



## Ohio State Racing Commission

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# No Surprises in Ohio Sires Stakes

*None Better A takes Battle of Lake Erie*

June 8, 2019

by Kimberly Rinker, Ohio Standardbred Development Administrator

Only Take Cash and Pure Chance both captured their respective \$50,000 Ohio Sires Stakes divisions on a tepid Saturday night at Northfield Park. Set early in the 16-race card, the two OSS contests for 3-year-old trotting distaffs were the preamble events to the \$200,000 Battle Of Lake Erie.

**Only Take Cash**, last year's 2-year-old Ohio Sires Stake champion, took her division handily in wire-to-wire fashion as the 6-5 favorite in a 1:54.1 with Aaron Merriman at the lines, holding off 7-2 rival **Aunt Rose** (Ronnie Wrenn, Jr.) by half a length at the wire. Ryan Stahl guided 11-1 **Wicked Sugar** to a third-place finish.



**Only Take Cash & Aaron Merriman** Photo by Jeff Zamaiko

The daughter of Cash Hall is conditioned and co-owned by trainer Robert McIntosh and partners Dave Boyle and Mardon Stables, all of Ontario, Canada. She had finished third in the first leg of this series on May 3 at Miami Valley Raceway.

Only Take Cash upped her career earnings to \$328,140 lifetime and now has ten wins in 12 starts. The homebred is the fifth foal out of the Garland Lobell mare Armbro Affair 4, 1:53.4s (\$430,997), with half-siblings in Tough Affair (by Muscle Mass) 4, 1:59.2f (\$69,968); A Fair Conchnito (by In Conchnito) 4, 1:58.2 (\$33,866).

**Pure Chance** and driver Jason Thompson left nothing to chance as they captured the other OSS division with an easy, front-stepping 1:54.2 score. The daughter of Triumphant Caviar left the gate as the 7-1 choice and glided to a 3¼ length triumph for trainer Chris Beaver and co-owner Steven Zeehandelar.

**Princessofpink**, who held up the race for several minutes after returning to the paddock for a shoe repair was a smart second for driver Tony Hall at 9-2 odds, while another Beaver trainee, 8-1 **Back Splash**, was third for Ronnie Wrenn, Jr.



**Pure Chance & Jason Thompson**

*Photo by Jeff Zamaiko*

Pure Chance, who was bred by Jonas Schabach of Ohio, now has \$134,745 in her career bankroll, and has earned \$37,500 in OSS competition thus far this season. She is out of the Credit Winner mare Jewell Creek and is a full sister to OSS winner Sesame 3, 1:55.1f (\$245,227) and Jewels N caviar 4, 1:59h (\$31,392) and has a half-sibling in Explosive Ripple (by Explosive Matter) 4, 1:58f (\$88,287).

**None Bettor A** and driver Joe Bongiorno prevailed in a sizzling 1:49 effort in the \$200,000 Battle of Lake Erie. Trained by Jennifer Bongiorno, the favored son of Bettor's Delight left the gate quickly from post six and was never headed, taking home the winner's share of the hefty purse for Joe P Racing LLC of Florida and Oldford Racing LLC of Michigan.

**Jimmy Freight** (Jason Bartlett) was second, while **Southwind Amazon** was third for Ronnie Wrenn, Jr.



**None Bettor A & Joe Bongiorno**

*Photo by Jeff Zamaiko*

Ohio Sires Stakes, Leg Two action continues June 14 at Scioto Downs for 3-year-old pacing fillies (Leg Two) and June 15 at Northfield Park for 3-year-old trotting colts. Leg Three for sophomore trotting fillies is slated to commence July 26 at Scioto Downs.

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