



Ohio State Racing Commission

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12 Battle in \$75,000 Sydney Gendelman Memorial Handicap

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by Kimberly Rinker, For the Ohio Thoroughbred Race Fund

A field of 13 Ohio-registered runners, 3-year-olds and up, are set to battle in the **\$75,000 Sydney Gendelman Memorial** Handicap on Saturday, June 9 at Belterra Park. Post time for the one and 1/16-mile turf test—the seventh event on the eight-race program that honors a long-time River Downs racing official—is 4:51 pm, ET.

The Gendelman features the return of 2016 and 2017 Ohio Horse of the Year **Mo Don't No** to stakes competition in the Buckeye State. The 5-year-old altered son of Uncle Mo-Lilah, by Defrere, who was bred by Beechwood Racing, is conditioned by Jeff Radosevich and will carry the bright lime green colors of Looch Racing Stable postward.

A winner of \$724,555 lifetime, Mo Don't No is a multiple stakes winner of 16 races and five second-place finishes in 23 starts. The dark bay or brown gelding was second in his first start this season in a Thistledown allowance sprint and followed that up with a victory at the Cleveland one miler on May 16 where he had the lead from start to finish at a distance of one mile, 70 yards. Mo Don't No finished second to Gone Too Soon in this stake last year.

Millionaire (\$1,141,765) **Rivers Run Deep**, well-known for his sprinting capabilities, will battle over the grass for the first time this season. Last year, he captured a \$100,000 optional claimer at Churchill Downs on the turf, but at a distance of five furlongs. Trained by Chris Hartman for James and Ywachetta Driver, the son of Ready's Image, out of the Prospector's Music mare Music Miss, is a winner of 20 races, with ten seconds and five thirds in 41 career starts. Bred by Nancy Lavrich and Walmac Farm, Rivers Run Deep won a six-furlong sprint earlier this year at Oaklawn Park, before finishing second in the \$75,000 Babst-Palacios Memorial Handicap at Belterra on April 28.

It was **Altissimo** who captured the Babst-Palacios for owner/breeder Nancy Lavrich, who co-owns the 5-year-old gelded son of Noble Causeway with Elizabeth Rankin. A winner of \$221,888 and nine races in 27 starts, Altissimo is riding a two-race win streak, having won an optional claimer at Mahoning Valley on Feb. 28 before taking the Babst-Palacios for trainer Richard Zielinski.

Penny Lauer's **Cake Pop**, who won the \$75,000 Sterns Cleveland Gold Cup and \$75,000 Tall Stack Stakes in 2017, as well as the \$75,000 Hoover Stakes in 2016, is still trying for his first elusive victory of 2018. The striking 4-year-old chestnut son of Notional, a homebred trained by Michael Lauer, has five lifetime triumphs to his credit in 20 starts, along with a trio of second-place finishes and eight thirds, with \$282,295 in career earnings.

Brass Buckle, trained by owner Juan Espinosa, has only finished off the board twice in eight starts this season, and has a healthy bank account of \$243,183. The 9-year-old Proud Citizen gelding has 13 wins, 12 seconds and 15 third in 77 career starts, with \$46,440 earned this year. He was bred by Blazing Meadows Farm and seems to prefer sprint races.

First race post time at Belterra Park is 1:20 pm, ET. Upcoming OTRF stakes are the \$75,000 George Lewis Memorial, a one and 1/8 mile contest for accredited foals, 3-year-olds and up, and the \$75,000 William Petro Memorial Handicap, a one and 1/16 mile stake for Ohio-registered fillies and mares, 3-year-olds and up, on Saturday, June 23 at JACK Thistledown.

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Photo Cutline: 2016 and 2017 Ohio Horse of the Year **Mo Don't No** carries the bright lime green colors of Looch Racing Stable postward in the \$75,000 Sidney Gendelman Stakes on Saturday, June 9 at Belterra Park. **Photo by Brad Conrad**