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Favorites easy winners in Ohio Sires Stakes

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by Kimberly Rinker, Ohio Standardbred Development Fund Administrator

A pair of \$50,000 Ohio Sires Stakes saw the two favorites in each division prevail easily on a cool Aug. 23 evening at Scioto Downs. This was the fourth and final leg for 3-year-old pacing colts before the \$300,000 Championships slated for Sept. 1 at Northfield Park.

The fastest of the two divisions went to 4-5 **Bllack Hole** and driver Tyler Smith, who was reining the son of Mr Apples for trainer Clarence Foulk and the L&L Stables of Springfield, Ohio. Bllack Hole was forced to race on the outside throughout most of the mile before posting a :27.3 final panel brush to hold off his challengers in 1:50.4—equaling his life mark.

B Like Cruiser, the 5-1 choice, was making his first start in OSS action for driver Brent Miller and finished second, 1¼ lengths behind the winner while 26-1 longshot and OSS Leg Two winner in 1:50.4 **Cross Country** was third for Luke Ebersole.

The victory, Bllack Hole's fourth straight, upped the homebred's career earnings to \$88,099. He is the second foal out of the Modern Art mare Feel The Thunder p, 4, 1:54f (\$92,275).

The first OSS division saw 1-5 favorite **Yankee Boots** use a near wire-to-wire effort to score his sixth win of the year and his 16th lifetime triumph in 151.2 for trainer Steve Carter and his Ohio-based partners Chuck Grubbs, Peggy Carter and Joe Whitacre.

Yankee Boots was steered by Dan Noble to his one length victory over 24-1 **Bombay Hanover** (Brett Miler) with 10-1 **Rose Run Ulysses** finishing third for Aaron Merriman.

The gelded homebred son of Yankee Cruiser had won his OSS Leg three handily in 1:52.3 on July 27 at Scioto Downs and now has \$284,820 in career earnings and \$161,810 in seasonal earnings. He is the second and top-earning foal out of the Well Said mare Boots N Saddle p, 2, 1:57.1f (\$15,404).

The top eight horses in the standings are as follows: Rock Candy (129 points); Yankee Boots (115 points); Bllack Hold (102 points); Cross Country (91 points); Seattle Hanover (79 points); Black Smile (41 points); Gold Digger King (37 points); Shamma Lamma & Rose Run Ulyssess (tied with 33 points each.).

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