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OHIO THOROUGHBRED
RACE FUND

Eightthehardway & Proper Discretion capture OTRF Stakes

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by Kimberly Rinker, For the Ohio Thoroughbred Race Fund

Eightthehardway and **Proper Discretion** captured a pair of \$75,000 Ohio Thoroughbred Race Fund stakes on Saturday afternoon, June 23 at JACK Thistledown Racino, complementing the \$500,000 Ohio Derby (Grade III), won by **Core Beliefs**.

Eightthehardway stormed to a 4½ length triumph in the 39th running of the \$75,000 George Lewis Memorial, a one and 1/8-mile contest for Ohio-Accredited runners, 3-year-olds and up, in 1:53.84.

Ridden by T.D. Houghton for trainer Glenroy Brown, the brown, 6-year-old son by Parent's Reward-Natural Nine, by Cryptoclearance notched career victory number nine for owner Paul Groves in his 42nd lifetime start.

Bred by Blazing Meadows Farm, Eightthehardway (5-2) upped his career earnings to \$413,388. The venerable gelding had previously finished second by a nose in the 2017 Lewis to the Leona's Reward, and was third in the 2016 edition of this stake.

Mobil Solution (Luis Rivera) was second at odds of 6-1, with last year's winner of this stake, **Leona's Reward**, finishing third with Pablo Morales in the irons as the public's choice.

Proper Discretion also left no doubt she was much the best as she romped to a 2½ length victory in a gate-to-wire performance for jockey Ricardo Feliciano in the \$75,000 J. William Petro Memorial Handicap, a one and 1/16th mile event, timed in 1:46.44.

Trained by Anthony Rini for Looch Racing Stable, the 5-year-old daughter by Discreetly Mine-Prizes, by Prized now has \$400,611 in her lifetime coffers with 12 wins, two seconds and three thirds in 23 career outings.

Favorite **School Board Prez** (Irad Ortiz, Jr.) nailed down second-place honors, just over 17 lengths in front of **Cali Dream** (T.D. Houghton), with **Nikki My Darling** (Luis Colon) a distant fourth, followed by longshot **Flashy G** (Luis Rivera) further back in fifth.

Trainer Peter Eurton saddled Core Beliefs (Joe Talamo) to capture the \$500,000 Ohio Derby, a one and 1/8 mile event for 3-year-olds. Owned by Gary Broad, the sophomore son by Quality Road was timed over the Cleveland dirt in 1:51.08, using come-from-behind tactics to score the victory in a trilling finish, besting **Lone Sailor** (Irad Ortiz, Jr.) by a nose.

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Photo of Eighththehardway by Jeff Zaimako



Photo of Proper Discretion by Jeff Zaimako



Photo of Core Beliefs by Jeff Zaimako