



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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

SPRING LEADING JOCKEY GOES DOWN TO WIRE BETWEEN GAFFALIONE, ORTIZ; ASMUSSEN, JUDDMONTE DOMINATE LEADING TRAINER, OWNER

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (Sunday, June 30, 2024) – The 2024 Churchill Downs Spring Meet leading jockey race will come down to the wire Sunday with 11-time champion **Tyler Gaffalione** holding a 44-43 win advantage over **Jose Ortiz**, who is competing fulltime in Kentucky for the first time.

Gaffalione was scheduled to ride in nine of 11 races while Ortiz had mounts in 10 races.

Luis Saez, who had 32 wins following Day 42 of the 43-day meeting, was in third place followed by **Florent Geroux** (22), **Cristian Torres** (21) and Kentucky Derby 150-winning jockey **Brian Hernandez Jr.** (20).

While the race for leading rider was in a fierce battle, Hall of Fame trainer **Steve Asmussen** along with powerhouse owner **Juddmonte** locked up their respective titles prior to the start of Sunday's card.

Asmussen's title was his record-extending 28th beneath the historic Twin Spires. Prior to his 10 runners on Sunday, his barn tallied a solid 32 wins from 173 starts. Asmussen's barn is represented locally by assistants **Scott Blasi** and **Sarah Campion**.

Brad Cox and **Mike Maker** were tied for second, 12 wins behind Asmussen with 20. They were followed by **Tom Amoss**, **Greg Foley** and **Joe Sharp** who each had 11 victories.

Juddmonte's 10 wins from 17 starts led all owners. Among the highlights of Juddmonte's meet were victories by **Idiomatic** in the Fasig-Tipton La Troienne (GI) and **Scylla** in the Fasig-Tipton Fleur de Lis (GII). This was Juddmonte's third local title after being leading owner at the 2021 and 2023 Spring Meets.

Godolphin and **Three Diamonds Farm** were tied for second with six wins apiece.

Following Sunday's closing day, racing in the Bluegrass State will move to Ellis Park Racing & Gaming for their 25-day stand. Opening Day at Ellis Park is Thursday at 12:50 p.m. ET.

Racing will resume beneath the Twin Spires on Thursday, Sept. 12 for the 14-day September Meet. For more information, visit www.churchilldowns.com.

MASSIVE POOL EXPECTED FOR MANDATORY PAYOUT OF DERBY CITY 6 ON CLOSING DAY – Bettors have a lucrative \$357,208 carryover in the Derby City 6 to chase Sunday at Churchill Downs for the 11-race closing day program.

There is a mandatory payout in Sunday's 20-cent Derby City 6, which covers Races 6-11 starting at approximately 3:18 p.m. (all times Eastern) because it's closing day of the Spring Meet.

The jackpot was \$357,207.76 at the conclusion of Saturday's action.

All monies will be distributed Sunday to ticket holders with the most winners in the six-race series. Track officials estimate the force-out of Sunday's total Derby City 6 pool to easily eclipse \$1 million with new money.

Takeout on the Derby City 6 is just 15% – one of the lowest multi-race wager takeout rates in American racing – and only costs 20 cents per combination.

Sunday's closing day sequence features 63 entered horses for an average of 10.5 entries per race:

- Race 6 (3:18 p.m.): \$175,000 Maxfield Overnight Stakes (Listed), 3yo, 7 F (seven entries)
- Race 7 (3:51 p.m.): \$127,000 OC 100000n1x, 3yo, 1 1/8 M (11 entries)
- Race 8 (4:23 p.m.): \$175,000 Anchorage Overnight Stakes, f&m, 1 1/8 M (I) (nine entries)
- Race 9 (4:55 p.m.): \$225,000 Bashford Manor (Listed), 2yo, 6 F (13 entries)
- Race 10 (5:27 p.m.): \$300,000 Hanshin (Listed), 4&cup, 1 M (11 entries)
- Race 11 (5:58 p.m.): Mdn 120k, 3&cup, 1 M (I) (16 entries, 12 can run)

Past performances are available at www.Brisnet.com. Fans can wager on the Derby City 6 on track at Churchill Downs; www.TwinSpires.com, the track's official online wagering platform; other online wagering outlets; and select satellite betting centers throughout North America.

Churchill Downs' admission gates will open at 11:30 a.m. The first of 11 races is 12:45 p.m. and the finale is scheduled for 5:58 p.m.

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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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