



## Ohio State Racing Commission

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## Leona's Reward takes \$75,000 Ohio Debutante Stakes

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by Kimberly Rinker, For the Ohio Thoroughbred Race Fund

**Leona's Reward** scored a convincing triumph in Saturday's \$75,000 Ohio Debutante Stakes at Mahoning Valley Raceway.

It was certainly a charm for one of the Buckeye State's top distaffs, as this was the third year in a row that Leona's Reward captured the 1/16-mile test for Ohio-accredited fillies and mares, 3-year-olds and up.

The 5-year-old chestnut daughter by Parents' Reward—who is trained by Tim Hamm—simply devastated her four rivals by eight lengths in 1:46.12 over a racetrack listed as sloppy.

Owned by Blazing Meadows Farm and Michael Friedland, the homebred 1-9 favorite Leona's Reward grabbed the lead at the start with Luis Colon in the irons and never looked back, holding off 10-1 second-place finisher Grizabella (Christian Pilares) by xxx lengths, with 15- Birdacious (Sonny Leon) third and 15-1 Hopes Frog Song (Megan Fadlovich) fourth. 35-1 Longshot Dorthysfunnygirl (Eucyln Prentice, Jr. ) broke awkwardly was never a factor, beaten 57 lengths and finishing fifth.

Leona's Reward upped her career earnings to \$545,606 with the win, her 12 lifetime in 36 starts. It was her second victory of the year in eight tries and pushed her seasonal earnings to \$161,250.

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**Cutline:** Leona's Reward wins the \$75,000 Debutante Stakes for the third consecutive year for her connections. **Photo by Brad Conrad**