



## Ohio State Racing Commission

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## Six Ohio-breds vie in Stearns Cleveland Gold Cup

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by Kimberly Rinker, for the Ohio Thoroughbred Race Fund

A field of six, evenly-matched 3-year-old Ohio-registered foals will break from the Jack Thistledown starting gate on Saturday afternoon, July 1 in the 50th running of the \$75,000 Daniel Stearns Cleveland Gold Cup. Post time for the featured seventh race, which is contested at a distance of one and 1/8 miles over the Cleveland dirt is 4:40 pm, ET. All runners carry 119 pounds.

**Cake Pop**, a multiple stakes winning son of Notional-Hey There Cupcake, by Prized looks to add to his already hefty bankroll of \$158,240 for the owner-trainer combo of Penny and Michael Lauer. This homebred chestnut colt has already won the 2017 editions of the \$75,000 Tall Stack Stakes and the \$75,000 Hoover Stakes, and was also third in the \$75,000 Green Carpet Stakes. He'll be ridden by jockey Manoel Cruz.

Stake winners **Tough It Up** and **Strike Your Light** both hail from the Thomas Drury, Jr. Stable for owners/breeders Maccabee Farm.

Strike Your Light bested his stablemate in the \$75,000 Green Carpet Stakes on May 28 at Belterra Park. The son of Majestic Warrior-Banjo Lady, by Hofre has \$113,735 in career earnings with \$60,750 of that earned this season to date. Malcom Franklin rides the dark bay colt.

Tough It Up won the \$150,000 Juvenile Stakes last season on Best of Ohio day, while Strike Your Light was a game third. This Lemon Drop Kid colt has earned \$125,766 lifetime for his connections and has two wins and two seconds in five career starts. Regular rider John McKee will be in the irons once again.

**Coincidentally**, a dark bay son of Super Saver-Willful Ways, by Sharp Humor vies for the WinStar Farm and Blazing Meadows Farm. Tim Hamm saddles the homebred colt, who has \$113,525 in his coffers from four wins and two seconds in nine career starts. This sophomore won the \$75,000 Noonan Stakes on April 15 at Mahoning Valley Race Course and also had a pair of allowance victories earlier in the year at that same venue. Most recently, he was a game second in a Thistledown allowance. Pablo Morales rides.

Stakes placed **Hansenation**, a grey son of Hansen, will be saddled by Michael Maker for owner Kendall Hansen. Bred by the Moneylane Farms, Hansenation has career earnings of \$47,689 from eight starts, with a pair of victories and one second. His best stakes finish this season came in the

\$75,000 Noonan Stakes, when he finished a strong second. T. D. Houghton gets the nod on this youngster.

**Shadeslayer**, an altered son of Northern Afleet, looks for his third lifetime triumph in as many starts for trainer William Cowans and owners/breeders Bruce and Nancy Hudson. The bay gelding broke his maiden on Nov. 3, 2016 at Mahoning Valley and won a Thistledown Allowance on June 12, holding off a late-charging rival by a head in a game effort. Rex Stokes, III will ride the unbeaten Shadeslayer as he makes his stakes debut for his connections.

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**Photo Cutline:** the multiple stakes-winning Cake Pop goes postward in the \$75,000 Daniel Stearns Cleveland Gold Cup on Saturday afternoon at Jack Thistledown. ***Photo by Coady Photography***