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\$75,000 Howard B. Noonan Stakes at Mahoning Valley

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by Kimberly Rinker for the Ohio Thoroughbred Race Fund

Ohio's top 3-year-olds will grace the Mahoning Valley dirt on Saturday afternoon, April 14, to vie in the **\$75,000 Howard B. Noonan Stakes**.

The co-featured six-furlong test—sporting 13 runners from 19 nominations—has been carded as the sixth event on the program, with a 2:34 pm, ET, scheduled post.

Mahoning Valley's other feature, the **\$75,000 Austintown Filly Sprint**, is the fifth race and features a ten sophomore distaffs traveling six furlongs with a 2:06 pm, ET, post time.

The Howard B. Noonan honors the memory of this prominent Buckeye breeder, a Northwestern University graduate who served on the OTBO Board of Directors beginning in 1978 until his death in December 1983. He owned and operated Windy Knoll Farm in Springfield, OH, breeding such standouts as Execution's Reason and Angle Light. Air Forbes Won, who captured the 1982 Kentucky Derby and sired more than 100 stakes winners of \$29.4 million, was bred by the late horseman.

Tango Run—the lone filly—goes postward against three colts and nine gelding rivals in the Noonan. The daughter of Run Away and Hide, out of the Tale of the Cat mare Thedoctorscat, has triumphed in four of her five lifetime starts—three of those stakes victories, including the \$75,000 Southern Park stakes on March 24 at this same venue.

Owned by Michael Foster, the bay lass was a \$32,000 yearling purchase at the 2016 October Fasig-Tipton Sale in Lexington.

Bred by Dr. Harold Fishman, Tango Run has \$169,500 in career earnings. She began her career via a 6½ length maiden win in a 5½ furlong sprint at Thistledown on June 26 last season and followed that up with a near three-length victory in the \$75,000 Miss Ohio Stakes on July 22 at the Cleveland one-miler. She returned August 27 to take the \$75,000 Tah Dah Stakes at Belterra Park in wire-to-wire fashion, holding off her rivals by two lengths, before finishing a solid third in the \$150,000 John W. Galbreath Stakes on Best of Ohio day at Belterra.

Tango Run appears well-poised for another victory for trainer William Cowans and will have rider Rex Stokes III in the saddle once again as she goes for her second straight stakes win of the season.

Cowans will also saddle **Buster's Boy**, who is two for two lifetime and who steps up into Ohio stakes company for the first time. The roan Twinspired gelding was bred by Pine Ridge Farm and is co-owned by the breeder and Jim Rumford. This youngster has taken both his wins in smart fashion,

with a front-running style that saw him win those by a combined 10½ lengths, amassing \$35,880 under the handling of rider William De La Cruz.

Trainer Tim Hamm sends a formidable pair postward in **Captain Riley** and **Indian Fever**. The former, a chestnut son of Talent Search comes into the Noonan fresh off a pair of Mahoning Valley triumphs on Feb 18 and March 21. Bred by Dr. D .W. Fraizer, Captain Riley has career earnings of \$56,076. He is owned by Blazing Meadows Farm LLC and S. Wagner. The latter is a bay Colonel John colt owned by Blazing Meadows Farm LLC (also the breeder) and Michael Friedman. Indian Fever won his debut on July 7, 2017 at Thistledown in a 5½ furlong sprint and was sixth in his 2018 debut at Mahoning on March 28. His bankroll stands at \$21,938 from those two career outings.

Breeder-owner Ronald Dewolf's **Charlee's Magic** makes his 2018 in the Noonan for trainer Penny Rone. This Jump Start gelding won his debut on June 30 last season before finishing second in the \$75,000 Kindergarten Stakes on Aug. 5 and third in the \$150,000 Juvenile Stakes on Best of Ohio day at Belterra Park on Oct. 7, 2017. His last victory of the season came in a six-furlong Mahoning allowance race on Nov. 8, when bested his rivals by 2¼ lengths handily. Charlee's Magic has \$65,880 in his lifetime coffers.

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Photo: Tango Run will be trying for her fifth career victory in Saturday's \$75,000 Howard B. Noonan Stakes at Mahoning Valley Race Course. *Photo by Conrad Photography*