



Ohio State Racing Commission

77 South High Street • 18th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215-6108
(614) 466-2757 FAX (614) 466-1900
www.racingohio.net

Mike DeWine
Governor

Scott Borgemenke
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3-Year-Old Pacing Colts vie in Ohio Sires Stakes at Northfield

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by Kimberly Rinker, Ohio Standardbred Development Administrator

Two \$50,000 Ohio Sires Stakes divisions for 3-year-old pacing colts are set to be contested Saturday night, June 29 at Northfield Park, carded as the first and second events on the 16-race program. First race post time is 6 pm, ET.

Participating progeny by Ohio-registered stallions include McArdle with three, while Dragon Again, Pet Rock and Western Vintage each have two youngsters racing in these OSS contests. Big Bad John, Palone Ranger and Yankee Cruiser are all represented by one foal each in the second round of this four-leg series.

Trainer Brian Brown will harness three side-wheeling males, including second division (Race Two) favorites **Rock Candy** and **Dislocator**, who finished first and second in the first leg of this series on May 5 at Miami Valley.

Rock Candy is a son of Pet Rock who captured OSS leg one handily in 1:50.3 and then went on to win a pair of Scioto Downs overnights on June 8 and 22 in his signature, wire-to-wire style. Owned by Country Club Acres, Joe Sbrocco and Richard Lombardo, Rock Candy has career earnings of \$280,626 from eight wins and six seconds in 14 lifetime trips postward. He was bred by Mark Moger & Albert Delia, Jr. Ronnie Wrenn, Jr. drives from post one.

Dislocator was second to **Seattle Hanover** in his OSS first leg at Miami Valley, before winning a Scioto overnight on June 1 in a career best 1:51.3. He then finished third in a similar race on June 15 at Ohio's "Showplace of Racing." The unaltered son of Big Bad John, who was bred by Midland Acres, has career earnings of \$163,656 for owners J Ridder, S. Davis, S. Sopronyi and Vip Internet. Scott Zeron drives from post five.

Seattle Hanover hails from post six for driver Chris Page and trainer Ron Burke in this same division. The Dragon Again gelding has career earnings of \$114,822 for Burke Racing, Larry Karr,

J&T Silva-Purnel&Libby and Weaver Brusceci and won a Scioto overnight on June 13. From 20 career starts Seattle Hanover has four wins, three seconds and five third-place finishes. Chris Page will be at the lines from the six-hole.

Trainer Virgil Morgan, Jr., has teamed up with breeder/owner Emerald Highlands Farm of Mount Vernon, Ohio, offering two sophomores, one in each OSS test. In the first race, **McMoe**, a son of McArdle will be trying for his second straight triumph, having won at Scioto overnight on June 13 in 1:52.2. This homebred pacer earned a modest \$13,144 last year from just seven starts but looks to have aged well, with three wins, two seconds and two thirds from eight starts thus far this season with career earnings of \$45,519. Brett Miller is in the sulky from post six.

In the second race **Black Smile** will leave from post two with Brett Miller piloting the Dragon Again colt. He'll be trying for his third consecutive triumph, having scored in two Scioto Downs overnights—on May 23 and June 6. He was an even fifth-place finisher in leg one of this series and sports a bankroll of \$76,628. Winless at two, he has four wins to his credit this season from just six starts.



Rock Candy (#9) surges ahead to win the first leg of the Ohio Sires Stakes on May 4 at Miami Valley Raceway. *Photo by Brad Conrad*

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