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OHIO THOROUGHBRED  
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## Hope's Frog Song Wins \$75,000 Miss Southern Ohio Stakes

For immediate Release: September 2, 2018

by Kimberly Rinker, for the Ohio Thoroughbred Race Fund

**Hope's Frog Song** upset 6-5 favorite **Leona's Reward** to capture the inaugural running of the \$75,000 Miss Southern Ohio Stakes on a lovely Sunday afternoon, Sept. 2, at Belterra Park.

Ridden by DeShawn Parker, Hope's Frog Song travelled the one and one-sixteen miles over the Belterra grass in a respectable 1:41.44, besting six other Ohio-Accredited fillies and mares, 3-year-olds and up.

**Birdacious** and jockey John McKee left the gate well, leading the field to the half with Leona's Reward following a close second with Victor Lebron aboard. These two battled to a quick 1:09.71 three-quarter clocking, some seven lengths ahead of the field, with Hope's Frog Song stalking in third. Leona's Reward pulled away from Birdacious in the turn and after straightening out for the stretch run; was challenged and overtaken by Hope's Frog Song, who triumphed by nearly two lengths at the wire at 5-1 odds.

Leona's Reward was second, with 2-1 Birdacious five lengths back in third and 9-1 **Grizabella** (Perry Ouzts) getting up for fourth.

Ivan Vazquez trains Hope's Frog Song, a 7-year-old daughter by Kentucky Dane—Rosemary's Prayer, by Deerhound for owner/breeder Raymond Donald. The gutsy mare now has \$249,603 in career earnings from six wins, nine seconds and seven thirds.



**Photo Cutline:** Hope's Frog Song captured the inaugural running of the \$75,000 Miss Southern Ohio Stakes on Sept. 2 at Belterra Park. *Photo by Amy Griffiths/Coady Photography*