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Freshmen vie in second round of Ohio Sires Stakes

Trotting & Pacing colts battle at Northfield

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by Kimberly Rinker, Ohio Standardbred Development Administrator

Two consecutive evenings of Ohio Sires Stakes action featuring 2-year-old trotters and pacers will commence Friday, July 12 and Saturday, July 13 at Northfield Park. First race post time both nights is 6 pm, ET.

On July 12, four \$40,000 fields of diagonally-gaited specialists will line up behind the Northfield starting gate. From the 33 starters, nine are foals by Uncle Peter, while four each have been sired by Manofmanymissions and Wishing Stone, and three by Triumphant Caviar. Stallions represented by two foals each include Broadway Hall, Coraggioso, Dejarmbro, Dontyouforgetit, and Full Count. Big Rigs and Break The Bank K each have one youngster competing Friday.

Returning are leg one winners **Jarmbalou** (1:57.3); **Wading Boots** (1:57.4); **Big Box Hanover** (1:57.4); and **It's Academic** (1:58.4)—who all emerged victorious on July 4 at Scioto Downs. Jarmbalou is trained by Rick Beinhauer, while Dalton Walls conditions Big Box Hanover. Both Wading Boots and It's Academic hail from the powerful stable of Ronnie Burke.

As well, all of the second-place finishers from round one return, including **Attache'**, **Stonefire US**, **Exhibit Class** and **Doubleyellowline**. The OSS events have been carded as races two, four, seven and nine on the 16-race program.

In addition to the returning OSS contestants, there are nine newcomers who skipped round one of the four-leg series. Trainer Marty Wollam sends out **Count On Barney** for his OSS debut in the first division (Race Two) with Kurt Sugg in the sulky from post six. This son of Full Count, out of the Call Toll Free mare Joys Secret Call 3, 2:01.2F (\$8,680) scored a wire-to-wire 2:00 victory at the Meadows on July 5, winning handily by 22½ lengths. This youngster is full brother to Count On Kami 3, 1:57h (\$232,396); Al Brown 6, 1:57f (\$96, 247); Facial Expressions 6, 1:56.2f (\$66,485); Count On Rosie 3, 1:56.4h (\$87,163); and is a half-brother to Driving Miss Sadie (by Triumphant Caviar) 4, 1:54.4h (\$142,158).

Trainer Ron Burke will harness **Hey Diddle Diddle** in the second division (Race Four) with Chris Page driving from post seven. This Uncle Peter colt is out of the unraced Chocolatier mare Nettie and is a half-brother to Bosley (by Manofmanymission) 2, 1:59.2 (\$44, 194).

On July 13 three \$40,000 OSS divisions feature a total of 24 side-wheeling youngsters battling for first prize. Ohio-based sire Big Bad John sends out seven of his progeny in here, while Pet Rock and Rockin Amadeus are represented by three foals each. The stallions Allamerican Native, Dragon Again, McArdle, Western Vintage and Yankee Cruiser each have two foals racing in these OSS events, while Nob Hill High is represented by one youngster.

Returning leg one winners include **Opportune Hanover** (1:52.3); **Elver Hanover** (1:53.4); **Rock Smart** (1:54.3) and **Rockntheafterparty** (1:55). Ron Burke trains Opportune Hanover and Elver Hanover, while Bret Schwartz conditions Rock Smart and trainer Dan Ater manages Rockntheafterparty.

Second-place finishers from leg one all return as well, including **Nvrpoptdaplugs**, **Big Bad Whamo**, **Standford Court** and **Mr D's Rock**, as well as third-place honorees **One Last Laugh**, **One Rock**, **Hot Shot McJeffers** and **Dancin Waylon L**.

Two newcomers in this series include **Ocean Rock**, a son of Rockin Amadeus, out of the On The Attack mare Ocean Pearl p 5, 1:53.2F (\$143,637). This gelding captured a \$17,500 Buckeye Stallion Series test on July 6 at Northfield in his pari-mutuel debut for trainer Dan Noble and owner Sandra Burnett, pacing to a 1:54.3 wire-to-wire clocking with Aaron Merriman at the lines. Merriman is in the sulky again in the first division (Race Two) from the eight-hole.

Can Be Perfect is the other OSS newbie, who was second to Ocean Rock in that BSS event. This Big Bad John freshman is trained by Tim Lane and is the 14th foal out of the prolific Beach Towel mare Perfect Gesture p, 5, 1:52.4F (\$264,434). He'll start from post six with Kurt Sugg driving in the first division (Race Two). The brown colt is a half-brother to: Dave Panlone (by The Panderosa) p, 3, 1:49.2 (\$831,874); Long Live Rock (by Rocknroll Hanover) p, 8, 1:50f (\$617,085); Perfect Panderosa (by The Panderosa) p, 5, 1:49.4 (\$243,827); Urban Renewal (by Cam's Card Shark) p, 5, 1:51.1 (\$218,286); Sweater Vest (by Artsplace) p, 5, 1:54f (\$114,218); Just Livin Life (by Life Sign) p, 4, 1:54.1f (\$40,638); Spring Haven Art (by Artsplace) p, 6, 1:53.3z (\$31,684); and Adam Cartwright (by The Panderosa) p, 2, 1:54.4f (\$18,161).