

COLONIAL DOWNS - August 1, 2026 - Race 7

STAKES Reigh Count S. Black Type - Thoroughbred
FOR THREE-YEAR-OLDS AND UPWARD. Free nomination, \$500 to pass the entry box and \$500 additional to start. Supplementary nominations may be made at time of entry by payment of \$2,000 (includes entry and starting fees). 60% to the owner of the winner, 20% to second, 11% to third, 6% to fourth and 3% to fifth. Weight: Three-Year-Olds, 122 lbs. Older, 126 lbs. Non-winners of \$54,000 twice in 2026 allowed 2 lbs., An open sweepstakes in 2026, allowed 4 lbs., (Maiden, claiming and starter races not considered in allowances). Starters to be named through the entry box by the usual time of closing. The race will be limited to fourteen (14) starters. Preference to start will be given to graded stakes winners (in order I-II-III) then those horses having accumulated the highest earnings in 2025-2026. Any horse excluded from running because of the aforementioned preference shall be refunded the entry fee and the supplementary nomination fee if applicable. Nominations closed July 15, 2026 with 38 nominations. Atrophy will be presented to the winning owner.

Distance: Seven Furlongs On The Dirt Current Track Record: (Mufasa (CHI) - 1:19.86 - August 12, 2024)

Purse: \$100,000 Added

Plus: \$2,400 Starters Bonus

Available Money: \$102,400

Value of Race: \$102,400 1st \$60,000, 2nd \$20,000, 3rd \$11,000, 4th \$6,000, 5th \$3,000, 6th \$1,200, 7th \$1,200

Weather: Cloudy, 86° Track: Fast

Off at: 3:05 Start: Good for all Timing Method: Electronic

[Video Race Replay](#)

[GPS Race Chart](#)

Last Raced	Pgm	Horse Name (Jockey)	Wgt	M/E	PP	Start	1/4	1/2	Str	Fin	Odds	Comments
17Jun26 ⁸ CD ¹	10	Verifire (Franco, Manuel) 	122	b	7	2	2 ^{1/2}	2 ³	1 ^{Head}	1 ^{2 1/4}	1.00*	press,duel4w,driving
27Jun26 ¹⁰ LRL ²	9	Celtic Contender (Boyce, Forest) 	122	f	6	1	1 ^{1/2}	1 ^{1/2}	2 ⁴	2 ^{1 1/2}	8.80	2-3p turn,duel,2d best
13Jul26 ³ CNL ¹	1	Zero Blitz (Ruiz, Jorge)	122	b	1	5	3 ^{1/2}	3 ^{Head}	3 ³	3 ^{2 1/2}	17.40	rail,swung5w,ran on
13Jul26 ³ CNL ²	3	Bold Diversion (Marin, Samuel)	122	b	3	7	7	6 ¹	4 ^{4 1/2}	4 ^{12 1/2}	36.20	3-4p turn, late rally
3Jul26 ⁸ GP ¹	4	Back Em Up (Lopez, Paco) 	122	f	4	4	5 ^{1/2}	5 ^{Head}	5 ^{5 1/2}	5 ⁷	5.00	btwn,3-4p turn,7w1/4p
6Jun26 ⁸ SAR ⁵	5	Illuminare (Gaffalione, Tyler)	126	-	5	6	6 ¹	4 ^{1 1/2}	6 ³	6 ⁴	2.00	bp btwn brk,5-3p,empty
6Jul26 ⁵ CNL ¹	2	Suremeanttoobe (Sanchez, Mychel)	122	b	2	3	4 ^{1/2}	7	7	7	18.70	tracked btwn2p,stopped

Fractional Times: 22.42 44.59 1:07.71 Final Time: 1:20.14 Time from Gate: 1:21.06

Split Times: (22:17) (23:12) (12:43)

Run-Up: 55 feet

Winner: Verifire, Chestnut Colt, by [Authentic](#) out of Ruby Trust, by Smart Strike. Foaled Apr 10, 2022 in Kentucky.

 THE REAL DEAL. [SPENDTHRIFT](#) Winner's sire standing at Spendthrift

Breeder: Gainesway Thoroughbreds LTD.

Owner: Resolute Racing, Delta Squad Racing, LLC and Anderson Stables, LLC

Trainer: Cox, Brad

Scratched Horse(s): Bracket Buster (Stakes Scratch), Crazy Mason (Stakes Scratch), Slam Notion (Stakes Scratch)

Total WPS Pool: \$257,789

Pgm	Horse	Win	Place	Show	Wager Type	Winning Numbers	Payoff	Pool
10	Verifire	4.00	2.80	2.20	\$1.00 Pick 3	8-2/5/6-6/7/8/10 (3 correct)	28.60	22,595
9	Celtic Contender		5.60	4.00	\$1.00 Daily Double	2-10	3.10	22,352
1	Zero Blitz			4.80	\$1.00 Exacta	10-9	9.40	159,431
					\$0.10 Superfecta	10-9-1-3	21.70	59,644
					\$0.50 Trifecta	10-9-1	23.95	93,683

Past Performance Running Line Preview

Pgm	Horse Name	Start	1/4	1/2	Str	Fin
10	Verifire	2	2 ^{1/2}	2 ^{1/2}	1 ^{Head}	1 ^{2 1/4}
9	Celtic Contender	1	1 ^{1/2}	1 ^{1/2}	2 ^{Head}	2 ^{2 1/4}
1	Zero Blitz	5	3 ¹	3 ^{3 1/2}	3 ⁴	3 ^{3 3/4}
3	Bold Diversion	7	7 ^{3 1/2}	6 ^{5 1/4}	4 ⁷	4 ^{6 1/4}
4	Back Em Up	4	5 ²	5 ⁵	5 ^{11 1/2}	5 ^{18 3/4}
5	Illuminare	6	6 ^{2 1/2}	4 ^{3 1/2}	6 ¹⁷	6 ^{25 3/4}
2	Suremeanttoobe	3	4 ^{1 1/2}	7 ^{6 1/4}	7 ²⁰	7 ^{29 3/4}

Trainers: 10 - Cox, Brad; 9 - Smith, Hamilton; 1 - Shankle, Joanne; 3 - Shankle, Joanne; 4 - Dibona, Bobby; 5 - Pletcher, Todd; 2 - Trombetta, Michael

Owners: 10 - Resolute Racing, Delta Squad Racing, LLC and Anderson Stables, LLC; 9 - Lewis Family Racing Stable; 1 -Joanne Shankle; 3 -Joanne Shankle; 4 - Keough and Meaney, LLC and TCC Stables, LLC; 5 - Centennial Farms; 2 - Best A Luck Farm, LLC;

Footnotes | [View Glossary Of Terms](#)

VERIFIRE pressed the pace from the outside and then went up four wide to go on even terms for command and came off the turn together and then edged clear by the sixteenth marker and pulled away under crop urging to prove best. CELTIC CONTENDER set a pressured pace to the inside of the winner, raced in the two to three wide path on the turn and dueled for command off the turn and to the furlong marker but could not match strides with the winner by the sixteenth marker while keeping on to be second best. ZERO BLITZ tracked the pace on the rail and then eased off the rail by the five sixteenths and swung out five to six wide leaving the turn and ran on willingly to best the rest. BOLD DIVERSION was settled early and advanced three to four wide on the turn and had a mild late kick for the minor rewards. BACK EM UP chased the early pace in between rivals, then was three to four wide on the turn and came seven wide off the turn and weakened. ILLUMINARE bumped between rivals at the break while breaking flat, chased the pace from the outside and was five wide entering the turn and moved in to be four wide by the three furlong peg and in contention but then came up empty in the final quarter of a mile. SUREMEANTTOOBE tracked the early pace two wide and in between rivals and then stopped on the turn.

 Denotes OBS Graduate

 Denotes Virginia-Certified Thoroughbred

