



## Ohio State Racing Commission

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## Midway through 2019 Ohio Sires Stakes Season

*Top point-earning freshmen trotters & pacers*

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by Kimberly Rinker, Ohio Standardbred Development Fund Administrator

The 2019 Ohio Sires Stakes season has now completed a little more than half of the events for 2- and 3-year-old Ohio-bred trotters and pacers of both genders. The last of the four legs will be contested this week through August 24, with Super Night set for Sept. 1 at Northfield Park where the \$300,000 Championships for each division will be raced.

Horses garner points in each of the four OSS legs based on where they finish: 51 points for first; 26 points for second; 13 points for third; nine points for fourth; six points for fifth and one point for a sixth through tenth-place finish.

Among the 2-year-old pacing colts, of which there were 152 nominees, there are two tied for the lead in the OSS standings. **Elver Hanover** has 102 points and \$40,000 in OSS earnings, having won his first two legs in 1:53.4 and 1:53.3 respectively. Trained by Ronnie Burke, this son of Yankee Cruiser is owned by Burke Racing, Jablonsky, Melillo, J&T Silva-Purnel&Libby.

Stephen Sexton's **Rock Smart** also has 102 points and \$40,000 in OSS monies, winning his first two legs in 1:55.2 and 1:52.2 for trainer Bret Schwartz. He is an aptly-named son of Pet Rock.

Sitting third in the standings for freshmen male pacers is **Rockntheafterparty** with 64 points accumulated thus far, via a 1:55 win in the first leg and a third-place finish in the second leg. The son of Rockin Amadeus—Cameo And Lace is trained by Dan Ater for Ivy Holdings and has earned \$24,800 in the series.

**Gray Dragon** sits fourth in the standings with 60 points for the Emerald Highlands Farm. Trained by Virgil Morgan, Jr., the son of Dragon Again was fourth in leg one and won leg two in 1:55 with \$23,200 in OSS monies.

**Opportune Hanover** took a mark of 1:52.3 in winning his first leg, before finishing fifth in leg two, and is tied for fifth in the standings. Trained by Ronnie Burke for Burke Racing, Chris Page, J&T Silva-Purnel&Libby, and Weaver Brusceci, the son of Dragon Again has \$22,000 earned in the series with 57 points.

**Big Bretta** was fifth in leg one for trainer Bret Schwarz before winning leg two in 1:54. This Big Bad John youngster also has 57 points, with \$22,000 in OSS earnings for the Hired Gun Stable, Larris and Jacobs.

In the 2-year-old pacing filly division, of which there are 164 nominees, **Ellegator** and **Artful Dancer** are tied for first with 102 points and \$40,000 in OSS earnings each. Both fillies have won legs one and two: Ellegator in 1:54 and 1:55 and Artful Dancer in 1:55.2 and 1:52.2. Chris McGuire trains the Western Vintage filly Ellegator for Howard Taylor, while Steve Carter conditions the Yankee Cruiser lass Artful Dancer for himself and partner Jay Mossbarger.

Sitting second with 64 points is **McMarkle Sparkle**, who won her first leg in 1:54.3 and was third in leg two. Trained by Jim Arledge, Jr., for Laura & Paul Baker, the McArdele daughter has earned \$24,800 in the series to date.

**Treasurethosechips** sits third in the standings with 60 points for owner John F. Van Horn and trainer Jeff Nisonger. This Art's Chip daughter won her first leg in 1:55.1 with \$23,200 in OSS earnings.

Likewise, **Beautiful Beach** was fifth in leg one and won leg two in 1:53.2 and has 52 points earned. The daughter of We Will See—Beach Resort has \$22,000 in OSS earnings for owner Tom Lehmann and trainer Tyler George.

In the male trotting ranks, with 180 nominees, there is also a tie for first, as **It's Academic** and **Big Box Hanover**—both sons of Uncle Peter—each have 102 points and \$40,000 in OSS purses earned. It's Academic won his first two legs in 1:58.4 and 1:57.3 for Burke Racing, Donovan, Sbrocco and Hatfield Stables, while Big Box Hanover earned his points via 1:57.4 and 1:59 wins for trainer Dalton Wall, who owns the youngster in partnership with Bruce Soulsby.

Marion Beachy's **Exhibit Class** was second in leg one but captured leg two in 1:58.1 and has \$30,000 in OSS money. The son of Triumphant Caviar is trained by Sean Smithpeters and is third in the standings behind the two aforementioned leaders with 77 points.

**Expect The Sweep** was third in leg one and captured leg two in 1:58.1 for Beaver, Fleming, Yoder and Zeehandelar, and is fourth in the OSS standings with 64 points. The Triumphant Caviar youngster is conditioned by Chris Beaver and has \$24,800 in OSS monies.

A quartet of trotting youngsters are tied for fifth, all with 52 points. **Jarmbalou** won leg one in 1:57.3 and was seventh in leg two, while **Wading Boots** won leg one in 1:57.4 and was eighth in leg two. As well, **Doubleyellowline** and **Attache'** have both amassed 52 points from a pair of second place finishes in the first two OSS legs.

From 131 nominees in the 2-year-old trotting filly division, **Compass Rose DC** is the lone distaff who has swept the first two legs of the series. This Uncle Peter lass won in 1:59.4 and 2:01 respectively for trainer Jason McGinnis and Thestable Compass Rose DC of Guelph, Ontario, Canada and has 102 points and \$40,000 in OSS earnings.

A trio of fillies are tied for second for \$30,000 each in OSS earnings and 77 in points. **Globetrotting** won leg one in 1:57.3 before finishing second in leg two for Thestable Globetrotting and trainer Jason McGinnis. Likewise, stablemate **Spend That Money** won leg one in 1:58.3 and was second in leg two for Thestable Spend Thatmoney, while **Kikimora** was second in leg one and captured leg two in 1:58.1 for trainer Chris Beaver and co-owner Sandra Burnett of Wilmington, Ohio.

Renee Burcury's **Delovely Hall** captured leg one in 1:57.3 for trainer Chris Beaver and is tied with **Guinevere Hall** with 64 points each. The latter—a Melanie Wrenn-conditioned lass—was clocked in 1:59 in leg two for the MT Pockets stable and Dave McDuffee.

As well, both **Lima Gold** and **Uncle Peter's Love** are tied with 52 points each and \$20,000 in OSS earnings. Lima Gold is trained by Chris Beaver for the Spaaartners and posted a 1:58.3 clocking in leg one before finishing ninth in leg two, while Uncle Peter's Love won leg two in 1:59.2 for the Erv Miller Stable after finishing out of the money in leg one.

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