

# News Release



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## **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](mailto:Kevin.Kerstein@KyDerby.com)

## **TURFWAY PARK CONCLUDES WINTER/SPRING MEET WITH 62% INCREASE IN ALL-SOURCES HANDLE**

**FLORENCE, Ky. (Monday, April 3, 2023)** – Turfway Park Racing & Gaming’s memorable 48-day Winter/Spring Meet concluded Saturday with a massive 62% gain in all-sources handle and 43% increase in purse money awarded.

In total, more than \$145 million was wagered at the Winter/Spring Meet, nearly \$56 million more than 2022. Along with the sizable handle increase, the connections who raced at Turfway Park were handsomely rewarded with more than \$19 million in prize money, an increase of more than \$5.5 million (includes funds from the Kentucky Thoroughbred Development Fund). Turfway Park ran nine additional days than 2022 and had an increase of more than 900 starters.

“The racing season at Turfway Park Racing & Gaming was a huge success across the board,” Turfway Park President **Michael Taylor** said. “Our team at Turfway Park delivered a competitive racing product while welcoming back fans to our newly renovated facility.”

Turfway Park’s meet was highlighted by another extraordinary Jeff Ruby Steaks Day and a tremendous performance by **Patricia’s Hope** and **Phil Sagan’s Two Phil’s** in the \$700,000 Jeff Ruby Steaks (GIII). The Jeff Ruby Steaks once again served as a Road to the Kentucky Derby Championship Series event and Two Phil’s is targeting his next start in the May 6, \$3 million Kentucky Derby presented by Woodford Reserve (GI) at Churchill Downs.

Five-pound apprentice jockey **Walter Rodriguez** led the standings with 48 victories from 250 starts. Rodriguez’s outstanding meet was highlighted by victories in the \$125,000 Dust Commander Stakes and \$125,000 Wishing Well Stakes.

In the trainer standings, **Wesley Ward** topped all conditioners with 22 wins, seven more than **Paulo Lobo** and **Bill Morey**. Among Ward’s 22 victories were from his trainees **Eye Witness** in the \$250,000 Animal Kingdom Stakes, **Sunday Shoes** in the \$125,000 Serena’s Song Stakes and **Funtastic Again** in the \$125,000 Leonatus Stakes.

Ward also tied for the leading owner with six wins. However, his client, **Roy Jackson’s Lael Stables**, broke the tie for the champion owner with the highest earnings of \$341,365. **Kirk Wycoff’s Three Diamonds Farm** also tabbed six victories at the Winter/Spring Meet.

Bettors enjoyed massive payouts throughout the meet with the average 50-cent Pick 5 returning more than \$10,000 and the average Single 6 Jackpot payout returning more than \$19,000. The average win payout was a stout \$14.85.

“We’re so thankful for all of our owners, trainers, jockeys and horseplayers for their continued support of our racing season,” Turfway Park General Manager **Chip Bach** said. “Thanks to Churchill Downs Incorporated’s continued investments in Turfway Park’s facility and racing product, we can confidently look forward to a thriving future of horse racing in Florence.”

Horses will remain stabled at Turfway Park throughout the spring and summer. Racing is set to resume on Wednesday, November 29.

For more information about racing and gaming from Turfway Park, visit [www.Turfway.com](http://www.Turfway.com).

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