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Two OTRF Stakes Friday at Belterra

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by Kimberly Rinker, Ohio Thoroughbred Race Fund

A pair of \$75,000 Ohio Thoroughbred Race Fund stakes will be contested Friday, July 3 at Belterra Park.

First up is the Hoover Stakes for Ohio-registered 2-year-olds, traveling 5½ furlongs (Race 3), followed by the one- and 1/16-mile Cincinnatian Stakes (Race 6) for Accredited 3-year-olds racing on the turf. First race post time is 12:35 pm, ET.

The \$75,000 Hoover Stakes give Ohio horse racing fans a first look at some of the future stars in the Buckeye Stake with nine hungry youngsters making just their first or second lifetime start and traveling 5½ furlongs.

Esplanade gave an impressive performance in her pari-mutuel debut on June 17 against six rivals, winning in a romp by 6½ lengths at 4½ furlongs. The dark bay or brown filly by Daredevil-Southern Silence, by Dixie Union is trained by Tim Hamm for Blazing Meadows and WinStar Farms and earned \$15,460 via that lone start.

Esplanade is one of two fillies in this field—the other, **Alexandria**—is also trained by Tim Hamm for these same connections and had an equally eye-catching debut at this same distance on June 23. The sleek chestnut daughter by Constitution-Spring Water, by Spring at Last bested her rivals by nearly six lengths in that 4½ furlong contest. She has \$12,960 in her coffers. Hamm's other trainee is the Carpe Diem gelding **Historically**, also owned and bred by Blazing Meadows and WinStar Farms.

The homebred **Sheltowee's Big Cat** scored a resounding victory on June 18 in a 2-year-old maiden race at Belterra, covering 4½ furlongs handily and drawing off by 5½ lengths. Owned by the Sheltowee Stable and trained by Michael Evans, the altered bay son of Cowtown Cat has \$21,120 in earnings thus far in his brief career.

Trainer Thomas Drury, Jr., will tighten the girth on **King BB**, a chestnut son of McClean's Music for owner-breeder Maccabee Farm LLC. This youngster captured his 4½ furlong debut sprint on June 9, besting Michael Foster's **Hipster**—also a contestant in this stake—by a head. Hipster, a gelded son of Awesome Again, is conditioned by Doug Cowans.

The \$75,000 Cincinnatian spotlights a field of 11 fillies, including the multiple stakes winner **Edge of Night**, who captured the 2019 editions of the \$75,000 Glacial Princess Stakes and the \$75,000 Emerald Necklace Stakes. Trained by Robert Gorham for Mast Thoroughbreds LLC, the daughter of Added Edge-Cargo Jet, by Discreet Cat was bred by Steve DeMaiolo and has \$143,250 in career earnings from three wins, three seconds and two thirds in ten starts.