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SPELLING AGAIN'S CHILUKKI VICTORY ADDS TO EXCELLENT YEAR FOR TRAINER COX

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (Sunday, Nov. 8, 2015) – **Spelling Again's** victory in Saturday's Chilukki (Grade II) was a big addition to what has been a great year for trainer **Brad Cox**, who has now won four graded stakes since Feb. 21. Saturday's race was the 35-year-old Louisville native's first graded stakes win at Churchill Downs.

"It was probably one of the more exciting ones," Cox said of his victory. "It was also probably the first one that I was really confident about because she [Spelling Again] was doing so well. We've liked her since she came into the barn but I think she's gotten so much better since she's come into the barn. We liked her both times we ran her at Indiana. I think the first time she may have had a little bit of trouble with the track – it was an off track that day and she didn't take to that too well. She just seems to be getting better and better, she's really thriving right now. If she can maintain where she is right now, I think she's going to have a monster year next year."

Cox went on to discuss the filly's attitude around the barn, saying that she isn't always the easiest to be around.

"She can be a little tough to handle and deal with and train," he said. "She's kind of a quirky filly, but like I said, the more we have her and are around her it seems like the more we're figuring out about her."

Prior to her win in Saturday's race, the Pennsylvania-bred daughter of **Awesome Again** was fourth in the Thoroughbred Club of America (GII) at Keeneland. Cox believed going in that she would be sitting on a good race.

"I was very excited about her in the TCA," he said. "I honestly thought she would win with how well she was going into it. She got squeezed a little bit at the start and **Jose Lezcano** came back and said, 'If we don't have a little trouble at the start, I'm right there,' and she would have, but that's racing. The main goal for us is the [\$300,000] Humana Distaff next year."

Cox has had more success in 2015 than his other 11 years in training, having saddled 84 winners in 313 starts and has racked up \$3,044,947 in earnings. In addition to Saturday's triumph, Cox's graded stakes wins this year came in the Fair Grounds Handicap (GIII) and Mervin Muniz Jr. Handicap (GII) at Fair Grounds with Chocolate Ride and the Groupie Doll (GIII) at Ellis Park with Call Pat. In 2014, he notched his first graded stakes score with Carve in the Prairie Meadows Cornhusker Handicap (GIII).

"I think that we exceeded our expectations a little bit just with the amount of wins and quality of wins having won four graded stakes," Cox said. "We've obviously got some great clientele that has put a lot of trust in us with some good stock – that's really what it comes down to. It has been a great year with some of our young horses in particular. We've had eight 2-year-old winners so far, we've had a 2-year-old stakes winner [**Uncle Brennie** in the Sunday Silence at Louisiana Downs], so we've had a big year with some of our young horses. We've had good conditional allowance horses like **Cash Control** and a lot of other nice, solid horses that have helped get us over \$3 million in earnings this year."

One 2-year-old that Cox mentioned is **Mark Breen's Annabelle**, a neck winner of a maiden special weight over one mile on Wednesday.

"We're pretty high on her, I think she's a nice filly," Cox said. "She probably didn't get the best numbers in the world. We'll either look at a first-level allowance or the [Grade II, \$200,000] Golden Rod [on Nov. 28]."

"We may go back to the grass with Uncle Brennie. He can handle the dirt but he may be a little better on the grass. He's kind of giving us that impression."

This has been a big year for Cox not only with his horses but also as a parent. Cox welcomed a new son into the world. **Brodie Nowlin Cox** was born Sept. 7, the same day Cox won his first training title at Ellis Park.

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“Sometimes when he’s hungry he can get a little tough,” he said with a laugh. “It’s been a big year all around at home and at the barn. He’s awesome. He’s two-months-old now and he’s been out to the track a few times. It was a little cool yesterday so he didn’t come out but he’s doing awesome. He’s growing and getting big.”

Cox’s next Churchill starters will come Wednesday where he will saddle **Cash Control** (Race 4), **Southern Prospect** (Race 6) and **Pumpkin Rumble** (Race 9).

DOYLE SCORES RIDING DOUBLE – Jockey **Sophie Doyle** had a good Saturday taking the first and ninth races at Churchill Downs with **Cal’s Legend** (\$35.80) and **Christie’s Ready** (\$69.20) – her first riding double beneath the Twin Spires.

“It feels pretty good to win two here at Churchill, especially after the Keeneland meet,” Doyle said. “I was starting to think after this first week of racing here that it could be as tough as Keeneland, and it is. All the same horses and same trainers are here so it’s really good to win here especially for **Pavel Matejka** and **Charlie LoPresti**, both of which have been very helpful and supportive since I started back at Turfway.”

Doyle rode in her native England prior to riding in the United States. She began building a clientele in California before riding on the Kentucky circuit full time last year.

“It is very different here; you have a lot more speed in races here whereas in England it’s a lot more tactful,” Doyle said. “They go a little bit easier and then quicken there right at the end. Here, I had to learn about putting my horses into the race earlier than I normally would and the big thing was I had to change my style a lot. I had to change it from the European style of going up and down and hitting the saddle to trying to be able to stay more still in the saddle and build my strength up a lot more. I think in England it’s a lot more endurance whereas here you have to have a lot more strength and fitness. I’d say the soft ground today definitely helped a lot.”

Doyle has three mounts on Sunday’s 10-race card where she will ride **Town Star** (Race 3), **Peaceluvncupcakes** (Race 4), and **Dakota Wind** (Race 7).

DOWN THE STRETCH – **Klaravich Stables’ Partisan Politics** and **Long Lake Stables LLC’s Tammy the Torpedo** both put in their final serious works for possible starts in Saturday’s \$200,000 Mrs. Revere (GII). Both of the **Chad Brown**-trained 3-year-old fillies breezed five furlongs on the Belmont Park turf course, with Partisan Politics clocking 1:02.31 and Tammy the Torpedo recording 1:00.76. ... Also at Belmont Park, trainer **Ed Walker’s** Athenia (GIII) runner-up **Wiener Valkyrie-GB** breezed seven furlongs on turf in 1:27.60 for a possible start in the Mrs. Revere. ... At Churchill Downs, trainer **Chris Block’s** Mrs. Revere nominee **Prado’s Sweet Ride** breezed a half mile in :48, the fourth fastest of 56 drills at the distance. ... The **Dave Vance**-trained **Kiss Moon**, the 4-year-old filly who has won two stakes this year including the Old Forester Mint Julep Handicap (GIII), breezed five furlongs in 1:00.80. She is nominated to the \$100,000 Cardinal Handicap (GIII), the 1 1/8-mile grass event for fillies and mares on Saturday, Nov. 21. ... **Calumet Farm’s Mr. Z**, the Ohio Derby winner who finished sixth after setting the pace in the Breeders’ Cup Dirt Mile (GI), breezed a half-mile in :49.20 for Hall of Fame trainer **D. Wayne Lukas**. ... Six-time stakes-winning sprinter **Cinco Charlie**, unraced since a narrow nose loss to **March** in the Woody Stephens (GII) on the Belmont Stakes undercard, breezed a half-mile in :51 for trainer **Steve Asmussen**. It was the 3-year-old’s fourth local breeze since Oct. 9. ... The **Ron Moquett**-trained **Gentlemen’s Bet**, fifth in the Phoenix (GIII) at Keeneland on Oct. 2, breezed four furlongs in :50.20 for a possible start in Saturday’s \$350,000 Frank J. De Francis Memorial Dash (Listed) at Laurel Park. ... Trainer **Dale Romans’** 2014 Fayette (GII) champ **Pick of the Litter** recorded his third workout since finishing fourth in last year’s Clark Handicap Presented by Norton Healthcare (GI). Now age 5, Pick of the Litter went a half-mile in :49.20. ... **Wireless Future**, a head back of **Closing Bell** in the Dueling Grounds Derby and fifth in the Oct. 17 Hawthorne Derby (GIII) breezed four furlongs in :50 for leading trainer **Chris Richard**. ... Last year’s Street Sense winner **Conquest Tsunami** recorded a half-mile breeze in :48.80 for trainer **Mark Casse**. ... **One True Kiss**, third in the Sorrento (GII) at Del Mar while under the care of Peter Miller, breezed a half-mile in :51.60. Last in the Surfer Girl at Santa Anita on Oct. 10, she is now trained by Asmussen. ... Through the first five days of the 21-day Fall Meet, only one of the 51 races featured less than seven starters. ... Wednesday is **Military Appreciation Day** at Churchill Downs. Active and retired members of the U.S. armed services are invited to enjoy a day the races with free general admission or a discounted ticket in Millionaires Row.

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