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Eight fillies & mares battle in \$75,000 Pay The Man Stakes

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Eight of Ohio's best fillies and mares are set to break from the JACK Thistledown starting gate on Saturday afternoon, Aug. 18, in the 34th running of the \$75,000 Pay The Man Stakes. The co-featured event, slated as the sixth race on the eight-race program, has a scheduled post time of 4:10 pm, ET.

The one and one eighth mile contest (previously known as the Rose DeBartolo Memorial) over the Cleveland dirt pays homage to Ohio's richest state-bred distaff ever, the million-dollar earner Pay The Man, an April 26, 2004-foaled daughter by Bernstein—Pyrite Captain, by Magesterial.

Born and raised at Dr. Dan Frazier's Pyrite Stables, Pay The Man won more than \$700,00 at Thistledown alone during her eight-year career and is one of just three Buckeye-breds to have seven-figure earnings (along with Harlan's Holiday & Catlaunch).

Pay The Man reported for duty a remarkable nine seasons, vying between the ages of two and 10, and this seemingly indefatigable mare won 27 races, with 11 seconds and nine thirds from 76 career starts, earning \$1,058,511. She captured 21 OTRF stakes, including multiple triumphs in the Best of Ohio Distaff, the Petro Memorial, the Angenora Stakes, the Rose DeBartolo Memorial Stakes, and Scarlet & Gray Handicap, and was stakes-placed 14 times as well.

Always gutsy and never unsound for trainer Miguel Feliciano, Pay The Man earned a purse check in 86% of her starts for her connections. When she was retired from racing at age ten, the famed Calumet Farm of Lexington, KY, snatched her up for a mere \$95,000 at the Keeneland 2014 November Breeding Stock Sale.

To further her achievements, Pay The Man, now 14, delivered the first foal—a colt—by 2014 & 2016 Horse of the Year & \$14 million-plus earner California Chrome on January 20 of this year at Calumet. This youngster was the third for Pay The Man, who delivered her first foal in 2016, a Musketier colt, and her second, a filly by Oxbow in 2017.

Pay The Man's pedigree bodes well for this latest youngster and her previous foals as well, as she is a half-sister to Bold Captain and Bright Pyrite—both multiple Ohio-bred stakes winners. This season's Pay The Man Stakes sports a competitive field of previous stakes winners, including Magna Rose, Leona's Reward, Proper Discretion, School Board Prez and Southern Mischief.

School Board Prez comes into this event fresh off a sparkling victory in the \$75,000 Vivacious Handicap on Aug. 5 for trainer Doug Matthews and owner/breeder John Royer. This 5-year-old homebred by Courageous Cat-Torrent of Song, by Torrential has amassed \$480,540 thus far in her career with eight wins, five seconds and two thirds in 23 career trips postward. Six of those triumphs have been OTRF stakes wins.

Looch Racing Stable's **Proper Discretion** hails from Anthony Rini's barn and captured the \$75,000 Petro Memorial on June 23 at Thistledown in gate to wire fashion. A winner of \$412,611 lifetime, the 5-year-old Discreetly Mine-Prizes, by Prized mare as 12 wins, two seconds and a trio of thirds in 24 career starts. She was bred by Bruce Tallisman and has four stakes victories to her credit.

Tim Hamm will tighten the girth on \$485,856 winner **Leona's Reward**, a 5-year-old chestnut mare by Parent's Reward-Prime Time Dancer, by Montbrook. Bred and owned by Blazing Meadows Farm and Michael Friedman, Leona's Reward has won the \$75,000 Classen Memorial this season and was third in both the \$75,000 Lewis Memorial and \$75,000 Buckeye Native Stakes. She has captured seven OTRF stakes to date in her career.

Southern Mischief, who captured the \$75,000 First Lady Stakes last fall at Mahoning Valley, will be trying for her second stakes victory in the Pay The Man. This 4-year-old bay filly by Mischief-Traditionalist, by Aptitude hails from the Jeff Radosevich barn and is another Looch-owned distaff in this stake. The winner of \$150,510 has five career victories, with five wins and three seconds. Southern Mischief sold for \$37,000 at the 2014 Keeneland Breeding Stock Sale, then later brought an \$80,000 tag at the 2015 Keeneland September Yearling Sale. Finally, in March of 2016, she brought down the gavel for \$100,000 at the Two-Year-Olds in Training Sale at Ocala.

Magna Rose, a daughter by Magna Graduate-Woodflower, by Woodman, won the \$75,000 Queen City Oaks on July 22 at Belterra in the slop. Trained by Brenda Walsh for Ten Broeck Farm, Magna Rose has that lone win in five career starts, along with four second-place finishes and \$65,800 in earnings in her brief career. Bred by Elizabeth Alexander, she was a \$70,000 yearling purchase from the 2016 Fasig-Tipton Summer Selected Horses of Racing Age Sale.

Trainer Robert Gorham will bridle up **Cali Dream**, a 4-year-old daughter by Cowboy Cal-Afternoon Dreams, by Afternoon Deelites for owner Marion Gorham. This homebred winner of \$154,887 has found her best efforts in allowance events thus far, with five wins in 24 starts.

Distinctive Flower, is one of two homebred fillies in here conditioned by co-owner W. John Bourke for partner Lowell F. Allen. She put forth a solid, second-place finish to Magna Rose in the \$75,000 Queen City Oaks at Belterra on July 22. This 3-year-old homebred daughter by Flower Alley-Real Distinctive, by With Distinction has a pair of wins in five starts and \$52,722 in her coffers.

Her stablemate, **Fortunate Gina**, is a 4-year-old daughter by Dominus-Keen Scent, by Foxhound, who steps up into stakes company for the first time. A winner of \$75,720 in her career from three wins in ten starts, Fortunate Gina also has four third-place finishes to her credit as well.

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Photo #1: Pay The Man is shown here winning at Jack Thistledown. *Photo by Jeff Zamaiko.*

Photo #2: Pay The Man's 3rd foal, and the first by California Chrome. *Photo Courtesy of Taylor Made*

Photo #3: School Board Prez tries for her second straight stakes win in the \$75,000 Pay The Man Stakes on Aug. 18 at Jack Thistledown. *Photo by Jeff Zamaiko*