



## Ohio State Racing Commission

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## Buckeye Bullet holds on to Rowland Crown

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by Kimberly Rinker, For the Ohio Thoroughbred Race Fund

**Buckeye Bullet** held on in the final strides to capture the \$75,000 Michael F. Rowland Memorial Handicap for the second consecutive year in 1:11.28 with rider Luis Quinones in the saddle.

The six-furlong event for Ohio- accredited foals, 3-year-olds and up, was contested over a muddy race course, that saw 1-9 Buckeye Bullet, a 5-year-old Dark Kestrel gelding, best 30-1 longshot **Bubba J** (Kevin Radke) by half a length for the triumph, his second of the season in as many tries and his eighth career win.

**Eighththehardway**, with jockey T.D. Houghton up, had road trouble early and broke loose in the late going to nab show honors at 10-1. **Ol' LB** (Rex Stokes, III), an 18-1 choice, had battled the winner early and tired, but held on for fourth.

Buckeye Bullet now has \$248,099 in his career bankroll for the Ruberto Racing Stable. Louis Ruberto trains the homebred.

The Rowland Memorial was named in the honor of the popular rider who tragically died after a 2004 Turfway Park racing incident. Rowland had 3,998 lifetime wins and was Thistledown's all-time leading jockey, having won 29 titles at the Cleveland one-miler.

**Coming Up Tomorrow:** The \$75,000 Tomboy Stakes for Ohio-registered 3-year-old fillies.

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**Photo Cutline:** Buckeye Bullet captures the \$75,000 Michael F. Rowland Memorial on May 12 at JACK Thistledown. *Photo by Jeff Zamaiko*