Lucullan became a stakes winner last time out in the Lure, a 1 1/16-mile turf race at Saratoga restricted to non-stakes winners on the season. Now, the five-year-old Kentucky-bred will be looking to take his game to another level in the $1 million Ricoh Woodbine Mile.

“He’s doing very well,” said Kiaran McLaughlin, who conditions Lucullan for the powerful Godolphin outfit of Sheikh Mohammed of Dubai. “He’s ready to go. He’s a really nice horse.”

Lucullan did not make the races as a two-year-old but found his calling when moved to turf for his third start the following year, winning his maiden at 1 1/16 miles and a first-level allowance at a flat mile before making his stakes debut in Belmont’s Grade 2 Hill Prince. He was beaten a neck there as the runner-up, splitting winner Yoshida and third-place Bricks and Mortar, who have gone on to become multiple Grade I stakes winners. “He showed he had some class,” said McLaughlin.

The son of Hard Spun continued in good form at four but saw action only three times before again going to the sidelines. “He had some issues behind, a hairline cannon-bone (fracture)” said McLaughlin. “The owner was kind enough to take plenty of time.”

That led to a lengthy absence of 14 months before Lucullan resurfaced at Belmont with a sharp allowance score. “He came back great,” said McLaughlin. “He was ready to take a big step up.”

Following the Lure, McLaughlin began looking toward the Woodbine Mile. “There was the Bernard Baruch (at Saratoga) but luckily we had another horse for it, Qurbaan, and he won it.”

McLaughlin said the fact that Lucullan gets a break in the weights, carrying 117 points, and the nature of the Woodbine Mile layout were also factors in making this race his target. The trainer is one-for-two in the race, having saddled 2007 winner Shakespeare. “We like that mile, at Woodbine,” said McLaughlin, “We feel like it’s pretty fair. You get stopped, and in traffic, and coming for home things open up if you’re good enough. It’s a long stretch.”

The word Lucullan, synonymous with lavish or luxurious, comes from Lucus Licunius Lucullus, a Roman general whose feasts were widely heralded. The horse’s connections would have plenty to dine on if he can bring home the $600,000 winner’s share.

**Owner – Godolphin LLC**

Formed in 1994, Godolphin is the international division composed of the top horses owned by members of Dubai’s royal family. Founded by Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Godolphin has won more than 250 Grade 1or Group 1 races in 2 countries. Dominant at home, Godolphin has won eight of the 24 runnings of the Gold Cup including the 2018 and 2019 editions with Thunder Snow. On the international front, Cross Counter gave Godolphin its first Melbourne Cup win last year after Masar broke through in the Epsom Derby. Earlier this century, Sakhee in 2001 and Marienbard Talismanic in the 2004 Whitney and Metropolitan Handicap as well as Canadian Internationals with Sulamani In 2004 and Mutafaweq in 2000. Godolphin earned its first Eclipse Award as 2009 Outstanding Owner in North America and added a second Owner award in 2012.

**Trainer – Kiaran McLaughlin**

Born November 7, 1960, in Lexington, Kentucky, Kiaran McLaughlin first worked at the racetrack with trainers James Burchell, John Hennig (later to become his father-in-law), Dave Kassen and Tim Muckler. He got his first break when he was hired as an assistant to D. Wayne Lukas in January 1985. After supervising several New York-based Lukas-trained Eclipse champions, including Open Mind, McLaughlin changed careers in 1992, becoming an agent for jockey Chris Antley. In November 1993, he started training for Sheikh Mohammed in Dubai from October through April. For the other six months of the year, McLaughlin trained horses in New York, a schedule he continued until 2003 when he settled permanently in the States and opened a public stable. Top Grade 1 winners conditioned by McLaughlin include 2006 Jazil, who gave Shadwell Farm its first American Triple Crown score when capturing the Belmont Stakes in 2006;

Frosted, hero of the 2016 Whitney and Metropolitan Mile; and Tamaakzu, 2016 Breeders’ Cup Dirt Mile,
**Jockey – Luis Saez**

Luis Saez earned an unfortunate distinction this year when Maximum Security became the first Kentucky Derby first-place finisher to be disqualified via a stewards’ inquiry in the 145-year history of the race. Saez, born in Panama City, Panama on May 19, 1992, graduated from Lafitt Pincay’s Jockey School in 2009 and had ridden 37 winners in his homeland before going to the United States that summer. He has since forged a solid career, winning such Grade 1 fixtures as the 2013 Travers with Will Take Charge, the 2015 Shadwell Turf Mile aboard Grand Arch, and this year’s Florida Derby and Grade 1 Travers courtesy of Maximum Security. Saez rode his 2,000th career winner at Aqueduct on November 9, 2018. He equaled a Gulfstream Park record when bagging seven winners there on January 24, 2018. Saez will be riding at Woodbine for the first time since Woodbine Mile Day in 2015 when his three mounts yielded a win with Stacked Deck in the Grade 3 Bold Venture and a second aboard Habib in the Grade 1 Northern Dancer.

### Previous Ricoh Woodbine Mile Starters

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<tr>
<th>Godolphin LLC</th>
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<tr>
<td>20 7 – 6th – Dutch Connection</td>
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