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Emerald Necklace spotlights Freshmen Fillies

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by Kimberly Rinker, for the Ohio Thoroughbred Race Fund

Nine 2-year-old fillies are scheduled to break from the Jack Thistledown starting gate on Saturday afternoon, Oct. 21, in the third running of the \$75,000 Emerald Necklace Stake for Accredited Ohio foals. Post time for the featured eighth event—a six furlong sprint—on the nine-race program is 5:10 pm, ET.

The Emerald Necklace Stake is named in honor of the rivers, creeks and extensive system of nature preserves that make up the Cleveland Metroparks. The unofficial title “Emerald Necklace” covers more than 21,000 acres and walking, biking and horseback riding trails, along with fishing, picnic and nature education centers, as well as a few golf courses.

Trainer Larry Smith will saddle second-time starter **Mandi’s Pride** for breeder/owner Richard Alderson, who carries 120 pounds with Perry Ouzts aboard. This chestnut Big Atlantic lass ran off in her career debut at Belterra Park on Oct. 7 at this same distance as the public’s choice in a respectable 1:13.57, besting her nearest rival by 3¼ lengths. That lone win put \$13,380 in her coffers.

Pure Justice will try for her second career victory as well for trainer/owner R. Gary Patrick. This roan daughter by Twinspired—Corner Girl, by Is It True has four starts thus far in her brief career, with her maiden special weight triumph coming on Sept. 21 at Belterra. She then finished sixth in the \$150,000 John W. Galbreath Memorial on Best of Ohio day, Oct. 7. This distance and company should be more to the liking of the \$21,580 earner. Edgar Paucar rides.

Trainer/owner Amber Cobb and co-owner Paul Hook’s **Jigs a Rollin** makes her career debut in the Emerald Necklace, carrying 117 pounds with Walter De La Cruz in the saddle. This Vaquero miss has had several respectable works to date and looks poised for pari-mutuel outing.

Birdacious is a Pavel Matejka trainee who has a pair of solid, second-place efforts to her credit in as many starts. Bred by Robin Murphy, this gray daughter by Birdrun—Sweet Tessa Marie, by El Corredor is owned by the Preston Stables and will have Chelsey Keiser in the irons, carrying 117 pounds. In both of her previous starts she was behind rivals Mandi’s Pride and Pure Justice.

Other runners include first time starters **No Truer**, a chestnut daughter by Alcindor, and **Silky Tassels**, a bay lass from the first crop by Kettle Corn. Still looking for their first on-the-board finishes are **Linda N Michelle**, **Circle Will Run** and **Way Back When**, each of whom would do well to visit the winner’s circle in their in their first stake attempt.