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Corrales steers both OTRF Stakes winners

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by Kimberly Rinker, Ohio Thoroughbred Race Fund

Jockey Gerardo Corrales steered both winners of two Ohio Thoroughbred Race Fund Stakes on a steamy Friday afternoon (July 3) at Belterra Park. The 24-year-old Panamanian rider guided Esplanande to victory in the \$75,000 Hoover Stakes before repeating in the \$75,000 Cincinnatian at the Cincinnati oval with Ting Tang.

Corrales graduated from the Laffit Pincay, Jr., Technical Jockey Training Academy in Panama City before moving to the United States in 2015, where he plied his wares in Florida before coming to Ohio in 2017. He captured last season's riding title (his first) at Jack Thistledown and to date has ridden the winners of more than \$8.5 million. Thus far Corrales has graced the winner's circle 438 times, with 370 seconds and 333 thirds from 2,449 starts.

Esplanande broke from the gate well and never looked back in the Hoover Stakes as the even-money favorite for Corrales and literally romped to victory by 2¼ lengths in the 5½ furlong contest, clocked in 1:05.31. Uptown and rider Jose Bracho were second at 2-1 with King BB and rider Malcom Franklin picking up third-place honors.

Esplanande is a dark brown or bay daughter by Daredevil—Southern Silence, by Dixie Union who is trained by Tim Hamm for Winstar Farm & Blazing Meadows Farm. This was her second career victory in as many tries and upped her career earnings to \$60,460.

By contrast, Corrales used different tactics to get the job done with his second stakes horse, bringing Ting Tang up in the final yards as a 15-1 outsider to best 1-1 Edge Of Night (Christian Pilares) by a nose in the one and 1/16 mile Cincinnatian. Lovely Lady, a 22-1 longshot, was third for John McKee.

Trained by breeder Robert Gorham for Mast Thoroughbreds, it was the second win of the season and third lifetime win for the City Weekend lass. Ting Tang—who was timed in a winning 1:43.79—now sports a bankroll of \$93,316.