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\$75,000 Green Carpet Stakes highlight Memorial Day Weekend

May 24, 2019

by Kimberly Rinker, Ohio Thoroughbred Race Fund

The \$75,000 Green Carpet Stakes for Ohio-registered runners is the Memorial Day weekend feature on Sunday, May 26 at Belterra Park. The one and one-sixteenth mile contest for 3-year-olds features a full field of 11 vying over the Belterra turf.

WinStar & Blazing Meadows Farms **Diamond Dust** is the clear standout in the Green Carpet, as the gelded son of Paynter will be trying for his fifth straight victory and his fourth stakes win in his last five starts. Trained by Tim Hamm, Diamond Dust won the \$75,000 Tall Stack Stakes on May 4 at Belterra and the \$75,000 Noonan Stakes on April 13 at Mahoning Valley after winning a \$38,000 Allowance race. He had wrapped up his freshman campaign by taking the \$150,000 Juvenile Stakes in wire-to-wire fashion on Best of Ohio day at Jack Thistledown.

This hardy homebred has earned \$283,100 lifetime from six wins and two seconds in eight career trips postward, and the Green Carpet will be his first effort on the grass. Luis Colon is slated to ride.

Marion Gorham's **Send Me On** comes into the Green Carpet off a Thistledown allowance win on May 7, when the Hold Me Back gelding bested rival and fellow Green Carpet starter **Manga Man** by a head after a thrilling stretch duel. Trained by Robert Gorham, Send Me On was third last year to Diamond Dust in the \$150,000 Juvenile and has three wins in seven tries for earnings of \$76,947. He was bred by Gail Kromer and Eric Heyman and will have Gerardo Corrales aboard.

The aforementioned Manga Man hails from Alan Sobol's barn for owner Martha Boland. This son of Kingship—Sligo Knows, by Sligo Bay (IRE) was fourth in last year's Juvenile won by Diamond Dust and makes his foray into stakes company for the second time in his career. His bankroll of \$80,232 is a result of two wins, four seconds and two thirds in 12 lifetime starts. Luis Gonzalez rides the gelding, who was bred by Joshua Faulkner.

Trainer Jeff Radosevich will bridle up **Jack Be Fast** for owner Gerald Silver. This flashy chestnut gelding by Cowtown Cat has only finished off the board in one start this year in five tries—in the

\$75,000 Noonan Stakes on April 13 at Mahoning Valley—after winning two allowance starts in a row at that same track. Bred by Mapleton Thoroughbreds, Jack Be Fast has three wins, one second and four thirds in 11 starts with a bank account of \$79,050. Luis Rivera rides.



Diamond Dust hopes to keep his win streak intact as he goes postward in the \$75,000 Green Carpet Stakes on May 26 at Belterra Park. The winner of \$283,100 lifetime will have regular jockey Luis Colon in the saddle in the Green Carpet Stakes. *Photo by Brad Conrad*

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