



Ohio State Racing Commission

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OTRF Stakes complement Ohio Derby program

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by Kimberly Rinker, Ohio Thoroughbred Race Fund

Two \$75,000 Ohio Thoroughbred Race Fund (OTRF) Stakes are the co-features on the Ohio Derby program Saturday, June 22 at JACK Thistledown.

First up is the 39th running of the \$75,000 George Lewis Memorial Stakes for Accredited Ohio-breds, 3-year-olds and up. The one and one-sixteenth mile contest has been set as the seventh race, with a post time of 4:10 pm, ET.

A competitive field of seven will break from the Thistledown gate in the Lewis, headed by the standout mare **Leona's Reward**, who'll be trying for her fifth consecutive stakes triumph. Trained by Tim Hamm, the 6-year-old Parent's Reward mare has earned \$723,606 thus far for Blazing Meadows Farm LLC and Michael Friedman, with 15 career wins, seven seconds and five thirds in 39 starts.



Leona's Reward in action

Leona's Reward's last four stakes victories include: the \$75,000 Classen Memorial (Thistledown, May 4); the \$75,000 Bricker Handicap, Dec. 1, 2018); the \$75,000 Ruff Kirchberg (Mahoning Valley, Nov. 17, 2018); and the \$75,000 Ohio Debutante (Mahoning Valley, Nov. 3, 2018). She was also a smart second in the \$150,000 Best of Ohio Distaff on Oct. 13, 2018 at Thistledown. Scott Spieth rides.

The Lewis Memorial pits Leona's Reward against \$430,738 earner and multiple stakes winner **Eighthardway**; the multiple stakes winning **True Cinder** who has \$427,000 bankroll; and 2019 Rowland Memorial Handicap winner (Thistledown, May 11) **Mobil Solution**, who has \$281,820 in his coffers.

Leona's Reward also is entered in the \$75,000 William J. Petro Memorial Handicap, a one and one-sixteenth mile event for Ohio-registered fillies and mares, 3-year-olds and up, with a post time of 4:40 pm, ET. Her connections have until Saturday morning scratch time of 9 am, ET to decide which races suits her best.

Joy Royer's **School Board Prez** is making just her second start of the season in the Petro. Trained by Doug Matthews, the 6-year-old Courageous Cat lass was second in this stake last season to Proper Discretion, just prior to winning the \$75,000 Vivacious Handicap and the \$75,000 Pay The Man Stakes. School Board Prez owns a career bankroll of \$541,627 from nine wins, five seconds and three thirds in 27 lifetime starts.



School Board Prez

Mayas Queen Neetee, conditioned by Jeff Radosevich, captured Belterra allowance race on May 2 prior to a disappointing out-of-the-money finish at Churchill on May 24. Owned by Ron Paolucci, the 7-year-old daughter by Speightstown-The Niagro Queen, by Langfuhr has amassed \$257,123 from seven wins, one second and two thirds in 16 lifetime starts.

Trainer Gary John saddles two contestants in the Petro—the multiple stakes winner **Takechargedelilah**, a 4-year-old daughter by Take Charge Indy and winner of \$241,640 in her career, and **Cali Dream**, a 5-year-old Cowboy Cal mare with \$256,767 in her bankroll.

Rounding out the Petro field are multiple stakes winners **Drillit**, a 3-year-old \$203,050-winning chestnut Drill filly trained by Robert Gorham, and **Hey Adrian**, a 3-year-old bay Twinspired lass with career earnings of \$129,930 who hails from trainer Josh Faulkner's barn.