

# News Release



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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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## **JEFF RUBY STEAKS PURSE RAISED TO RECORD \$777,000**

**FLORENCE, Ky. (Monday, Jan. 6, 2025)** – The Jeff Ruby Steaks (Grade III) has reached new heights with a record \$777,000 purse, now the richest race in the history of Turfway Park Racing & Gaming.

Set for Saturday, March 22, the marquee event of the Turfway Park season will feature a special first post at 12:45 p.m. ET, with tickets now on sale here: [Jeff Ruby Steaks Tickets](#).

“Raising the Jeff Ruby Steaks purse to \$777,000 reflects Turfway Park’s ongoing commitment to elevating our stakes program and showcasing top talent on the Road to the Kentucky Derby,” said **Matt Shehadi**, general manager of Turfway Park Racing & Gaming. “This record-setting purse underscores the Jeff Ruby Steaks as the centerpiece of our season, continuing its legacy as a key test for Derby hopefuls.”

As a marquee stop on the Road to the Kentucky Derby, the Jeff Ruby Steaks awards qualifying points to the top five finishers on a 100-50-25-15-10 scale, offering Kentucky Derby contenders a vital path toward a spot in the starting gate for the first Saturday in May. Since 1980, the Jeff Ruby Steaks has produced 77 Kentucky Derby starters, including three winners: **Rich Strike** (2022), **Animal Kingdom** (2011) and **Lil E. Tee** (1992).

Last year’s Jeff Ruby Steaks featured eventual Preakness Stakes (GI) winner **Seize the Grey**, who finished third behind **Endlessly** and **West Saratoga**, further cementing the race’s importance as a launchpad for future stars.

Jeff Ruby Steaks Day showcases an incredible afternoon of racing that includes the \$300,000 Bourbonette Oaks (Listed) – a Championship Series contest on the Road to the Kentucky Oaks; the \$300,000 TwinSpires Kentucky Cup Classic (GIII); the \$250,000 Latonia Stakes (Listed); the \$250,000 Animal Kingdom and the \$250,000 Rushaway.

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

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