

News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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UNDEFEATED TRUE TEMPER SEARCHES FOR FIRST STAKES VICTORY IN \$125,000 HOLIDAY CHEER

FLORENCE, Ky. (Saturday, Dec. 23, 2023) – Jackpot Farm’s undefeated **True Temper** will be in search of his first stakes victory when he faces 10 rivals in next Saturday’s 24th running of the \$125,000 Holiday Cheer Stakes at Turfway Park Racing & Gaming.

Run at six furlongs, the Holiday Cheer will go as the featured seventh race at 8:55 p.m. (all times Eastern). First post is 5:55 p.m. Saturday will be the closing day of the Holiday Meet and will offer mandatory payouts in all wagers.

Trained by **Mark Casse**, True Temper has a perfect record from three starts with all his wins coming on the synthetic surface at Woodbine. The 3-year-old son of Maclean’s Music debuted in late April where he comfortably defeated six rivals by a widening 1 ¾ lengths in a maiden special weight contest. After nearly six months on the sidelines, True Temper returned in a first-level allowance contest and gamely defeated **City Fever** who won his next start at Laurel Park. Earlier this month, True Temper won his third start in a conditioned allowance contest while earning a solid 90 Brisnet Speed Rating. The Ontario-bred will be ridden by leading jockey **Luan Machado** out of post No. 6.

While True Temper’s record is unbeaten, he’ll face several well-seasoned horses including **Claiborne Farm** and **Adele Dilschneider’s** recent local allowance winner **Condemn**. Trained by **Tommy Drury**, Condemn was an easy victor on Dec. 2 in the 6 ½-furlong second-level allowance contest. The 4-year-old son of Medaglia d’Oro will be ridden by **Joe Ramos** from post 7.

Another last-race allowance winner in the Holiday Cheer is **OXO Equine’s** 7-year-old Indiana-bred **Fortin Hill**. Under the care of **Paulo Lobo**, Fortin Hill made a late surge to get by **O Besos** in the final strides to win an Oct. 28 allowance contest at Keeneland. The six-time winner will try the Tapeta surface for the first time in his career with jockey **Gerardo Corrales** in the saddle from post 9.

Here is the complete field for the Holiday Cheer from the rail out (with jockey and trainer): **Heaven Street** (Axel Concepcion, Mike Maker); **Dhabab (IRE)** (Tyler Conner, Ed Vaughan); **Manny Wah** (Abel Cedillo, Will Walden); **Startdfromdabottom** (Adam Beschizza, John Ennis); **My Buddy B** (Charlie Oliveros, Lobo); True Temper (Machado, Casse); Condemn (Ramos, Drury); **Let My People Go** (Martin Garcia, Vicki Oliver); Fortin Hill (Corrales, Lobo); **Night Time** (Fernando De La Cruz, Bill Morey); **Olazabal** (Walter Rodriguez, Eric Foster).

Racing at Turfway Park will continue a Wednesday-Saturday schedule through March 30. Following the close of the Holiday Meet, the Winter/Spring Meet will commence Jan. 3.

‘FINAL FLORENCE FURLONG’ – With five days of racing remaining at the Holiday Meet, jockey **Luan Machado** held an 18-13 win lead in the rider standings over **Axel Concepcion**. **Abel Cedillo** was in third with nine wins. There was a four-way tie in the trainer standings between **Brad Cox**, **Dale Romans**, **Juan Cano** and **Doug Cowans** who all had four wins. In the race for leading owner, there was a three-way tie between **Thirstyacres Racing**, **Gerald Brooks** and **Carl Hess Jr.** and **PTK** who had three victories each. ... The Single 6 Jackpot was hit Friday night on a \$108 ticket for a cool \$83,920. The jackpot will start over Saturday and will have a mandatory payout on Dec. 30.

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