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OHIO THOROUGHBRED
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Forewarned prevails in \$75,000 Stearns Cleveland Gold Cup

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by Kimberly Rinker, For the Ohio Thoroughbred Race Fund

Megan Fadlovich gave **Forewarned** a perfectly gutsy steer to capture the 51st running of the \$75,000 Daniel Stearns Cleveland Gold Cup, Saturday afternoon, June 30 at JACK Thistledown.

Forewarned, a surprisingly 16-1 longshot, owned by breeders-owners Preston Stables, was clocked over the one and one-eighth mile contest for Ohio-registered 3-year-olds in 1:53.08. It was his first ever start over the Cleveland dirt.

“Unfortunately, Forewarned’s usual jockey Carolos Villasana was unable to make today’s race,” Fadlovich explained. “(Trainer) Pavel (Matejka) called me the day before entry and asked if I’d like to ride, and I was ecstatic! I watched his previous races and loved what I saw, and when I saw Mr. Matejka I told him I couldn’t believe our program odds.”

Trained by Pavel Matejka, the strapping son of Flat Out-Fortune Play, by Five Star Day was positioned keenly by Fadlovich behind the front-stepping 11-1 **Fusaichi’s Wind** (Luis Colon) until the head of the stretch, then gamely charged to the wire, holding off his rival by head.

Over Icce, at 4-1 (Deshawn Parker) finished third but was moved up to second after Fusaichi’s Wind was disqualified and placed third for causing interference in the stretch, while 6-5 favorite **Missap**, was fourth for rider Dean Sarvis.

“I love this horse! I’ve had never seen the animal before but what a professional. He was in the post parade with no pony, and he was so good that I got nervous! I mean, a horse that composed—am I sitting on a dud?” Fadlovich revealed. “The track was speed bias today and with our sharp break I took an alternative route to his running style and he proved himself.”

Forewarned now has two wins and two seconds from six career starts and \$78,703 in his bank roll. He was second on May 27 in the \$75,000 Green Carpet Stakes, and today’s victory was his first stakes triumph. He had sold for \$65,000 at the Keeneland 2017 November Mixed Sale.

“He’s a classy animal backed by a classy outfit,” Fadlovich stressed. “What more could a girl ask for?”



Photo Cutline: Forewarned (#11) and jockey Megan Fadlovich stride out to capture the \$75,000 Stearns-Cleveland Gold Cup Stakes on June 30, 2018 at Jack Thistledown over rival Fusaichi's Wind.
Photo by Jeff Zamaiko