

# News Release



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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## **NICE AS PIE TASTES SWEET SUCCESS IN VALDALE STAKES**

**FLORENCE, Ky. (Saturday, Feb. 10, 2024)** – Dede McGehee’s **Nice as Pie** sliced through her rivals up the backside and drew away in a hand ride under jockey **Adam Beschizza** to easily win Saturday’s 37<sup>th</sup> running of the \$125,000 Valdale Stakes by 2 ½ lengths at Turfway Park Racing & Gaming.

Trained by **Kelsey Danner**, Nice as Pie cruised 6 ½ furlongs in 1:17.57 for her third-straight victory of her young career.

After breaking well from the gate, Beschizza positioned Nice as Pie about five lengths off the early skirmish of **Indian Ink** and **Summerintahoe**, who skittered an opening quarter-mile in :22.56. Around the three-eighth’s pole, Nice as Pie began her march at the leaders, while rallying four-wide and under a hand ride. At the top of the stretch, Nice as Pie took command of the field and drew off to the wire.

**Cozee Rags**, who was last down the backside, closed to finish second at odds of 39-1. She was followed by **Vicountess**, **Indian Ink**, **Pipit**, **Ma Rae’s Girl**, **Mairead**, **Summerintahoe**, **What’s Crackin** and **Party**

Nice as Pie was well backed at the windows and returned \$3.02, \$2.58 and \$2.40. Cozee Rags, under jockey **Albin Jimenez**, paid \$16.52 and \$9.92 while Vicountess, ridden by **Gerardo Corrales**, returned \$4.12.

Nice as Pie is 3-year-old daughter of Tapiture out of McGehee’s Include mare How Nice.

The Winter/Spring Meet marches on Wednesday-Sunday at Turfway Park with daily first posts of 5:55 p.m. For more information and to make dining reservations, visit [www.turfway.com](http://www.turfway.com).

**RECENT FOREGO STAKES WINNER SURLY FURIOUS ENTERED ON SHORT REST FOR \$125,000 DUST COMMANDER STAKES** – Novogratz Racing Stables’ recent Forego Stakes winner **Surly Furious** is set to return on just two weeks rest and will stretch back out in distance for next Saturday’s 33<sup>rd</sup> running of the \$125,000 Dust Commander Stakes at Turfway Park Racing & Gaming.

Run at 1 1/16 miles, the Dust Commander Stakes will go as Race 7 of 9 with a post time of 8:55 p.m. First post is 5:55 p.m.

Surly Furious, trained by **Glenn Wismer**, defeated six rivals by 1 ¼ lengths in the 6 ½-furlong Forego Stakes. The 6-year-old son of Upstart sports a solid career record of 26-7-3-4 with purse earnings of \$504,679. Jockey **Luan Machado**, who was aboard Surly Furious for the Forego, opted to ride Ellis Park Derby runner-up **Transect**. Now, he will now get the services of the talented **Abel Cedillo** and break from post No. 4.

The Dust Commander Stakes field also includes last-out Churchill Downs allowance winner **Wizard of Westwood**. Owned by **Andrew** and **Rania Warren** and trained by **Michael McCarthy**, Wizard of Westwood was a stakes winner when he was based in Southern California. Since he transferred to McCarthy’s Kentucky string in late summer, the Chilean-bred son of Tu Brutus finished fourth in the Dueling Grounds Derby (GIII) then dominated five rivals by 8 ¼ lengths in a conditioned allowance contest on the dirt at Churchill Downs. The Dust Commander will be Wizard of Westwood’s first start of his 4-year-old year. The three-time winner will once again be ridden by **Gerardo Corrales** and break from the rail.

**El Kabong**, a three-time winner trained by **Rusty Arnold II**, will break to Wizard of Westwood’s outside, followed in post position order by **Kitodan**, **Surly Furious**, **Transect**, **Common Bond**, **Santorini**, **Gunton Roe** and **Quadra Island**.

Racing will resume Wednesday-Saturday at Turfway Park with a daily first post of 5:55 p.m. For more information and to purchase dining reservations, visit [www.turfway.com](http://www.turfway.com).

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