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Best of Ohio brings out Ohio's Finest on Friday

May 27, 2021

by Kimberly Rinker, Ohio Thoroughbred Race Fund

Five \$100,000 Ohio Thoroughbred Race Fund (OTRF) stakes will be spotlighted in a Best of Ohio day at Belterra Park on Friday, May 28. The five features on the eight-race program begin with Race 4 and continue through Race 8.



Mo Dont No scoring one of his many triumphs

The first OTRF event (post time 2:08 pm, ET), the Sydney Gendelman Stakes, is a one and one-sixteenth mile event on the turf for Registered Ohio-breds, 3-year-olds and up. Million-dollar earner **Mo Dont No** headlines the field of 12 starters for trainer Gary Johnson and owners Irish Charm Thoroughbreds and Jerry Laria. This multiple stakes winning son of Uncle Mo-Lilah, by Defrere won his second allowance start of the year handily at Mahoning Valley on April 14 and looks to add to his \$1,121,910 bankroll. This dark bay, 8-year-old gelding was bred by Beechwood Racing Stable.

The six-furlong Palacios Memorial, for Ohio-registered 3-year-olds and up, features a field of ten contestants in the fifth race sprint, with a post time of 2:30 pm. The graded stakes placed **Altissimo** returns to Belterra to make his 2021 debut for trainer Richard Zielinski for owners

Nancy Lavrich and Ronald Zielinski. This homebred, 8-year-old son of Noble Causeway has \$834,534 in his career coffers, and is the reigning king of this stake, having captured both the 2018 and 2019 editions. Altissimo has 18 wins, eight seconds and six thirds in 46 career starts.

The Green Carpet Stakes (Race 6) has a post time of 3:10 pm and features 12 Ohio-registered 3-year-olds traveling one and one-sixteenth miles over the grass course. **Brig**, a 3-year-old son of Midshipman-Visual Arrest, by Pollard's Vision is the richest sophomore in the field with \$140,020 in lifetime earnings. Trained by Robert Gorham for Mast Thoroughbreds, this bay homebred gelding captured the Tall Stack Stakes on May 6 over this same racetrack.



Esplanande in action

The Norm Barron Queen City Oaks is a one and one-sixteenth even on the dirt for Ohio-registered 3-year-old fillies. Post time for this seventh race is set for 3:41 pm. Last year's winner of the \$100,000 Galbreath Memorial, **Alexandria** headlines the field of 11 distaff combatants. This chestnut daughter by Constitution is conditioned by Tim Hamm for her breeders and owners WinStar Farm, Blazing Meadows Farm and Michael Lewis. To date has Alexandria has amassed earnings of \$201,945 from four wins and a third in eight starts.

The Best of Ohio day is topped off by the final event, the 4th running of the Diana Stakes for Ohio-registered fillies, 3-year-old and up, traveling six furlongs. Post time for this eighth race is 4:12 pm. **Esplanande** is the logical choice in this field of 11. Trained by Tim Hamm for breeders-owners Winstar Farm, Blazing Meadows Farm and Michael Lewis, the dark bay daughter of Daredevil-Southern Silence, by Dixie Union has never finished worse than second in seven starts. This speedy miss captured the \$100,000 Cleveland Kindergarten Stakes last August and was second in both the Southern Park Stakes and the Noonan Stakes this year. Esplanande, another homebred, has career earnings of \$221,880.