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Contact: Kevin Kerstein
Kentucky Racing Communications
Churchill Downs, Ellis Park, Turfway Park
(610) 420-6971 (mobile)
(502) 635-4712 (office)
Kevin.Kerstein@KyDerby.com

JOSE ORTIZ WINS 3,000TH CAREER RACE IN U.S. ABOARD SAVE THE TREES

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (Sunday, June 9, 2024) – Jockey **Jose Ortiz** notched his 3,000th-career victory Sunday at Churchill Downs aboard **Skychai Racing, Paradise Farms Corp., David Staudacher** and **Hot Pink Stable's Save the Trees** in Race 3.

Ortiz, who recently moved his tack to Kentucky, has perennially been one of the top jockeys in North America having recorded wins in the 2022 Preakness Stakes (GI) aboard **Early Voting** and 2017 Belmont Stakes (GI) aboard **Tapwrit** to go along with five Breeders' Cup victories.

"I'd say the top wins that come to mind throughout my career have been in the Triple Crown races – those have been pretty special," Ortiz said. "It's hard to narrow it down. I've ridden so many talented horses for so many great people. It is such a great accomplishment to win this many races."

Ortiz, 30, is a native of Puerto Rico and comes from a horse racing-centric family. His brother, **Irad**, is also among the leading riders in North America.

Ortiz began his career as a jockey in his native country but relocated to the U.S. in 2012 where he began riding in New York. Five years later, Ortiz was awarded with the Eclipse Award for Outstanding Jockey. Recently, Ortiz moved to Kentucky with his wife, retired jockey **Taylor Rice Ortiz**, and their three young children **Leilani, Derek** and **Nikolai**.

"Winning races here in Kentucky or New York is great but we chose to move circuits this year to raise our children in a more rural setting," Ortiz said. "I talked to my agent (**Steve Rushing**) and he thought my business would continue to do well in Kentucky and we made the move this year. It's been great to be here at Churchill Downs."

According to Equibase, Ortiz is listed with 3,000 wins in North America but, due to incomplete records in Puerto Rico, any victories he recorded there are not included in the total.

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.

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