

News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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HOLLYGROVE WIRES FIELD IN SATURDAY'S \$122,250 VALDALE STAKES

FLORENCE, Ky. (Sunday, Feb. 9, 2025) – Legion Racing's **Hollygrove** broke sharply and never looked back, turning away multiple challengers to secure her first stakes victory in Saturday night's 38th running of the \$122,250 Valdale Stakes at Turfway Park Racing & Gaming.

Trained by **Whit Beckman** and ridden by **Joe Ramos**, Hollygrove completed 6 ½ furlongs over the Tapeta surface in 1:19.41, prevailing by three-quarters of a length.

Hollygrove broke sharply in the field of seven 3-year-old fillies and was quickly met by pressure from **My Lil Punky** to her inside, **Brindi (IRE)** to her outside and **Maclean's Lullaby** to the far outside. She maintained a narrow advantage through an opening quarter-mile in :23.32 and continued to lead around the far turn as even-money favorite **Magical Bette** advanced into contention after a slow break.

Turning for home, **Magical Bette** briefly drew even with Hollygrove but the frontrunner dug in at the eighth pole and turned back the heavy favorite. In deep stretch, **My Lil Punky** launched a late bid but came up just short at the wire.

Grace on Grace closed from well off the pace to finish third and was followed by **La Marinera**, **Magical Bette**, **Maclean's Lullaby**, and **Brindi (IRE)**.

Sent off at 7-1, Hollygrove returned \$16.16, \$6.88, and \$4.44. **My Lil Punky**, under **Edgar Morales**, paid \$5.10 and \$3.92, while **Grace on Grace**, ridden by **Fernando De La Cruz**, returned \$4.08 to show.

The Valdale Stakes marked the second career victory for Hollygrove, a chestnut daughter of **Complexity** bred in Kentucky by **Glendalough**. She earned \$75,760 for the win, boosting her lifetime earnings to \$161,283.

Live racing resumes Wednesday-Saturday at Turfway Park, with first post at 5:55 p.m. For more information, visit www.turfway.com.

MULTIPLE STAKES WINNER HUSH OF A STORM HEADLINES WIDE-OPEN \$125,000 DUST COMMANDER STAKES – **Sandford Goldfarb's** multiple stakes winner and four-time Turfway Park victor **Hush of a Storm** will attempt to add another victory to his resume in Saturday's 34th running of the \$125,000 Dust Commander Stakes, a 1 1/16-mile event for older horses.

Carded as Race 7 at 8:55 p.m. (all times Eastern), the Dust Commander is the featured event on Saturday's 10-race program. First post is 5:55 p.m.

Trained by **Brad Cox**, **Hush of a Storm** exits a third-place finish in the **Prairie Bayou Stakes** at Turfway, where he was defeated two lengths by **Paros**, who set a track record for 1 1/16 miles in 1:42.22 that night. The New York-bred son of **Creative Cause** has won four stakes victories including the 2021 **John Battaglia Memorial** at Turfway. Overall, **Hush of a Storm** boasts a 30-9-3-8 record with earnings of \$452,308. He will break from post No. 3 under jockey **Vincent Cheminaud**.

The lineup includes several accomplished older horses, including 11-time winner **Yamato**, 2023 **Rebel Stakes (GII)** winner **Confidence Game**, 2023 **Wise Dan (GII)** winner **Stitched** and recent 1 ¼-mile allowance winner **Tapit Shoes**.

The field for the Dust Commander in order of post position (with jockey and trainer):

- Tapit Shoes (Evin Roman, Ed Moger Jr.)
- **Chiron** (Sophie Doyle, Richard Estvanko)
- Hush of a Storm (Cheminaud, Cox)
- **Prince of Power** (Santo Sanjur, Jesus Esquivel)
- **Cowboy Justice (GB)** (Adam Beschizza, Conor Murphy)
- **Groveland** (Irving Moncada, Eoin Harty)
- **Ocean Pointe** (Joe Ramos, Richard Estvanko)
- **Santorini** (Alex Achard, Rodolphe Brisset)
- Stitched (Gabe Saez, Greg Foley)
- **Bourbon Day** (Luan Machado, Mike Maker)
- Yamato (Gerardo Corrales, Mike Maker)
- Confidence Game (Corey Lanerie, Keith Desormeaux)

Live racing at Turfway Park Racing & Gaming continues Wednesday-Saturday with a first post of 5:55 p.m. daily.

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