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WOLFIE'S DYNAGHOST GOES GATE-TO-WIRE IN \$125,000 PRAIRIE BAYOU STAKES

FLORENCE, Ky. (Saturday, Dec. 16, 2023) – Woodslane Farm's well-traveled Grade II winner **Wolfie's Dynaghost** returned to Turfway Park Saturday night and held off a late bid of **Cellist** to win the 28th running of the \$125,000 Prairie Bayou Stakes.

Wolfie's Dynaghost, who triumphed earlier this year in the TwinSpires Kentucky Cup Classic, completed 1 1/16 miles in 1:43.51 under jockey **Tyler Connor** for trainer **Jonathan Thomas**.

The speedy Wolfie's Dynaghost had no early pace pressure as the field broke from the starting gate. Connor was able to rate Wolfie's Dynaghost through composed early quarter-mile fractions of :24.17 and :47.27. Around the far turn, Wolfie's Dynaghost extended his lead to two lengths while clipping through six furlongs in 1:10.87. However, in the stretch, Wolfie's Dynaghost began to get leg weary and had to hold off the big, late strides of Cellist. Wolfie's Dynaghost was able to dig down deep and held off his rival by a final margin of a head.

Wolfie's Dynaghost was well-backed in the wagering and closed as the heavy 4-5 favorite. He returned \$2 mutuels of \$3.98, \$2.98 and \$2.58. Cellest, under **Martin Garcia**, paid \$7.14 and \$3.76. It was another 4 ¼ lengths back to **Hush of a Storm** in third who returned \$3.56.

Like the King, who won the 2021 Jeff Ruby Steaks (GIII), completed the superfecta and was followed in order by **Kitodan**, **Tiz the Bomb**, **Leave It to Kitten** and **Ocean Atlantique**.

Wolfie's Dynaghost banked \$74,814 for his victory in the Prairie Bayou to improve his overall earnings to a stout \$923,719. His impressive career record stands at 25-10-2-5.

Wolfie's Dynaghost is a 5-year-old gelded son of Ghostzapper out of the Dynaformer mare Dynaire. He was bred in Kentucky by his owner.

Thomas reported Saturday morning on the Horse Racing Radio Network that Wolfie's Dynaghost would likely receive some time off before his 6-year-old campaign and could defend his title in the Kentucky Cup Classic.

Next year's Prairie Bayou Stakes was one of four local stakes contests that were upgraded from the American Graded Stakes Committee. The race will now be a Listed event along with the Big Daddy and Latonia Stakes. The Kentucky Cup Classic also received an upgrade from a Listed race to a Grade III.

RECENT ALLOWANCE WINNER JULIAS DREAM TOPS FIELD OF 12 2-YEAR-OLD FILLIES IN \$125,000 GOWELL STAKES – Talla Racing's **Julias Dream**, a gutsy allowance winner last month at Del Mar, tops a field of 12 2-year-old fillies that entered Saturday's 30th running of the \$125,000 Gowell Stakes at Turfway Park Racing & Gaming.

The six-furlong Gowell Stakes was carded as Race 6 of nine with a post time of 8:25 p.m. (all times Eastern). First post is 5:55 p.m.

Julias Dream made her cross-country journey two weeks ago to trainer **Michael McCarthy's** Kentucky base to begin her preparation for the Gowell Stakes. The 2-year-old daughter of Flameaway impressively won at first asking on Aug. 6 at Del Mar over the turf. Following a disappointing effort in the Del Mar Debutante (GI) over the dirt, McCarthy switched Julias Dream back to turf where she gamely held off **Cheeky Gal** in a first-level allowance contest. Jockey **Luan Machado** will have the mount aboard Julias Dream from post No. 3.

Another allowance winner that entered the Gowell Stakes is **GenStar Thoroughbreds' Candi Girl**. Trained by **Brad Cox**, Candi Girl recorded her second-lifetime victory just eight days ago at Turfway Park. The daughter of Twirling Candy broke her maiden at second asking in a 5 ½ furlong maiden special weight at Ellis Park. Through four starts, Candi Girl only has one race where she finished outside the Top 2 – an eighth-place finish in the Untapable Stakes at Kentucky Downs. Apprentice rider **Axel Concepcion** will have the return call from post 7.

Here is the complete field for the Gowell Stakes from the rail out (with jockey and trainer): **Baraye** (Gerardo Corrales, Wesley Ward); **Logistics** (Abel Cedillo, Mark Casse); Julias Dream (Machado, McCarthy); **Kerlo's Cause** (Erik Barbaran, Tommy Short); **Edge of Town** (Matilda Burnham, Brian Cook); **Leslie's Loot** (Ferrin Peterson, James Chapman); Candi Girl (Concepcion, Cox); **Pipit** (Tyler Connor, Kevin Attard); **Trial** (Joe Ramos, Tommy Drury Jr.); **Secret Glenda** (Summer Pauly, Aaron West); **Pinotslilgirl** (Adam Beschizza, John Ennis); **What's Crackin** (Colby Hernandez, Sarah Hamilton).

The 2023 Holiday Meet will continue through Saturday, Dec. 30 with the 2024 Winter/Spring Meet to follow four days later on Jan. 3 and run through Saturday, March 30.

For more information about racing and gaming from Turfway Park, visit www.turfway.com.

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