



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



Buckeye Bullet much the best in \$75,000 Rowland Memorial

June 4, 2020

by Kimberly Rinker, Ohio Thoroughbred Race Fund

Buckeye Bullet—after two years away from racing—returned with a vengeance, capturing the 16th running of the \$75,000 Michael F. Rowland Memorial Handicap in a gallop on a sunny Thursday afternoon at JACK Thistledown.



Buckeye Bullet wins the 2020 Rowland Memorial Handicap
Jeff Zamaiko Photo

Thirteen Accredited Ohio-breds, 3-year-olds and up, went postward over the Cleveland dirt in the six-furlong contest, but Buckeye Bullet took the lead on the rail early for rider Erik Barbaran and never looked back, clocked in 1:11.44. It was his third victory in this stake as the son of Dark Kestrel also won the Rowland Memorial in 2017 and 2018.

Owned and bred by the Ruberto Racing Stable and trained by Louis Ruberto, Jr., this handsome 7-year-old upped his career earnings to \$293,099 with his Rowland triumph and now has nine lifetime wins.

Buckeye Bullet left the gate at 4-1 odds and returned \$10.00 on a two-dollar ticket, drawing off by two lengths at the wire. Betchaiwill (John McKee) grabbed second-place honors at 5-1, with 6-1 Mobil Solution (Luis Rivera) — who won this stake in 2019 — third, while Leona's Reward (Geraldo Corrales) got up for fourth-place money at 7-1 odds.

Favorite Midnight Mikey, Buckeye Bullet's 5-year-old full brother, finished sixth after getting bumped and did well to be right behind fifth-place finisher Verissimo.

The 2020 Thistledown meet runs through Oct. 21. The Rowland Memorial is named in honor of one of Ohio's all-time leading jockeys whose life was cut short in a 2004 Turfway Park accident.