

News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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GRADE III WINNER HERE MI SONG SET TO MAKE SEASONAL DEBUT IN \$125,000 BIG DADDY STAKES

FLORENCE, Ky. (Saturday, March 2, 2024) – Nathan Hayden’s homebred **Here Mi Song** is set to make his 6-year-old debut when he faces an ultra-competitive field of eight sprinters that entered next Saturday’s third running of the \$125,000 Big Daddy Stakes (Listed) at Turfway Park Racing & Gaming.

The six-furlong Big Daddy is named in memory of **Rick Leigh**, the longtime racing official and racing secretary at Turfway Park. The Big Daddy was carded as Race 7 of 8 with a post time of 8:55 p.m. (all times Eastern). First post is 5:55 p.m.

Trained by Billy Stinson, Here Mi Song has been away from the races since his disappointing fifth-place finish in the R. A. Cowboy Jones on Aug. 13. The son of Cross Traffic ran in the Big Daddy last year when he finished sixth, beaten just 2 ½ lengths to **Nobody Listens**. Following that race, Here Mi Song switched back to the dirt at Keeneland where he gamely defeated **Hoist the Gold** after a thrilling stretch battle in the Commonwealth Stakes (Grade III) for his first graded stakes score. Here Mi Song’s 5-year-old resume also included a gutsy victory over **O Besos** in the Jeff Hall Memorial at Ellis Park. Jockey **Alex Achard**, who’s been aboard Here Mi Song for his last four starts, will have the return- call in the Big Daddy and break from post No. 4.

Among the accomplished older horses that entered the Big Daddy against Here Mi Song is last year’s Forego Stakes winner **Candy Overload**, Animal Kingdom Stakes winner **Eye Witness** and Holiday Cheer Stakes winner **Night Time**.

The Big Daddy field is rounded out by recent impressive allowance winners **Shefflin** and **Antares** along with stakes-placed New York-invader **Our Shot** and come backing three-time winner **Striker**.

Here is the field in order of post positions (with jockey and trainer): Shefflin (Gerardo Corrales, Bill Morey); Our Shot (Walter Rodriguez, John Terranova); Antares (Adam Beschizza, Mike Maker); Here Mi Song (Achard, Stinson); Candy Overload (Axel Concepcion, Mark Casse); Striker (Tyler Conner, Josie Carroll); Night Time (Luan Machado, Billy Morey); and Eye Witness (Abel Cedillo, Wesley Ward).

Carded immediately prior to the Big Daddy Stakes, aka the Rick Leigh Memorial, is a race in honor of **Amy Leigh**, Rick’s wife and the mother of Turfway Park Director of Racing **Tyler Picklesimer**, who recently passed away.

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

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