from the rail out (with jockey and trainer) Starting Over (Ricardo Santana Jr., Maker); **King Curlin** (Joe Rocco Jr., Brittany Vanden Berg); **Avenue** (Luan Machado, Michael McCarthy); Guntown (Jareth Loveberry, Maker); Quadra Island (Rey Gutierrez, Maker); **Reckoning Force** (Cristian Torres, Brendan Walsh); Sugoi (Julien Leparoux, Maker); Bold Act (Geroux, Appleby); **The Grey Wizard (IRE)** (James Graham, Graham Motion); **Utah Beach** (Jose Ortiz, Ignacio Correas IV); and **Strong Tide** (Manny Esquivel, Mike Lauer).

The theme for Saturday’s Downs After Dark is “Golf & Social.” In honor of the PGA Championship being held at Valhalla Golf Club this week, fans are invited to wear “golf-chic” inspired dress while enjoying golf simulators, putting greens, a hole-in-one contest and a best dressed contest.

Tickets and more information are available on [www.churchilldowns.com](http://www.churchilldowns.com).

**DOWN THE STRETCH** – Racing resumed at Churchill Downs on Saturday with an 11-race program and first post of 12:45 p.m. There was a \$5,647 carryover in the \$1 Super Hi-5. ... Local riders **Tyler Gaffalione**, **Brian Hernandez Jr.** and **Luis Saez** are all scheduled to ride at Pimlico on Saturday for the Preakness Stakes program. ... For more information about the Churchill Downs Spring Meet, visit [www.churchilldowns.com](http://www.churchilldowns.com).

#### **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 and Race and Sports Book. [www.ChurchillDowns.com](http://www.ChurchillDowns.com).

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