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OHIO THOROUGHBRED
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\$75,000 Governor's Buckeye Cup Saturday at Jack Thistledown

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by Kimberly Rinker, For the Ohio Thoroughbred Race Fund

The 70th edition of the \$75,000 Governor's Buckeye Cup is set to be contested on Saturday, Aug. 25 at JACK Thistledown, featuring a competitive field of six of Ohio's top stake contestants. Scheduled post time is 3:40 pm, ET for the featured fifth race, which spotlights Ohio-registered runners, 3-year-olds and up, racing at a distance of 1¼ miles. All of the entrants will carry 122 pounds, except for the lone 3-year-old in the field, **Forewarned**, who carries 118 pounds postward.

Altissimo, a 5-year-old Noble Causeway gelding who has won three of his last stakes contests (by a combined 18 lengths) and five of his last six starts, will be saddled by trainer Richard Zelinski for owners Nancy Lavrich and Elizabeth Rankin. A multiple stakes winner, Altissimo won the \$75,000 Honey Jay Stakes at Thistledown on Aug. 11; the Gentleman Memorial on June 9 at Belterra Park and the Babst-Palacios Memorial on April 28 at Belterra. Bred by Nancy Lavrich and Nikner Farm, Altissimo has amassed \$311,888 lifetime from 11 wins, three seconds and three thirds in 29 starts.

Zelinski also sends out **Mobil At Last**, who has seen his best efforts come in allowance events. A 4-year-old son of Mobil, this gelding has \$88,579 earned from two wins, four seconds and four thirds in 22 starts. This is just his second start against stakes competition for owners Gail Kromer and Eric Heyman, as he finished fourth to Eightthehardway in the \$75,000 Ruff-Kirchberg in 2017.

The richest horse in the field, the multiple stakes winning **Mo Dont No**, sports a hefty bankroll of \$743,080 for the Looch Racing Stable. The 5-year-old dark bay gelding is conditioned by Jeff Radosevich and has one win in five starts this year, and will be trying for his first stakes triumph of the season. He finished a respectable second in the Honey Jay to the dominating Altissimo on Aug. 11. Mo Dont No, a son of Uncle Mo—Lilah, by Defrere who was bred by the Beechwood Racing Stable, has 16 wins and six seconds to his credit in 26 career starts.

Eightthehardway hails from the Glenroy Brown stable with \$417,238 in his coffers from nine wins, seven seconds and ten thirds in 43 lifetime starts. This 6-year-old Parents' Reward gelding won the

\$75,000 Lewis Memorial on June 23 at Thistledown for owner Paul Groves and has multiple stakes wins to his credit. He was bred by Blazing Meadows Farm.

Trainer Pavel Matejka will bridle up the lone sophomore in the field, **Forewarned**, for owner/breeder Preston Stables. This homebred bay colt, a son of Flat Out, out of the Five Star Day mare Fortune Play, is riding a two-race win streak coming into the Governor's Buckeye Cup. He won his first stakes contest, the \$75,000 Cleveland Gold Cup on June 30 at Thistledown for these connections and has \$95,023 in career earnings from three wins and two seconds in seven lifetime starts.

Let'scalliteven, a 5-year-old altered son of Even the Score, is a stakes-placed runner, with third place finishes in both the 2018 edition of the \$75,000 Gentleman and the \$150,000 Best of Ohio 2017 Endurance Stakes. Bred, owned and trained by Robert Bennett III, Let'scalliteven has \$146,326 earned from six wins, three seconds and four third in 18 starts.

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Photo Cutline: Altissimo will be trying for his fourth straight stakes triumph in Saturday's \$75,000 Governor's Buckeye Cup at JACK THISTLEDOWN. He's shown here winning the \$75,000 Honey Jay Stakes on Aug. 11, 2018. **Photo by Jeff Zamaiko**