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Distaffs spar in \$75,000 Mackey Memorial-Angenora Stakes

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by Kimberly Rinker, for the Ohio Thoroughbred Race Fund

Seven Ohio-registered fillies and mares, 3-year-old and up, vie in the 25th running of the \$75,000 Michael G. Mackey Memorial-Angenora Stakes at Jack Thistledown, Saturday afternoon, June 3.

The six-furlong dirt test is slated as the seventh event on the eight-race card, with post time scheduled for 4:40 pm, ET.

Multiple stakes winner **Justalittlesmoke** goes to the gate carrying the Mast Thoroughbreds silks for trainer Robert Gorham. The 5-year-old Smoke Glacken mare—a winner of \$632,870 in her career—is hoping to retain her crown in this event, having won the 2016 edition for these same connections with a 2¼ length triumph.

Bred by Belvedere Farm Inc., Justalittlesmoke has ten career stakes victories to her credit and 13 lifetime wins in 21 starts, which also includes six second-place and two third-place finishes. Regular rider T.D. Houghton will be in the saddle as Justalittlesmoke carries high weight of 122 pounds postward in just her second start of the 2017 season. This speedy chestnut won a Thistledown optional claimer at this same distance on May 20 by a commanding seven lengths over her rivals.

Proper Discretion makes her 2017 debut for trainer Benny Feliciano after winning her last two starts last year for previous owner and breeder Bruce Tallisman. The daughter of Discreetly Mine-Prizes, by Prized won the \$75,000 First Lady Stakes at Mahoning Valley in late November after scoring an allowance triumph by 14¼ lengths in late October. Making her debut for new owners Looch Racing Stable, the winner of \$208,600 and seven races in 11 lifetime starts will carry 118 pounds with rider Ricardo Feliciano in the irons.

Multiple stakes winner **Bold Cait** will be trying for her second straight win of the 2017 season in this stake, having won an allowance test at Mountaineer on April 29. The 5-year-old daughter of Sun King is owned by Kay Reed and trained by Eric Reed. Bred by Don Rose, the winner of \$253,906 has nine career wins from 16 starts, including three stake wins—The \$75,000 Tomboy; The \$75,000 Petro Memorial; and The \$75,000 Pay The Man Stakes. Bold Cait will have rider Edgar Paucar riding with 120 pounds on her back.

The lightly-raced **La Quebrada** comes into the Mackey-Angenora fresh off a sparkling 10½ victory in a May 12 Thistledown allowance. Trainer William Cowans will tighten the girth on this 4-year-old daughter of More Than Ready for breeders/owners James A. and Jane N. Fraser. From just four lifetime starts this chestnut mare has three wins and \$48,000 in her coffers as she seeks her first stakes triumph. Rex Stokes III rides La Quebrada, carrying 120 pounds.

The 7-year-old veteran **Floral Sky** makes her second start of the year for trainer Jeff Radosevish and owners Looch Racing Stable. Bred by Langsem Farm, the daughter of Sky Mesa-Floral Park, by Forest Wildcat has \$202,472 in career earnings with a 4-4-3 record from 32 lifetime starts. Floral Sky's lone stake triumph came in the 2014 edition of the Scarlet And Grey Handicap over this same oval. She'll carry 118 pounds with Luis Colon aboard.

Tune Up, a multiple stakes-placed Giant Oak filly, has earned \$143,270 for trainer and co-owner Donald Bookman and co-owners Linda Friess and Joann Bookman. This homebred 4-year-old has four wins, five seconds and a pair of third-place finishes to her credit for these connections. Jaime Rodriquez is in the irons as Tune Up carries 116 pounds postward.

Trainer Danny Were will saddle **La Nina Bronca**, a daughter of Cactus Ridge-Facts of Love, by Known Fact in the Mackey-Engenora. A winner of five starts lifetime with \$99,120 in earnings, La Nina Bronca was third in the \$75,000 Babst-Palcious Memorial on April 29 at Belterra Park and is also trying for her first stakes triumph. The 6-year-old dark brown mare is owned by the Hillburn Racing Stable and was bred by Meadow Springs Farm of Ohio. Christian Pilaes rides La Nina Bronca, who has been assigned 120 pounds.

ABOUT: The Michael G. Mackey Memorial Engenora Stakes honors racing official and former Thistledown general manager **Michael G. Mackey**, who passed away in 2012 at age 72. After becoming Thistledown's GM at age 36, Mackey went on to manage other racetracks including Hialeah, Tampa Bay Downs and Detroit Race Course. He helped develop both the Tampa Bay Derby (Gr. II) and the Ohio Derby (Gr. III) into significant tests for 3-year-olds.

This stake also honors **Engenora**, a top filly who graced the Ohio ovals from 1972 through 1975, winning 16 of 52 starts, including ten Ohio stakes—seven of them at Thistledown. Bred by Happy Times Farm, Inc., the daughter of Two Relics earned \$135,514 during her career and was never worse than third in any of her stakes tests.

COMING UP: On Saturday, June 10, the \$75,000 Sydney Gendelman Memorial Handicap for Ohio-registered, 3-year-olds and up, will be contested over the Belterra turf at one and 1/16 miles.

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Photo Cutline: Multiple stakes winner **Justalittlesmoke** carries the Mast Thoroughbreds silks to the post as she attempts to win Saturday's \$75,000 Michael G. Mackey Memorial-Engenora Stakes at Jacks Thistledown for the second straight year. **Photo by Jeff Zamaiko**