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Burke & Brown prevail in Ohio Sires Stakes Championships

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by Kimberly Rinker, OSDF Administrator

Trainers Ronnie Burke and Brian Brown both had a fantastic Super Night at Scioto Downs on Sept. 8, despite the chilly conditions and non-stop pouring rain. A healthy crowd was on hand to witness \$2.2 million in purses awarded to eight victorious Ohio-breds.

Burke took home three of the eight \$275,000 Championships, beginning with **Wittyville**, a freshman Manofmanymissions colt, who is out of the SJ's Photo mare Witty Girl, in the 2-Year-Old Colt Trot. Owned by Burke Racing, breeder Knox Services and Weaver Brusceci, Wittyville picked up his second career win in six starts—upping his lifetime earnings to \$176,010 with his 1:57 front-stepping victory.

Leaving the gate at 10-1 odds, Wittyville and driver Chris Page bested second-place finisher 5-2 **Lane of Stone** (Jeff Nisonger) by 3½ lengths, with another Burke trainee, 6-1 **Dylan The Great** (Matt Kakaley) notching show honors.

Burke next harnessed the Yankee Cruiser filly **Baron Remy** to capture the \$275,000 Three-Year-Old Filly Pace Championship in a healthy 1:52 as the 5-2 choice. Chris Page was in the sulky behind Baron Remy, who is out of the Shady Character mare Riley Character, and who was also on the front end the entire mile for owners Burke Racing, Silva, Purnell & Libby, L. Karr and Weaver Brusceci. Bred by Baron Racing Stable, Baron Remy was 2½ lengths ahead of 25-1 longshot **Believe In Waco** (Aaron Merriman) at the wire, with 16-1 **Smiley Dragon** (Trace Tetrack) getting up for third.

Baron Remy's seasonal earnings now stand at \$233,370 from three wins, five seconds and a third in 13 starts, while her career bankroll is a bulging \$329,434 from six wins, five seconds and three thirds in 20 lifetime trips postward.

Impinktoo gave Burke his third Championship crown when the Manofmanymissions-Margie Seelster-Angus Hall daughter cruised to a 1:55.4 clocking at 3-1 odds with Kayne Kauffman in the sulky.

Owned by Billy Walters, Joe McLead and Rtk Racing, Impinktoo used come-from-behind tactics to get the job done, snaring her second win of the season and fifth lifetime victory after overtaking the leading 8-1 **Spunky Bottom Girl** (Tyler Smith), with 5-1 **Sesame** grabbing third with David Miller in the sulky. Bred by Jay Mossbarger, this latest triumph upped her career earnings to \$276,185 and her 2018 account now stands at \$209,145.

Canadian-based trainer and co-owner Robert McIntosh couldn't have been happier when his **Only Take Cash** won the \$275,000 Championship for 2-year-old trotting fillies in 1:57. This daughter by Cash Hall-Armbro Affair-Garland Lobell got a perfect steer by Aaron Merriman, taking the lead at the quarter and never looking back to grab lifetime win seven in eight tries as the public's favorite.

Princess Of Pink (Tony Hall), a 36-1 longshot, was second, 5½ lengths back of the winner, while 17-1 **Spirit Bell** (Ryan Stahl) was third. Only Take Cash had won every Ohio Sires Stakes leg except for her first, when she finished a game second to Vivi D. This homebred's career earnings now stand at \$240,190 for owners McIntosh Stables, Dave Boyle and Mardon Stables of Ontario, Canada.

Frank Chick's travel to Ohio from Harrington, DE was well-worth the trip as his **Queen Of The Pride** captured the \$275,000 2-Year-Old Filly Pace in 1:54.2 as the 2-1 choice. Steered by Tony Hall for trainer Kevin Lare, this bay daughter of McArdle-Lioness Hanover-Western Ideal made every pole a winning one—pushing her lifetime earnings to \$225,522. She was bred by Brad Wallace of Hickory Lane Farm fame.

Carmen Ohio came from near last for Ryan Stahl to grab second at 20-1 odds, while 7-1 **High Reward** (Ronnie Wrenn, Jr.) was third. Trainer Brian Brown trained both fillies, as well as fourth-place finisher, 21-1 choice Mi Nina Bonita (David Miller).

High On Paydaze seems to have a penchant for the slop, and Super Night was no different, as the Nob Hill High youngster cruised to a 1:53.2 clocking in the \$275,000 Championship for 2-year-old pacing colts. David Miller guided the 7-2 High On Paydaze, weaving his way through horses before prevailing at the end by a length over stablemate 7-5 **Rock Candy** (Ronnie Wrenn, Jr.)

It was a clean sweep for Brian Brown, who trains the homebred winner for owners Scott Hagemeyer, Robert Mondillo and Donald Robinson, as well as Rocky Candy and third-place finisher, 13-1 **Dislocator** (Chris Page), fourth-place finisher 6-1 **Smackitwithahammer** (Trace Tetrick) and fifth-place finisher 75-1 **Tony Too Tall** (Ryan Stahl).

The victory was High On Paydaze's fifth lifetime in six starts and pushed his earnings to \$220,700. He had captured his first three Ohio Sires Stakes legs over similarly muddy surfaces but was third in Leg 4 over a dry track. The speedy bay colt is out of The Panderosa broodmare Myell.

The stars aligned for a group of Indiana connections in the \$275,000 3-Year-Old Colt Trot Championship when 2-5 **Two O B Wonkenobi** scored in 1:56.3 for driver Ronnie Wrenn, Jr. Owned by the Hoosier State-based partnership of Shara Weaver and Madeline Roche, the Dejarmbro gelding is conditioned by Indiana-based trainer Ernie Gaskin and was bred by Indiana breeding farm Pond-A-Acres.

Two O B Wonkenobi was never headed throughout the one-mile test, staving off a late challenge by 5-1 **Pass The Vape** (Derek Watiker) and third-place finisher 14-1 **Uncle Buck** (Aaron Merriman). His

seasonal bankroll stands tall at \$245,545, while lifetime he's amassed \$275,565 from nine wins, six seconds and two thirds in 21 starts.

Last, but definitely not least, **Lather Up** put the finishing touches on a star-studded program by pacing to a wire-to-wire triumph handily in a sizzling 1:49.3 under wraps for driver Montrell Teague and trainer Clyde Francis as the 1-9 favorite.

Owned and bred by the Harrington, DE couple of Gary and Barbara Iles, the son of I'm Gorgeous grabbed season victory ten and lifetime win 14. Winner of the \$1 million North America Cup earlier this season, Lather Up has \$728,965 in his lifetime coffers.

The hard-trying 13- **Rockathon** was second for David Miller, 5½ lengths behind the winner, while 12-1 **Seeing Eye Single** took home show money with Ronnie Wrenn, Jr., in the bike.

From 14 starters—the most of any trainers in the Championships—trainer Brian Brown had nine horses finish in the money (one win, three seconds, two thirds, two fourths and one fifth), while conditioner Ronnie Burke had eight starters (three wins, two thirds and one fifth).

Manofmanymissions was the only stallion with two winners in this year's Championships, while broodmare sire Garland Lobell also had two winners.

The Ohio Sires Stakes continue with \$60,000 Championships for veteran pacers and trotters, 4-year-olds and up on Oct. 6 at Northfield and \$60,000 Consolations for 2- and 3-year-old trotting and pacing colts and fillies on Oct. 13 at Northfield.