



Ohio State Racing Commission

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

John Kasich
Governor

Robert K. Schmitz
Chairman



Fillies Wage War in Ohio Sires Stakes

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by Kimberly Rinker, OSDF Administrator

Two, \$50,000 Ohio Sires Stakes divisions for 3-year-old trotting fillies will be contested on Monday evening, June 11 at Northfield Park Racino, in the second of four legs of the rich series for Ohio-sired foals. First race post time is 6 pm, ET.

Leg 1 winners **Red Storm** and **Non Smoker** are set to battle in the second division (Race 5, post time 7:20 pm), and will be joined by **Looking For Zelda**, who captured a \$24,455 Currier & Ives division at The Meadows in 1:54.1 on June 5.

Red Storm, a Chris Beaver trainee owned by breeder Sandra Burnett of Wilmington, OH, won OSS Leg 1 decisively in a career best 1:55.4 on May 4 at Miami Valley Raceway. The chestnut daughter by Stormin Normand earned \$109,975 as a freshman, and has returned to her winning ways this season, with three triumphs and a second in four starts and \$65,000 in seasonal earnings. Aaron Merriman pilots Red Storm from the rail.

Non Smoker was equally as decisive, with a 1:54 clocking in her OSS Leg 1 victory via a wire-to-wire performance, where she held off the hard-trying **Risky Deal** (also in this same division) by half a length at the wire. The daughter by My MVP, who is owned by Stephen Sexton of Xenia, OH and was bred by Stephanie Smith-Rothaug, has seasonal earnings of \$37,300 and a career bankroll of \$57,851 from four wins, one second and one third in 11 lifetime trips postward. Danny Noble trains and drives.

Robert Key's Looking for Zelda is no stranger to the OSS program—having earned \$228,675 at two for her owner/breeder during her freshman campaign. Though she was third in her OSS Leg 1 division, she rebounded smartly to take the Currier & Ives earlier this week under the watchful eye of trainer Norm Parker. From three starts this season she has two wins and \$43,227 in the bank. Tony Hall steers this rugged filly.

In the first OSS division (Race 3, post time 6:40 pm) **Impinktoo** gets the benefit of the rail for the ownership troika of Billy Walters, Joe McLead and Rtk Racing. Formerly trained by Jim & Kim Dailey and now starting for trainer Ronnie Burke for the first time, this Manofmanymissions filly banked \$167,040 at 2 and most recently captured a Scioto overnight in 1:55.3 as the public's choice on June 1. Jay Mossbarger bred this diagonally-gaited distaff. Kayne Kauffman gets the nod.

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Photo Cutline: Red Storm thunders to victory in a \$50,000 Ohio Sires Stakes leg on May 4 at Miami Valley Raceway, and will be looking for another OSS triumph on June 11 at Northfield Park. *Photo by Brad Conrad*