

The Official Newsletter
for the Kentucky Derby Festival
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WWW.KDF.ORG

Thanks for the Memories!

It hardly seems possible that the Kentucky Derby Festival's 50th Celebration is over. From last summer's traveling parade unit to the production of a documentary, commemorative book and museum exhibits to the whirlwind of 70 events over two weeks, it seemed that the Derby Festival was everywhere. Now that the dust has finally cleared, thanking everyone who helped to make it all happen is a challenge in itself. The 2005 Derby Festival staff, board, sponsors and volunteers all stepped up to deliver an unprecedented effort in putting on another remarkable civic celebration.



Dan Owens & Mike Berry with Artis Gilmore
at the adidas Basketball Classic

The events of the 50th Celebration only served to reinforce the Derby Festival's role in helping to define our community's identity. We feel especially privileged to be part of such a special organization and to have the opportunity to work with so many dedicated and selfless people. It never ceases to amaze us how so many varied events are flawlessly produced in such a short time. Everyone involved with this year's Derby Festival, as well as the community itself, can take great pride in a job well done. Our hats are off to you and here's to another 50 years of Festival Fun!

Mike Berry *Dan L. Owens*

50th Parade Twists Down Broadway

Fifty years ago, an eye-popping parade down Broadway thrilled thousands of spectators lining the streets to watch marching bands, floats and equestrian units. Thankfully, some things never change. Under sunny skies, the 50th annual Republic Bank Pegasus Parade stepped off at 5



p.m. on May 5, entertaining a crowd estimated at 300,000. Themed "Rockin' @ 50," the parade featured Grand Marshal Chubby Checker's live rendition of his classic hit "The Twist." There were celebrities galore, along with bands from all over the country, spectacular floats, specialty units and inflatable characters. The appearance of the 1975 ABA champion Kentucky Colonels, the parade's honorary Grand Marshals, gave fans an opportunity to pay tribute to the state's only major sport champions. It's hard to imagine how this single event, on a shoestring budget of \$640 in 1956, birthed an entire community tradition. The Derby Festival has now come full-circle, and its founding fathers would certainly approve.



Summer is Here!





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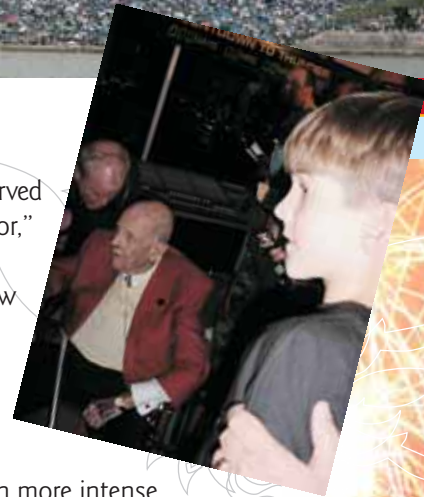
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Thunder Rocks a Chilly Crowd

With chilly temperatures and brisk winds on April 23, the Derby Festival's 2005 Opening Ceremonies could have been dubbed "Thunder on the Rocks." Thanks to the sponsorship of Caesars Indiana, Chase, Ford, UPS and Thunder Funders, an estimated 250,000 people turned out along the waterfront to watch a spectacular Air Show and a particularly vibrant pyrotechnic display. Eighty-seven-year-old Robinson Brown Jr. (KDF's first Chairman in 1957) served as this year's official "Thunderator," along with Dustin Korb, a sixth-grader at Holy Family School in New Albany.

While the weather made for less-than-ideal viewing conditions, the Zambelli Fireworks crew said the cold, clean air contributed to even more intense coloration from the 52,000 exploding fireworks shells. Spectators were treated to a new color in the show, an orange that is exclusive to Zambelli's production. Themed "Thunder Rocks," the musical soundtrack included classic songs from artists such as The Rolling Stones, Elvis Presley, Van Halen, KISS, Chubby Checker, Elton John and Nirvana.

The Thunder Air Show was certainly one of the best in the history of the event. Low cloud cover and wind gusts forced cancellation of skydiving acts, but the remaining participants more than made up for their absence. Highlights included the demo teams of the F-15, F-16 and F-18, as well as the return of the B-2 Spirit, which awed the crowd with its sleek Stealth technology. The Red Baron Squadron looped and smoked the skies and the Bill Leff Night Show led up to launch time.



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Relive the 50th!

You still have time to get your copy of "50 Years of Fun" at area bookstores and online at www.kdf.org. Other 50th merchandise from posters and hats to special metal pin sets and Radko ornaments are also still available.

2005 Derby Festival Winners

From spelling feats and racing beds to the personal achievement of completing a marathon, more than 50,000 people took an active part in this year's Derby Festival by competing in a results-oriented event. All are winners just for showing they know how to have fun. Here are some of the first place champions in date order of their victories:

STUDENT ART CONTEST: Jennifer Ruxer of Mercy Academy won Best in Show.

SPELLING BEE: John Tamplin of Jefferson County. Sponsors: Kentucky Farm Bureau and Churchill Downs.

adidas BASKETBALL CLASSIC: Game MVPs were University of Louisville recruit Terrence Williams and Duke-bound Greg Paulus.

DERBY FESTIVAL FOUNDATION ACADEMIC CHALLENGE: Johnson County won the Middle School Division and Pikeville High School took top honors in the Junior Varsity/High School division in this quick-recall competition, sponsored by Anthem.

U.S. BANK DERBY FESTIVAL GREAT BALLOON RACE: Nick Donner piloted the Tran Orthodontics balloon to victory in the 33rd annual race on May 1.

MEIJER DERBY FESTIVAL MINIMARATHON: Teddy Mitchell won the men's division, Bonita Paul finished first in the women's division and Paul Erway won the wheelchair division.

MEIJER DERBY FESTIVAL MARATHON: Charles Njeru won the men's division, Jill Knesch finished first in the women's division and Chad Johnson won the wheelchair division.

GREAT BED RACES: Champions Division: U.A.W./Ford Louisville Assembly Plant #1; Fun Division: Guess?, Inc. Sponsor: Jillian's.

RUN FOR THE ROSÉ: Tony Pack of Martini Italian Bistro won the men's division, Jessica Conaster of O'Charley's-Outer Loop won the women's division and Appriss Inc. was the overall champion in the corporate division.

STOCK YARDS BANK VOLLEYBALL CLASSIC: Over 25 winning teams posted at www.kdf.org

FIFTH THIRD BANK \$1 MILLION HOLE-IN-ONE GOLF CONTEST: No million, but Clay Morris of Louisville was closest to the hole at 4 ft. 11 inches and won a golf trip to Palm Beach Gardens, FL.

GREAT STEAMBOAT RACE: The Belle of Louisville won in a judge's decision over the Belle of Cincinnati as the Delta Queen missed this year's race. Sponsor: Verizon Wireless.

REPUBLIC BANK PEGASUS PARADE: The Sweepstakes Award went to the Ford Motor Company float, Clearfield (Pa.) High School won the Band Grand Prize and the Budweiser Clydesdales were the Grand Champion equestrian unit. Overall Band Sponsor: BellSouth Real Yellow Pages.

Congratulations to everyone who took part in the 50th Celebration.

For a complete list of contributing sponsors and winners in other divisions and events, visit www.kdf.org.

Coming Attractions:

Now thru Nov. 30: You can still experience the 50th Kentucky Derby Festival by visiting "Pegasus Released" at the Kentucky Derby Museum. The exhibit of KDF history is on display for regular museum admission.

June 15: KDF Board of Directors Annual Meeting

June 24 & 25: Derby Festival Yard Sale (end of year clearance of 50th merchandise)

September 1: Registration opens for the 2006 Meijer Derby Festival Marathon and miniMarathon

December 3: Winter Wonderland Gala to benefit the KDF Foundation

Get a special 50th Celebration parade pin set to commemorate the year. Available at the Festival office. Five pins representing different aspects of the Republic Bank Pegasus Parade.



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The winner of the customized Harley Davidson motorcycle was Steve Clark of Louisville. The FXD DYNA Super Glide Harley Davidson motorcycle, with a customized Jack Daniel's paint job, was raffled off live at the Chow Wagon on May 6. Proceeds from the raffle, which was sponsored by WDRB Fox 41, Jack Daniel's and Louisville Harley Davidson, went to support Thunder Over Louisville.



Due to a production error, Ten Broeck Healthcare Inc. was omitted as a contributing sponsor of the Great Bed Races in the May 9 Courier-Journal Winner's Tab. The Festival appreciates their support.