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Accredited Stakes highlight Saturday program at Mahoning

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by Kimberly Rinker for the Ohio Thoroughbred Race Fund

A pair of \$75,000 stakes for Accredited Ohio-bred runners take center stage on Saturday afternoon, Dec. 2 at Mahoning Valley Race Course.

First up is the \$75,000 Joshua Radosevich Memorial Stakes for 2-year-olds, with a scheduled post time of 2:06 pm, ET as the fifth event on the eight-race program. A full field of nine—five geldings and four colts—are slated to break from the gate in this six furlong sprint.

Midnight Mikey, a bay son by Dark Kestrel conditioned by Louis Ruberto, Jr., for the Ruberto Racing Stable, is the richest youngster of the group, with \$46,796 in his coffers. This talented Ohio-bred captured the \$75,000 Loyalty Stakes on Sept. 9 at Belterra Park in just his second lifetime start, making a bold brush at the head of the lane to prevail by more than two lengths at the wire. Though his two efforts since have not been as impressive, this homebred definitely gets the nod here.

Trainer Jeff Radosevich—uncle to the popular fallen rider for whom this stake is named—saddles **Mobil Solution**, a bay altered son by Mobil, out of the Seeking The gold mare Perfect Solution. Bred by Mapleton Thoroughbreds and owned by Gerald Silver, Mobil Solution was third in the Loyalty Stakes to Midnight Mikey before winning a maiden special weight on Oct. 3 at Jack Thistledown. The winner of \$30,290 followed that up with a fourth-place finish in a Mahoning allowance race on Nov. 8, his fifth career start. This trainer-owner combo won this stake last year, with Jacob Radosevich—younger brother to the late rider—steering the triumphant Mobil Sky to victory. Jockey Joshua Radosevich was just 16 when his life was tragically cut short in a Beulah Park racing accident.

Rosco P. Coltrane, a bay Flagship gelding, hails from trainer Larry Smith's barn for owners Smith Red Gate Farm and Mark Kuntz. A winner of \$26,840 from just three starts, Rosco P. Coltrane comes into this stake fresh off a respectable second-place finish in a Mahoning allowance race on Nov. 8, after finishing fourth in the \$150,000 Juvenile Stakes on Oct. 7 at Belterra, where he scored his lone victory in a maiden special weight on Sept. 8.

Lavaca will be trying for his first stakes victory after breaking his maiden at Mahoning on Oct. 7 in his fifth career start. Conditioned by owner Michael Baird, this Vaquero gelding went wire-to-wire in that lone triumph with veteran Perry Ouzts in the saddle. He sports a bankroll of \$20,850.

Freekson, a son of Mercer Mill trained by David St. Clair for the Barbie John Stable, has one win to his credit in seven tries. The bay gelding captured a maiden special weight at Jack Thistledown on Oct. 4 in come-from-behind fashion for T.D. Houghton. Bred by Fair Winds Farm, Freekson has \$25,671 in his bank account.

Three maidens—**Kettle Chrome**, **Silver Medal** and **Western Twilight**—along with first time starter **Mr. Gritty**, complete the Joshua Radosevich Memorial field.

The \$75,000 Bobby Bricker Memorial Handicap is the co-feature, slated as Race 6, and features seven Accredited Ohio-bred fillies and mares, 3-year-olds and up, vying at a distance of one and one-sixteenth miles over the Mahoning dirt, with a 2:34 pm, ET post.

Topping the field is **Leona's Reward**, a winner of \$379,356 lifetime, who absolutely crushed her rivals with a 4½ length triumph in the \$75,000 Ohio Debutante Stakes on Nov. 4 at Mahoning Valley. The 4-year-old daughter of Parent's Reward, who is trained by Tim Hamm for Blazing Meadows Farm and Michael Friedman, has won five of nine starts in 2017, including the \$75,000 Catlaunch Stakes and \$75,000 George Lewis Memorial Stakes. Her seasonal earnings stand at \$212,576.

True Cinder appears to be well-placed as the best of the rest, with career earnings of \$275,300. The 3-year-old Alcindor lass is a four-time winner this season from six starts, with three stakes triumphs, including the \$75,000 Horizon, \$75,000 Cincinnati and \$75,000 T. F. Classen Memorial. True Cinder rarely misses a check with six wins, a trio of seconds and two thirds in 12 career starts.

Trainer Ivan Vazquez will bridle up two Kentucky Dane daughters in the Bricker Memorial—the 4-year-old **Mom Genes** and the 6-year-old **Hopes Frog Song**—for owner/breeder Raymond Donald. Mom Genes has two wins from 22 starts and \$109,881 in career earnings, with her last stakes victory coming in the \$75,000 Horizon Stakes on Aug. 4, 2016. Hopes Frog Song—who was second in the 2015 edition of this same stake to the winning DeNiro's Saint—has five wins in 45 starts and \$194,963 in her bankroll.

Jeff Radosevich also sends out a pair of contestants; the 3-year-old, \$138,262-winning **Blanconia** and **Swiss Miss Too**, an 8-year-old who'll be trying for her first stakes triumph in six years.

Claimed by the Looch Racing Stable for \$5,000 on April 12 of this year, Swiss Miss Too comes into the Bricker after winning for a \$7,500 tag at Jack Thistledown on Sept. 26, with career earnings of \$164,828. The daughter by Donthelumbertrader has finished off the board only once this season in 13 starts with four wins, four seconds and four thirds—earning a modest \$50,712. Swiss Miss Too finished fifth in the 2012 edition of this stake and captured the \$75,000 Glacial Princess on Nov. 5, 2011 in her fourth lifetime start.

Blanconia, a daughter by Vaquero, has three wins, five seconds and two thirds in 14 career starts and captured the \$75,000 Miss Ohio Stakes on July 23, 2016 in just her second lifetime start, as well as two, 2017 allowance races at Jack Thistledown for owner Michael Annechino. Bred by Raimonde Farms, Blanconia most recently was a solid second in the \$75,000 First Lady Stakes on Nov. 11 at Mahoning.

Grizabella, a 3-year-old Lunarpal lass trained by Mark Doering, will be trying for her first stakes victory in the Bricker Memorial. Bred by Mapleton Thoroughbreds, she sports a bankroll of \$83,366 from two wins in 16 starts.

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Photo Cutline: Leona's Reward romps to victory in the \$75,000 Ohio Debutante Stakes on Nov. 4 at Mahoning Valley Race Course. The winner of \$379,356 lifetime will be looking to capture the \$75,000 Bobby Bricker Memorial on Saturday afternoon, Dec. 2 at this same racing venue. **Photo by Brad Conrad**