



Ohio State Racing Commission

77 South High Street • 18th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215-6108
(614) 466-2757 FAX (614) 466-1900
www.racingohio.net

Mike DeWine
Governor

Scott Borgemenke
Chairman



Mares vie in \$75,000 Ohio Debutante Handicap

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by Kimberly Rinker, Ohio Thoroughbred Race Fund

A field of six Ohio-bred fillies and mares, 3-year-olds and up, will battle in the \$75,000 Ohio Debutante Handicap on Saturday, Nov. 7 at Mahoning Valley Race Course. The one mile test, an Ohio Thoroughbred Race Fun event carded as the fourth race on the afternoon program on Breeders' Cup day, has a scheduled post time of 1:39 pm, ET.



Fan favorite and soon-to-be millionairess (she's only five dollar shy of the \$1 million plateau) **Leona's Reward** (above) heads up this field of winning distaffs. This durable, tough mare has captured the Ohio Debutante in 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019 and thus seeks her fifth straight triumph in this stake. A 7-year-old homebred daughter of Parents Reward-Prime Time Dancer, by Montbrook, Leona's Reward is conditioned by Tim Hamm for Blazing Meadows Farm and Michael Friedman and to date has \$995,306 in career earnings from 19 wins, ten seconds and five thirds in 53 starts. The multiple stakes winning chestnut will be ridden by Erik Barbaran, carrying high weight of 124 pounds.

Grizabella, a bay 6-year-old mare by Lunarpal-Chic Cat, by Tiger Ridge, looks to be Leona's Reward stiffest competitor. This multiple stakes winner of \$396,527 lifetime is trained by Jeff Radosevich for Michael Annechino. Bred by George Mapleton Thoroughbreds, Grizabella most recently captured the Miss Southern Ohio Stakes for the second straight season (on Sept.8 at Belterra) and will be ridden by Luis Rivera carrying 123 pounds.

Birdacious, a gray 5-year-old by Birdrun-Sweet TessaMarie, by El Corredor carries the silks of Patricia Adams and the Sheltoewe Farm postward with Sonny Leon in the irons (119 pounds). Trained by Michael Evans, II, Birdacious was bred by Robin Murphy and has \$245,730 in her career coffers. She was third in this stake last year but captured the 2019 edition of the Vivacious Stakes.

Trainer Robert Gorham sends out a formidable pair in **Edge of Night** (117 pounds, Christians Pilares) and **Ting Tang** (116 pounds, Omar Hernandez)—both vying for Mast Thoroughbreds LLC. Mobil Lady, a 4-year-old daughter of Mobil-Surviving New York, by Survivalist, rounds out the field. Shane Meyers trains and co-owns the dark bay or brown filly for co-owner Lori Acree, who will carry 115 pounds with Ricardo Feliciano in the irons.