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Jockey Jose Bracho & Owner Ron Paolucci win \$75,000 OTRF Stakes

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by Kimberly Rinker, Ohio Thoroughbred Race Fund

Jockey Jose Bracho steered both winners of two \$75,000 Ohio Thoroughbred Race Fund stakes for owner Ron Paolucci on a steamy hot Sunday afternoon (July 28) at Belterra Park.

Totally Obsessed captured the \$75,000 Norm Barron Queen City Oaks in a respectable 1:47.83 with Bracho in the irons for trainer Gary Johnson. This event was a one and one-sixteenth mile event for Ohio-registered 3-year-old fillies on the dirt.

Totally Obsessed, a Tale of Ekati lass, was sent off as the 5-2 choice and sat third until the half, when she grabbed the lead and galloped easily to the wire to best **H. F Carmel** (Irwin Rosendo) by three-quarters of a length, with **Drillit** third for T.D. Houghton and 2-1 **Hey Adrian** (Juan Velez) fourth.

Bred by Schleprock Racing LLC, Totally Obsessed won the \$75,000 Southern Park Stakes at Mahoning Valley on March 23 of this year and now has \$223,667 in her career coffers from six wins and two seconds in 12 lifetime starts. She brought down the hammer for \$50,000 as a 2-year-old at the June 2018 Ocala Breeders Sale Company Two-Year-Olds and Horses of Racing Age Sale.

Bracho returned to the Belterra Park winner's circle again as he guided 25-1 longshot **Funnel Cake** to the upset win in the \$75,000 Buckeye Native Stakes, a one and one sixteenth turf test for Accredited Ohio-breds, 3-year-olds and upward. The son of Kettle Corn is trained by Jeff Radosevich and gave Ron Paolucci his second stakes winner of the afternoon, clocked in 1:48.03 on the grass.

True Cinder (Irwin Rosendo), one of two fillies in the race, led throughout most of the race but was headed by Funnel Cake mid-stretch and was second best at odds of 5-1 as the winner drew off by 5½ lengths. **Mobil Solution**, at 5-2, was third for rider Luis Rivera, while 6-1 **Sammy Da Bull** was fourth for Erick Barbaran.

Though he has picked up respectable checks in several stakes events, this was the first such triumph for Funnel Cake, who was bred by John Hicks, William Hart and William Martin. He was a \$35,000 yearling purchase at the Keeneland Association 2016 September Yearling Sale after bringing a \$18,000 price tag at the Keeneland Association 2016 January Horses of All Ages Sale.

Funnel Cake now has \$148,536 in lifetime earnings from five wins, a second and a third in 17 starts.

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No photos were provided by Belterra Park to accompany this release

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