



## Ohio State Racing Commission

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## OTRF Distaff Stakes featured at Thistledown Saturday

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by Kimberly Rinker, For the Ohio Thoroughbred Race Fund

A pair of \$75,000 stakes for Ohio-bred distaffs highlight the Saturday afternoon program at JACK Thistledown.

In the fourth running of the \$75,000 Emerald Necklace Stakes, a field of six 2-year-old Ohio-accredited fillies battle at six furlongs over the Cleveland dirt. This co-featured event has been carded as the fifth race, with an approximate post time of 3:20 pm, ET.

**Hey Adrian**, a Josh Faulkner owned, bred and trained chestnut filly by Twinspired, out of the Milwaukee Bred mare Zinn House Doll, heads up the Emerald Necklace as the lone stakes winner in the field, having won the \$75,000 Loyalty Stakes on Sept. 8 at Belterra Park in wire-to-wire style in the slop. The homebred lass broke her maiden on Aug. 13 at Thistledown in front-end fashion, drawing off by 5¾ lengths. A winner of \$66,00 lifetime, Hey Adrian has two wins and one third in four career starts.

Faulkner will also tighten the girth on his homebred bay maiden filly **Copper Trail**, a bay daughter by David Copperfield-Meadow Trail, by Stroll. The \$1,500-winning Copper Trail has had just one start in her young career thus far, finishing fourth in a Thistledown maiden special weight on Sept. 15.

**Financing Dreams** is a grey daughter by Vaquero-Tamarod, by Forefathers, bred by Roger Braugh, Jr., who broke her maiden in her career debut on Aug.13 at Thistledown with Luis Colon in the saddle. Jeff Radosevich trains the \$18,000-earning filly for owner Michael Annechino.

Trainer Danny Bird bridles up the bay filly **Show Me Some Sass**, who broke her maiden at Thistledown on July 28 for owner Thomas Santillo. This bay daughter by Unbridled Wood-Sassy Shore Breeze, by Shore Breeze, had two third place finishes at the Cleveland one-miler prior to her victory, and owns a bankroll of \$24,000. Bred by Robert Rowe, she was purchased for \$500 at the 2017 Ohio Thoroughbred Breeders & Owners Mixed Sale.

**Radiant Bird**, a chestnut Birdrun-Jackieosofabulous lass, hails from trainer Robert Gorham's barn, making her third lifetime start. A winner of \$8,100 to date from her second-place finish in a

Thistledown maiden special weight on Sept. 3, Radiant Bird was bred by Dr. Andrew Conroy and is owned by Mast Thoroughbreds.

**Crypto's Twin Mill** makes the jump into stakes company for trainer Nancy Adams and owner James Adams. The daughter by Mercer Miller, out of the Johannesburg mare Jojo Jettin, was bred by Dr. Paul Gutheil and sold for \$500 at the 2017 Ohio Thoroughbred Breeders & Owners Mixed Sale.



**Hey Adrian, shown here winning the \$75,000 Loyalty Stakes at Belterra Park on Sept. 8, heads up the Emerald Necklace Stakes at Thistledown on Sept. 22.**

*Photo by Amy Griffiths/Coady Photography*

The \$75,000 Diana Stakes is a six-furlong sprint for Ohio-registered fillies and mares, 3-year-olds and up. This year marks the fifth time this stake will be contested, carded as the seventh race on the afternoon program, with seven distaffs scheduled to break from the Thistledown gate at approximately 4:40 pm, ET.

Looch Racing Stable's **Heavenhasmynikki** looks well-placed to notch her first stakes triumph in the Diana, coming into this stake fresh off a victory in a Thistledown allowance race on Sept. 1, when she scored commandingly by nearly four lengths for her new trainer Gary Johnson. After facing tougher foes earlier in the season, the daughter by Majestic Warrior—Floral Park, by Forest Wildcat, would seem to have found her niche in here. Bred by Ohio's Langsem Farm, Heavenhasmynikki has \$107,080 in her coffers. Looch plunked down \$150,000 for this 3-year-old chestnut filly at the 2016 Fasig-Tipton Kentucky Fall Yearling Sale.

Another Looch-owned mare, the multiple stakes winning **Proper Discretion** is the logical choice in the Diana, having earned \$462,861 thus far from 13 wins in 26 career starts. The Discreetly Mine 5-year-old won this same stake in 2017 and was third in the 2016 edition. This season she captured the \$75,000 Scarlet & Gray Handicap on Sept. 1 at Thistledown and the \$75,000 Petro Memorial earlier this season.

**Ali Blue**, who was second in the Scarlet & Gray to the aforementioned Proper Discretion, hails from the Tim Hamm stable for owners Duncan Lloyd and Blazing Meadows Farm. This homebred 4-year-old daughter of Bluegrass Cat-All About Allison, by City Zip, has career earnings just shy of \$200,000

from six wins, seven seconds and four thirds in 22 starts. She has yet to reach the winner's circle in a stake event but has multiple triumphs at the allowance level.

The hard-trying **La Nina Bronca** rarely misses a check for trainer Larry Smith and owners Hillburn Racing Stable. A 7-year-old Cactus Ridge mare, La Nina Bronca won a Belterra Park allowance race on June 28 in front-running style, before finishing fifth and fourth respectively in the \$75,000 Vivacious Stakes and Scarlet & Gray Handicap. Bred by Meadow Springs Farm, the \$181,320-earning La Nina Bronca was a strong second to Proper Discretion in this stake in 2017.

Antonio Flores' **Striking Lass** was third in the Scarlet & Gray on Sept. 1 at Thistledown for trainer James McDonald after putting together a five-race win streak in the optional claiming ranks. Bred by Lowell Allen, the 6-year-old chestnut Canadian Frontier mare has \$261,322 in earnings from 11 wins, eight seconds and eight thirds in 36 starts.

McDonald will also tighten the girth on **Put Up With It**, a 5-year-old chestnut daughter by Put It Back, for owner Flores. This winner of \$151,816 in her career won her last start, a Thistledown optional claimer/allowance contest on Sept. 1 by nearly four lengths.

The 3-year-old **Dotthei** was third in the \$75,000 Southern Park Stakes at Mahoning Valley to Tango Run in late March of this year. Trained by Mike Rone, this Haynesfield-Jensens Score, by Even the Score filly has won two of her last three starts in the allowance ranks at Thistledown. From eight lifetime starts Dotthei has had four wins and two thirds, with \$90,007 in earnings.



**Proper Discretion, seen here winning the \$75,000 Scarlet & Gray Handicap at Thistledown returns to the scene of that triumph as she battles in the \$75,000 Diana Stakes on Sept. 22.**

*Photo by Jeff Zamaiko*