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## **DELAHAYE DRIVES HOME TO WIN GRADE III, \$249,668 OLD FORESTER MINT JULEP**

**LOUISVILLE, Ky. (Sunday, June 2, 2024)** – Delahaye, owned by **William H. Lawrence and Three Chimneys Farm**, relaxed early and finished late with a powerful closing kick to score a 1 ¾-length victory over **Heavenly Sunday** in Sunday's 48<sup>th</sup> running of the \$249,668 Old Forester Mint Julep Stakes (Grade III) at Churchill Downs.

Delahaye, trained by **Chad Brown** and ridden by **Tyler Gaffalione**, ran 1 1/16 miles on “yielding” turf in 1:45.46.

This was the first graded stakes win for Delahaye, who previously finished third in the \$750,000 Longines Churchill Distaff Turf Mile (GII) behind **Chili Flag (FR)** and **Coppice (GB)** on the Kentucky Derby undercard.

**Safeen** led the field of eight fillies and mares throughout the early stages of the race through quarter-mile splits of :24.47, :49.70 and 1:14.16 as Heavenly Sunday tracked and Delahaye relaxed in sixth position. Midway around the final turn, Delahaye commenced her closing kick with a four-wide move. She entered the upper stretch widest of all, drove down the lane and caught Heavenly Sunday and Safeen just before the final sixteenth-of-a-mile marker for the comfortable win.

“All credit goes to Chad and his team,” Gaffalione said. “His team did a great job of getting her ready for this start. Today was her second race this year at Churchill and I could tell I had a lot of horse beneath me. She was traveling very well throughout the entire race and turning for home she had a really nice kick. She’s been impressive in her prior races being able to show a lot of different dimensions in her running styles. I just try to stay out of her way the best I can.”

Delahaye returned \$4.36, \$3.60 and \$2.58 as the even-money favorite. Heavenly Sunday, under **Florent Geroux** at odds of 3-1, paid \$3.88 and \$3.10. Safeen, with **Luis Saez** up at 18-1, was another half-length back in third and paid \$6.16 to show.

It was another 1 ¼ lengths back to **Be My Sunshine** in fourth, who was followed by **Misread, Fuente Ovejuna (GB), Excellent Question** and **Immensitude (FR)**. **X Guanare** and **Devilsgotacause** were scratched.

The \$150,315 first prize jumped Delahaye’s earnings to \$416,715 with a record of 4-1-1 in six starts.

Delahaye is a 4-year-old daughter of Medaglia d’Oro out of the War Front mare Bella Carina and was bred in Kentucky by Three Chimneys Farms LLC.

### **OLD FORESTER MINT JULEP QUOTES**

**Tyler Gaffalione (jockey, Delahaye, winner):** “All credit goes to (trainer) Chad (Brown) and his team. His team did a great job of getting her ready for this start. Today was her second race this year at Churchill and I could tell I had a lot of horse beneath me. She was traveling very well throughout the entire race and turning for home she had a really nice kick. She’s been impressive in her prior races being able to show a lot of different dimensions in her running styles. I just try to stay out of her way the best I can.”

**Brad Cox (trainer, Heavenly Sunday, runner-up):** “She sat a really good trip and tried to go on with the winner but just ended up being second best today. She ran a good race.”

### **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 the med 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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