



Ohio State Racing Commission

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

Mike DeWine
Governor

Scott Borgemenke
Chairman



Leona's Reward captures \$75,000 Classen Memorial

Second time a charm for game Ohio-bred

May 4, 2019

by Kimberly Rinker, Ohio Thoroughbred Race Fund

Leona's Reward put in a game effort in the final yards of the \$75,000 Dr. T. F. Classen Memorial Stakes to capture the 13th running of the stake for Ohio-Accredited fillies and mares, 3-year-olds and up.

It was the second consecutive season that Leona's Reward had captured the Classen, and it was the 6-year-old mare's fourth straight Ohio stakes triumph.

Trained by Tim Hamm, the daughter of Parents' Reward was making her 2019 debut for owners Blazing Meadows Farm LLC and Michael Friedman and upped her career earnings to \$723,606 with this latest win. Time for the six furlong sprint was a modest 1:11.32—not a bad clocking for the Cleveland one-miler's surface, which was rated as "muddy" at post time.

Leona's Reward, the 5-2 choice, broke well for jockey Scott Spieth and waited until the turn to make a bold, three-wide move. She then battled the leading 1-2 favorite **True Cinder** (Gerardo Corrales) down the stretch and appeared beaten nearing the wire before shifting into another gear and overtaking her rival by half a length with her ears pinned. **Edge Of Pleasure** (T. Houghton), a 35-1 longshot, held on for third with 17-1 **Grizabella** (Hector Rosario, Jr.) getting up for fourth.

Leona's Reward is a multiple stakes winner with 15 wins in 39 starts and won her previous three starts—all stakes events: the \$75,000 Ohio Debutante Stakes on Oct. 13 at Thistledown; the \$75,000 Ruff/Kirchberg Stakes on Nov. 17 at Mahoning Valley; and the \$75,000 Bobby Bricker Memorial on Dec. 1 at Mahoning Valley. She also finished second in the 2017 edition of the Classen to True Cinder.



Multiple stakes winner Leona's Reward captured Saturday's Dr. T. F. Classen Memorial Stakes at JACK Thistledown, getting up to beat True Cinder in the final strides. *Photo by Jeff Zamaiko*

-30-

This e-mail, including any attachments, may contain information that is confidential, and is transmitted for the sole use of the intended recipient. If you are not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any use, dissemination, copying or retention of this e-mail or the information contained herein is strictly prohibited. If you have received this e-mail in error, please immediately notify the sender by telephone or reply e-mail, and permanently delete this e-mail from your computer system. The views presented in this message are solely those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the opinion of The Ohio State Racing Commission, and do not guarantee the integrity, security or proper receipt of this message. Likewise, the Ohio State Racing Commission does not accept any liability whatsoever for any possible damages arising from, or in connection with, data interception, software viruses or manipulation by third parties.