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Leona's Reward looks for triumph in \$75,000 Vivacious

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by Kimberly Rinker, Ohio Thoroughbred Race Fund

Ohio's matriarch, **Leona's Reward**, will be trying for her second stakes victory of the season on Sunday, August 4 in the \$75,000 Vivacious Handicap at Belterra Park. The one and one sixteenth mile turf contest offers a field of 13 Ohio-registered fillies and mares, 3-year-olds and up.

In addition, the eight thoroughbreds, a pair of Quarter Horse races have been carded as races nine and ten.



Leona's Reward in action

Leona's Reward, a 6-year-old daughter of Parents' Reward-Prime Time Dancers, by Montbrook, is owned by breeders Blazing Meadows Farm LLC and Michael Friedman. This multiple stakes-winning chestnut mare last captured a Thistledown allowance races on July 22 after finishing fifth in the \$75,000 Lewis Memorial on June 22 at that Cleveland one-miler. Her first start of the season was a triumphant one, coming in the \$75,000 Classen Memorial at Thistledown on May 4.

Leona's Reward has career earnings of \$748,056 from 16 wins, seven seconds and five thirds in 41 starts and seasonal earnings of \$69,450 for trainer Tim Hamm. She has won 11 stakes thus far in her career and is slated to be ridden in the Vivacious by Luis Colon carrying high weight of 123 pounds.



Mayas Queen Neetee en route to winning the 2017 Vivacious Handicap

Mayas Queen Neetee captured the 2017 edition of Vivacious easily as the public's favorite for trainer Jeff Radosevich and rider Luis Colon. This chestnut lass by Speightstown-The Niagara Queen, by Langfuhr has career earnings of \$264,623 from seven wins, a second and a trio of thirds from 17 lifetime starts. Most recently she finished third to Hey Adrian in the \$75,000 Petro Memorial on June 22 at Thistledown. Bred by Anstu Farm, Mayas Queen Neetee will carry the lime green and blue-barred colors of owner Ron Paolucci Racing postward in the Vivacious, with Jose Bracho in the saddle.

Sheltowee Farms and Patricia Adams' **Birdacious** has the highest seasonal earnings of any mare in this field (\$84,453), with her most positive efforts coming at the allowance ranks. The daughter by Birdrun-Sweet Tessa Marie, by El Corredor has three wins, two seconds and three thirds from 11 starts this year, with a career bankroll of \$161,991 earned for trainer Michael Evans, II. Sonny Leon rides the gray or roan filly, who was bred by Robin Murphy.

Grizabella has scored three wins, two seconds and a fourth-place finish at the allowance and optional claiming level since being claimed by her current owner Michael Annechino on April 3 at Mahoning Valley. The 5-year-old Lunaral-Chic cat, by Tiger Ridge mare is conditioned by Jeff Radosevich and owns a seasonal bankroll of \$76,609 and has \$220,922 in her career coffers. Grizabella, who was bred by Mapleton Thoroughbreds, will have Luis Rivera in the saddle.