

# News Release



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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## **TURFWAY PARK HOLIDAY MEET OPENS WEDNESDAY, DEC. 4 WITH FULL FIELDS, TOP CONNECTIONS, ROBUST PURSES**

**FLORENCE, Ky. (Wednesday, Nov. 27, 2024)** – Today marked the first day of entries for Turfway Park's highly anticipated 2024-25 racing season, which kicks off next Wednesday, Dec. 4, with the Holiday Meet. First post for the nine-race card is set for 5:55 p.m., attracting 103 horses in the body including full fields of 12 plus two also-eligibles in two maiden special weights (Races 5 and 7) and the featured \$82,000 first-level allowance contest in Race 8.

The Holiday Meet, running through Dec. 29, boasts record-setting purses, including maiden special weight races at \$80,000 and allowances up to \$86,000, fueled by support from the Kentucky Thoroughbred Development Fund. Owners, trainers and jockeys will compete for more than \$7 million in purses across the meet, averaging \$467,793 per day.

Some of Kentucky's top jockeys have committed to winter racing at Turfway Park, including last season's leading riders **Luan Machado, Gerardo Corrales, Abel Cedillo** and **Adam Beschizza**. Joining them is top apprentice rider **Irving Moncada** along with veteran rider **Corey Lanerie**, who will compete regularly at Turfway for the first time in years.

"It'll be great to stay home this winter," Lanerie said. "The racing at Turfway Park has been very competitive the last couple of seasons, the purses are great, and I get to stay home with my family."

Lanerie is scheduled to begin riding at Turfway Dec. 11.

### ***Big Pools, New Faces, and Competitive Racing:***

Horseplayers will enjoy lucrative wagering opportunities, including two daily Pick 5s (Races 1-5 and 5-9) with a 15% takeout, two Pick 4s (Races 2-5 and 6-9) with a 14% takeout, and the Single 6 Jackpot (Races 4-9) at 15%.

Throughout the 2023 Holiday Meet, there were 10.1 starters per race giving horseplayers plenty of opportunities at full fields with big scores.

### ***Top Trainers Remain in Kentucky for Winter Season:***

The Turfway Park backstretch remains bustling year-round, featuring top barns in North America like **Steve Asmussen, Brad Cox, Cherie DeVaux, Mike Maker** and **Brendan Walsh** who will all be strong participants at the meet. They'll be joined by horses in the entry box from other top outfits such as **Whit Beckman, Rodolphe Brisset, Doug Cowans, Kelsey Danner, Eric Foster, Eoin Harty, Bill Morey** and **Will Walden** along with local mainstays **Susan Anderson, Michelle Bradford, Jeff Greenhill, Matt Kordenbrock, Ron Tomlinson** and **Ethan West**.

The 2024 Winter/Spring Meet leading owners, **Christina Estvanko** and **Margo Scott**, are poised to defend their title joined by their trainer **Richard Estvanko**.

### ***Stakes Calendar Headlined by Jeff Ruby Steaks Day, New Synthetic Championships:***

The stakes calendar showcases \$4.9 million across 24 races, headlined by the \$700,000 Jeff Ruby Steaks (GIII) on Saturday, March 22, part of the Road to the Kentucky Derby Championship Series, awarding points on a 100-50-25-15-10 scale. Other marquee events include the debut of the Turfway Park Synthetic Championships on Dec. 14, featuring four stakes worth a combined \$1 million—the Prairie Bayou, Holiday Cheer, My Charmer, and Holiday Inaugural.

Nominations to the Synthetic Championships closed Tuesday and will be available in the coming days.

***Race Day Information:***

Track announcer **Tony Calo** and racing analyst **Kaitlin Free** will guide fans through the action throughout the meet, which runs Wednesday through Saturday evenings, excluding Christmas Day. Daily first post will be 5:55 p.m. apart from New Years' Day (1 p.m.) and Jeff Ruby Steaks Day (12:45 p.m.).

Fans can watch and wager on all the action from Turfway Park on [www.twinspires.com](http://www.twinspires.com), the official wagering provider of Churchill Downs Incorporated.

FanDuel TV will feature coverage of Turfway Park nightly along with on-site coverage for several marquee days of the season.

Fans wanting to make dining reservations in the Homestretch can do so by visiting: <https://www.turfway.com/dining/homestretch/>.

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

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