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Buster's Boy triumphs in \$75,000 Noonan Stakes

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by Kimberly Rinker, for the Ohio Thoroughbred Race Fund

Buster's Boy prevailed for the third straight time in his brief career, taking the \$75,000 Howard B. Noonan Stakes in commanding fashion on Saturday afternoon, April 14 at Mahoning Valley Race Course.

Ridden by Walter De La Cruz for trainer William Cowans and the partnership of owners Pine Ridge Farm and Jim Rumford, the striking grey gelding with the irregular star and strip down his forehead held off his 11 rivals in 1:13.1 by 4¼ lengths in the six-furlong sprint for Ohio-registered 3-year-olds.

Buster's Boy left alertly for his rider, establishing the tempo early, before opening up against the others in the stretch. The son of Twinspired, out of the Eavesdropper mare Maggie's Pleasure was just one day shy of his actual foaling date (April 15, 2015) as he scored his third consecutive victory in as many tries and his first stakes triumph, upping his lifetime earnings to \$80,800.

Pine Ridge Farm bred the gelding, who left the gate at odds of 3-1. **Charlee's Magic** (3-1) was a respectable second for rider Kevin Radke, while 18-1 **Indian Fever** was third with Irwin Rosendo aboard and 45-1 longshot **Another Sunrise** was fourth with Luciano Hernandez in the irons. The public's 2-1 favorite and the lone filly in the field—Tango Run—failed to fire and finished eighth.

The victory gave trainer Cowans his third win of the day and rider De La Cruz his second of the afternoon. Cowans had also saddled Michael Foster's **Flame Mingo** to win the \$75,000 Austintown Filly Sprint and had partnered with De La Cruz to capture a maiden special weight with **Canyon Creed** earlier on the program.

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Photo Cutline: Buster's Boy romps to victory in the \$75,000 Howard B. Noonan Stakes on April 14, 2018 at Mahoning Valley Race Course. *Photo by Dustin Livesay for Conrad Photography*