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Front-end performances in Hoover & Cincinnati Stakes

July 6, 2019

by Kimberly Rinker, Ohio Thoroughbred Race Fund

A pair of \$75,000 Ohio Thoroughbred Race Fund (OTRF) stakes provided the Belterra Park fans with sizzling action on a hot and steamy Saturday afternoon, July 6 at the Cincinnati oval.

In the \$75,000 Hoover Stakes for Ohio-registered 2-year-olds, **Liberate** stole the show with a gate to wire performance in 1:05.4 for the 5½ furlong sprint. The homebred son of Gemologist—Southern Silence, by Dixie Union was steered by Alberto Clemente for trainer Tim Hamm and owners WinStar Farm and Blazing Meadows Farm.



Liberate & jockey Alberto Clemente win the \$75,000 Hoover Stakes at Belterra Park.

Photo by Coady Photography

After leaving the gate handily, Liberate battled with eventual 11-1 second-place finisher **Betchaiwill** (Sonny Leon) for the lead, and drew away from him turning for home to prevail by seven lengths at the wire. **Flint Corn** (Luis Colon) was third at odds of 6-1, while Perry Ouzts guided 25-1 **Lil Bit Krome** to a four-place finish.

Liberate was making just his second career start in the Hoover Stakes, having broken his maiden in his career debut on June 24 at Thistledown in Cleveland. He now has \$69,250 in his bankroll.

In the \$75,000 Cincinnatian Stakes, **Hey Adrian** put forth a terrifically game performance using similar tactics as Liberate. The bay Twinspired lass held off multiple challenges during her front-stepping performance to best six rivals over the Belterra turf against 3-year-old Ohio-accredited distaffs, sweeping under the wire first in 1:45.05.



Hey Adrian & jockey Juan Velez win the \$75,000 Cincinnatian Stakes at Belterra Park.

Photo by Coady Photography

Ridden by Juan Velez for breeder/owner/trainer Joshua Faulkner, 4-5 Hey Adrian galloped easily to the wire, finishing 3½ lengths ahead of the hard-trying 5-2 **Here Comes Jigs** (Richardo Feliciano) who closed gamely, with 30-1 longshot **Mobil Lady** (Noel Vigil) third and 5-1 **Woodys Watching** (Perry Ouzts) fourth.

It was the second consecutive stakes victory for Hey Adrian, who captured the \$75,000 Petro Memorial on June 22 at Thistledown. Her career earnings now stand at \$174,930 from five wins, one second and one third in 12 lifetime starts. She also won the 2019 editions of the \$75,000 Emerald Necklace Stakes and the \$75,000 Loyalty Stakes.

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