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RIVELLI REMAINS CONFIDENT IN TWO PHIL'S FOR SATURDAY'S GRADE III, \$700,000 JEFF RUBY STEAKS

FLORENCE, Ky. (Wednesday, March 22, 2023) – **Patricia's Hope** and **Phillip Sagan's Two Phil's** has been on the Road to the Kentucky Derby since October and now the talented 3-year-old colt will attempt to etch his name in the "Run for the Roses" starting gate in Saturday's \$700,000 Jeff Ruby Steaks (Grade III) at Turfway Park Racing & Gaming.

Trained by **Larry Rivelli**, Two Phil's workman-like all-dirt resume includes a victory in the Street Sense Stakes (GIII) at Churchill Downs, a runner-up finish to **Instant Coffee** in the Lecomte Stakes (GIII) and third-place finish to **Angel of Empire** and **Sun Thunder** in the Risen Star (GII) at Fair Grounds. The Jeff Ruby Steaks will be Two Phil's first race on a Tapeta surface.

"At one point the horse did a two-minute lick for me one time over a synthetic surface and it was almost an eye-opening move," Rivelli said. "I've been trying to think of the easiest spot for the money and I think this will be the spot. If he absolutely hates the surface, that's on me. I'm sort of putting myself out there saying that I think he will run well over it. Working a half-mile or five-eighths is a lot different than running a race. That's when you find out if a horse doesn't like a surface. I'm pretty confident he will like it but like anything else in racing there could be a chance he doesn't like it. I didn't think he'd like the mud at Churchill (in the Street Sense) until he did."

Two Phil's already has 23 points on the Road to the Kentucky Derby and Rivelli is confident the son of Hard Spun belongs with the top 3-year-olds.

"He definitely belongs with the top horses in this crop," Rivelli said. "Is he capable of taking this next step? Who knows? There are going to be horses that start falling off but as long as no horses like **Justify** or **American Pharoah** come out of the woodwork, it could be a Derby this year that you could throw a dart."

Another constant on Two Phil's resume is his jockey **Jareth Loveberry**. In the last six starts, Loveberry has been in the saddle. However, Loveberry nearly had to miss the Jeff Ruby Steaks when he suffered a hairline fracture in his fibula during a gate mishap on March 2 at Fair Grounds. Luckily, Loveberry was able to return to action two weeks later.

"Jareth is our guy," Rivelli said. "He's a tough kid anyway but he might have been like the actor in the movie Seabiscuit when he tied the stick to his leg to make sure he was able to ride. After that happened, I was instantly scrambling for a jockey. I had a bunch that were dying to ride the horse but it's really good Jareth is able to ride."

Two Phil's will break from post No. 10 in the Jeff Ruby Steaks and was tabbed as the 7-2 second choice on the morning line odds behind **Major Dude** (2-1).

"I'm just looking for him to get an uneventful trip if that's at all possible. He's not a speed horse, which is good because they typically don't do as well over the synthetic surface. If he can sit behind a horse or two and make his move around the turn with the shorter stretch, that's what I'd like to see."

The Jeff Ruby Steaks, a Road to the Kentucky Derby Championship Series qualifier, will go as Race 12 of 13 with a post time of 6:25 p.m. (all times Eastern) First post for the stellar program will be 12:45 p.m. Along with the Jeff Ruby Steaks, stakes-laden card will also feature the 41st running of the \$300,000 Bourbonette Oaks; the 23rd running of the \$300,000 TwinSpires Kentucky Cup Classic (Listed); the 37th running of the \$250,000 Animal Kingdom Stakes; the 41st running of the \$250,000 Latonia Stakes; and the 36th running of the \$250,000 Rushaway.

The Jeff Ruby Steaks will offer the top 5 finishers points on a 100-40-30-20-10 scale towards a spot in the starting gate for the \$3 million Kentucky Derby presented by Woodford Reserve (GI).

Here is the complete field for the Jeff Ruby Steaks in order of post position (with jockey, trainer and morning line odds):

1. Major Dude (Irad Ortiz Jr., Todd Pletcher, 2-1)
2. **Scoobie Quando** (Luan Machado, Ben Colebrook, 15-1)
3. **Event Detail** (Walter Rodriguez, Paulo Lobo, 20-1)
4. **Funtastic Again** (Gerardo Corrales, Wesley Ward, 6-1)
5. **Maker's Candy** (Umberto Rispoli, Mike Maker, 12-1)
6. **Baby Billy** (Joe Talamo, Jack Siston, 30-1)
7. **Bluebirds Over** (Edgard Zayas, Saffie Joseph Jr., 12-1)
8. **Congruent** (Sonny Leon, Antonio Sano, 5-1)
9. **Escapologist** (Alex Achard, Kenny McPeck, 30-1)
10. Two Phil's (Loveberry, Rivelli, 7-2)
11. **Wadsworth** (Chris Landeros, Brad Cox, 8-1)
12. **Point Proven** (John Velazquez, Pletcher, 15-1)

BOTANICAL TABBED AS 2-1 FAVORITE IN BOURBONETTE OAKS – LNJ Foxwoods and Clearsky Farms' Botanical, the dazzling 6 ½-length winner of the \$150,000 Cincinnati Trophy Stakes, was made the 2-1 favorite against a field of 11 3-year-old fillies that entered Saturday's \$300,000 Bourbonette Oaks (Listed) at Turfway Park Racing & Gaming.

Trained by **Brad Cox**, Botanical is set to return to action three weeks from her triumph in the Cincinnati Trophy Stakes. The talented daughter of Medaglia d'Oro will be ridden by **Chris Landeros** from Post No. 5.

"It was an interesting race shape in the Cincinnati Trophy where we had a runoff leader (**BG Warrior**). She's shown the ability to relax off the pace in her previous starts so I wasn't too worried," Landeros said. "(BG Warrior) started coming back to us around the turn and I just let Botanical do her thing. She was able to easily draw off but I wanted to make sure not to do too much. She's shown so much talent this meet at Turfway and I'm really looking forward to riding her again on Saturday."

Botanical is undefeated in three starts over the Turfway Park Tapeta surface. She broke her maiden by 10 ¾ lengths on Nov. 30 at Turfway and followed up that scintillating score with a convincing 4 ½-length allowance victory.

The 1 1/16-mile Bourbonette Oaks will go as the 11th race on the stakes-laden 13-race program. First post is 12:45 p.m. and the Bourbonette Oaks has a scheduled post time of 5:43 p.m. The Bourbonette Oaks is one of six stakes events on the Jeff Ruby Steaks Day card from Turfway Park. The other stakes contests are the 52nd running of the \$700,000 Jeff Ruby Steaks (GIII), the 23rd running of the \$300,000 TwinSpires Kentucky Cup Classic (Listed); the 37th running of the \$250,000 Animal Kingdom Stakes; the 41st running of the \$250,000 Latonia Stakes; and the 36th running of the \$250,000 Rushaway.

Here is the complete field for the Bourbonette Oaks from the rail out (with jockey, trainer and morning line odds):

1. **Renegade Rebel** (Rafel Hernandez, Mark Casse, 6-1)
2. **Bolivie (IRE)** (Irad Ortiz Jr., Brendan Walsh, 5-1)
3. **Olympic Prank** (Edgard Zayas, Saffie Joseph Jr., 20-1)
4. **Thirty Thou Kelvin** (Kazushi Kimura, John Terranova, 20-1)
5. Botanical (Landeros, Cox, 2-1)
6. **Always At Ease** (Kent Desormeaux, Keith Desormeaux, 30-1)
7. **Miss New York** (Jose Morelos, Jorge Delgado, 15-1)
8. **Flashy Gem** (John Velazquez, Cox, 4-1)
9. **Shewillghostu** (Sonny Leon, Eric Reed, 30-1)
10. **Medaglia Forever** (Fernando De La Cruz, Rusty Arnold, 30-1)
11. **Ag Bullet** (Umberto Rispoli, George Papaprodromou, 7-2)

FANTASTIC WAGERING OPPORTUNITES AWAIT ON JEFF RUBY STEAKS DAY – Racing fans will be able to feast on stakes and lucrative wagers on Saturday’s Jeff Ruby Steaks Day at Turfway Park as the wagering menu will feature 13 races, six stakes contests, three Pick 5s and four Pick 4s.

The spectacular program at Turfway Park will feature a total of six stakes events headlined by the \$700,000 Jeff Ruby Steaks (Grade III), a Championship Series event on the Road to the Kentucky Derby. The card will also feature the 41st running of the \$300,000 Bourbonette Oaks; the 23rd running of the \$300,000 TwinSpires Kentucky Cup Classic (Listed); the 37th running of the \$250,000 Animal Kingdom Stakes; the 41st running of the \$250,000 Latonia Stakes; and the 36th running of the \$250,000 Rushaway.

Entries for Jeff Ruby Steaks Day were drawn Tuesday with the wagering menu features an all-stakes sequence for the 20-cent Single 6 (Races 7-12), late Pick 5 (Races 8-12) and late Pick 4 (Races 9-12). There will be an additional early Pick 5 (Races 1-5) and middle Pick 5 (Races 4-8), as well as an early Pick 4 (Races 2-5), middle Pick 4 (Races 5-8) and the “get out” Pick 4 (Races 10-13).

Aside from the robust wagering menu at Turfway Park, fans can bet on the special **Bayou Bluegrass 5** – a two-track, 50-cent Pick 5 featuring all stakes races from Fair Grounds and Turfway Park.

The sequence will begin at Fair Grounds in Race 9 for the \$500,000 New Orleans Classic presented by Relyne GI by Hagyard (GII) at 5:04 p.m. (all times Eastern). The second leg will switch to Turfway Park for the \$300,000 Bourbonette Oaks with a scheduled post time of 5:43 p.m. Then, the third leg will go back to Fair Grounds and feature the \$400,000 Fair Grounds Oaks presented by Fasig-Tipton (GII) at 6:12 p.m. The Jeff Ruby Steaks will be the penultimate leg of the bet at 6:25 p.m. and it will close at Fair Grounds for the Louisiana Derby at 6:46 p.m. Fair Grounds Louisiana Derby Day card was drawn Saturday and the fields at Turfway for the Bourbonette Oaks and Jeff Ruby Steaks will be drawn Tuesday

The Jeff Ruby Steaks was carded as Race 12 with a post time of 6:25 p.m. First post is 12:45 p.m.

Here is the complete wagering menu for Jeff Ruby Steaks Day:

Race 1		WPS, EX, Tri, SPR, DD, P3, P5
Race 2		WPS, EX, Tri, SPR, DD, P3, P4
Race 3		WPS, EX, Tri, SPR, DD, P3
Race 4		WPS, EX, Tri, SPR, DD, P3, P5
Race 5		WPS, EX, Tri, SPR, DD, P3, P4
Race 6		WPS, EX, Tri, SPR, DD, P3
Race 7	\$250,000 Animal Kingdom Stakes	WPS, EX, Tri, SPR, DD, P3, P6
Race 8	\$250,000 Rushaway Stakes	WPS, EX, Tri, SPR, DD, P3, P5
Race 9	\$250,000 Latonia Stakes	WPS, EX, Tri, SPR, DD, P3, P4
Race 10	\$300,000 TwinSpires Kentucky Cup Classic (Listed)	WPS, EX, Tri, SPR, DD, P3, P4
Race 11	\$300,000 Bourbonette Oaks (Listed)	WPS, EX, Tri, SPR, SH5, DD, P3
Race 12	\$700,000 Jeff Ruby Steaks (GIII)	WPS, EX, Tri, SPR, SH5, DD
Race 13		WPS, EX, Tri, SPR, SH5

A limited number of dining options remain available and General Admission tickets are \$25. For more information about Jeff Ruby Steaks Day and to purchase tickets, visit www.TurfwayPark.com

DOWN THE STRETCH – Multiple Grade I winner **Santin** was made the 3-1 morning line choice in Saturday’s \$300,000 TwinSpires.com Kentucky Cup Classic (Listed). The talented field of older colts and geldings also includes last year’s winner **King Cause** (7-2). ... **Juddmonte**’s local allowance winner **Idiomantic** was slated as the slight 3-1 favorite in a field of 11 filly and mare sprinters entered in Saturday’s \$250,000 Latonia Stakes ... Trainer **Todd Pletcher**’s South Florida-shipper **Santorini** was tabbed as the 3-1 favorite in Saturday’s \$250,000 Rushaway Stakes. ... The stakes action will kick off Saturday in the \$250,000 Animal Kingdom Stakes which is headlined by gutsy maiden winner **Eye Witness** (2-1). ... For more information about Saturday’s Jeff Ruby Steaks Day at Turfway Park visit www.Turfway.com.

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