



## Ohio State Racing Commission

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

Mike DeWine  
Governor

Scott Borgemenke  
Chairman



## Hamm, McKee sweep OTRF Best of Ohio 2-year-Old Races

August 8, 2020

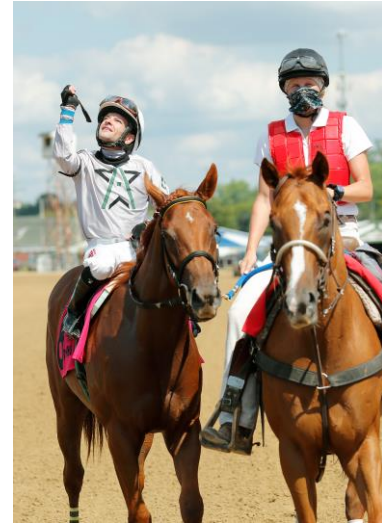
by Kimberly Rinker, Ohio Thoroughbred Race Fund

The undefeated filly **Esplanande** kept her record unblemished by capturing the 29<sup>th</sup> running of the \$100,000 Best of Ohio Cleveland Kindergarten Stakes for Ohio-registered 2-year-olds with John McKee riding. Owned by WinStar Farm and Blazing Meadows Farm, the beautiful black daughter of Daredevil-Southern Silence, by Dixie Union covered the six furlongs with a front-end journey in 1:12.66 as the 1-5 favorite. Tim Hamm trains Esplanande, who also captured the \$75,000 Hoover Stakes on July 3. **Uptown** was second best for Jose Bracho at 5-2, while 11-1 **Brig** (Christian Pilares) was third with 55-1 longshot **To Win** (Yamarie Correa) fourth.



**Esplanande & John McKee**

The stout chestnut filly **Alexandria** captured the 52<sup>nd</sup> running of the \$100,000 Best of Ohio Miss Ohio Stakes for Ohio-registered 2-year-old fillies at 5½ furlongs, clocked in 1:06.62. The daughter of Constitution was ridden by John McKee for trainer Tim Hamm and owners Winstar Farm, Blazing Meadows Farm and Michael Lewis as she notched her third straight triumph. Alexandria had won the \$75,000 Tah Dah Stakes at Belterra on July 18. Stablemates **Somuchsugar** (Luis Rivera) and **Gonnabegood** (Erik Barbaran) were second and third at 7-2, with **Ballroom Blitz** (Christian Pilares) fourth.



Alexandria & John McKee

**Cake Pop** held off furious attempts by rivals **Altissimo** and **Buckeye Bullet** to prevail in the 32<sup>nd</sup> running of the \$100,000 Best of Ohio Honey Jay Stakes. The 6-year-old chestnut son of Notional-Hey There Cupcake, by Prized left the gate at odds of 2-1 for rider Jose Bracho and trainer Gary Johnson. Owned by Ron Paolucci, Cake Pop was timed in 1:11 for the six furlongs. Altissimo was second at 4-1 for T.D. Houghton, while 2-1 Buckeye Bullet (Erik Barbaran) was third and 22-1 **Over Ice** (Fernando Salazar Becerra) was fourth.



Cake Pop & Jose Bracho

After a lengthy steward's inquiry and multiple jockey objections, **Moonlite Mission** was disqualified and placed off the board in the in the 35<sup>th</sup> running of the \$100,000 Best of Ohio Pay The Man Stakes. **Circus Rings** (Hector Berrios) was moved up to first place, followed by **Leona's Reward** (John McKee), **Totally Obsessed** (Jose Bracho) and **Cali Dream** (Franklin Ceballos). Circus Rings, who left the gate at odds of 6-1, is a 5-year-old daughter of Wilburn-Ring Ring Ring, by Petionville owned by Knight's A to Z Racing and is conditioned by Valerie K. Shanyfelt. Time for the one- and 1/8-mile contest was 1:54.02.



Circus Rings & Hector Berrios

**Mo Dont No** gave a dominating performance in the 71<sup>st</sup> running of the \$100,000 Best of Ohio Governor's Buckeye Cup for Ohio-registered 3-year-olds and up. This latest triumph pushed the 7-year-old gelding's career earnings to well over the one million dollar plateau for owner Ron Paolucci. Trained by Jeff Radosevich and ridden to victory by Jose Bracho, Mo Dont No was clocked in 2:05.80 for the 1¼ mile contest after leaving the gate at 7-2 odds. **I Wanna Win**, a 17-1 longshot was second for rider Ricardo Feliciano, with 3-5 **Forewarned** (Sonny Leon) third and 17-1 **Let'scalliteven** (Chelsey Keiser) fourth.