



## Ohio State Racing Commission

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## No Surprises in Ohio Sires Stakes Championships

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by Kimberly Rinker, Ohio Standardbred Development Fund Administrator

Sporadic rainfall throughout the evening didn't put a damper on \$2.4 million worth of Ohio Sires Stakes contests at Northfield Park on Sunday, Sept. 1.

The highlight of the eight, \$300,000 Championships for 2- and 3-year-old trotting and pacing colts and fillies came in the final OSS event, the 3-year-old colt pace, as 6-5 favorite **Black Hole** endured an excruciating first-over journey to triumph in 1:49.4.

Owned by the L&L Stables of Springfield, Ohio and trained by Clarence Foulk, the homebred son of Mr. Apples was steered by Tyler Smith to his sixth straight victory this season in as many tries. **Yankee Boots** (Dan Noble) was second at 8-5, three-quarters of a length behind the winner while 14- **Cross Country** (Luke Ebersole) nabbed third place honors.

Black Hole now has \$213,298 in seasonal earnings and \$228,099 in his career bankroll.

Trainer Ronnie Burke teamed up with driver Chris Page to capture two OSS Championships, beginning with **Looksgoodinaromper** in the 2-year-old filly pace. Owned by Burke Racing Stable and Weaver Brusceci's Looksgoodinaromper used wire-to-wire tactics to score a 1:52.4 clocking as the 1-2 favorite. **Beautiful Beach** was second for Aaron Merriman at 8-1 while **Artful Dancer** was third for Trace Tetrick at 11-1 odds.

The Pet Rock lass had established a new world record of 1:52.3 for 2-year-old pacing fillies on a half-mile track via her victory in a \$50,000 OSS at Northfield on Aug. 9. Bred by Robert and Barbara Bongiorno, Looksgoodinaromper is the first foal out of the Village Connection mare Don't Blame Her p, 10, 1:51.2s (\$830,555). Her freshman earnings now stand at \$241,300 from four wins, one second and a third in six starts.

Burke and Page returned to the winner's circle a few races later with 3-5 favorite **Elver Hanover**, a son of Yankee Cruiser who stormed to a four-length 1:51.2 effort. Owned by Burke

Racing, Briggit Jablonsky, Jason Mellilo, J&TSilva-Purnel&Libby, Elver Hanover got the best of 9-5 **Ocean Rock** (Dan Noble) who had led the field of eight until the head of the stretch. **Mr D's Rock** (Aaron Merriman) was third at 35-1 odds. Elver Hanover is now six for six lifetime, with a career bankroll of \$256,500.

Driver Aaron Merriman scored the first of his two OSS Championship victories by piloting 3-1 **Kikimora** to a 1:57 triumph for trainer Chris Beaver. The daughter of Triumphant Caviar posted her third win in seven tries for owner/breeder Sandra S. Burnett of Wilmington, Ohio who owns the filly in partnership with her trainer. She now has \$203,556 in career earnings. Even-money favorite **Globetrotting** was second for Anthony MacDonald with 6-1 **Guinevere Hall** (Peter Wrenn) third.

Merriman next took the 3-year-old trot Championship with 1-9 **Only Take Cash**, last year's 2-year-old Championship winner, in 1:54.1. Owned by Robert McIntosh, Dave Boyle and the Mardon Stables, the daughter of Cash Hall was a front-stepping winner by three-quarters of a length over 13-1 **Weslynn Quest** (Tyler Smith) and 9-1 **Aunt Rose** (Ronnie Wrenn, Jr.). Only Take Cash upped her career earnings to \$570,561 with this, her 14<sup>th</sup> win in 17 starts.

**Action Uncle** was a wire-to-wire winner for driver Brett Miller and trainer Virgil Morgan, Jr. in 1:55.1 in the 2-year-old colt trot Championship. The homebred Uncle Peter youngster is owned by Kenneth Sommer Trust of Sheffield, Ohio and notched his second career victory at 5-2 odds. The winner finished just under two lengths in front of 8-1 **Big Box Hanover** (Simon Allard) with 8-1 **Exhibit Class** (Ronnie Wrenn, Jr.) third. Action Uncle now has \$196,300 in earnings.

Driver Tony Hall brought the tough **Queen Of The Pride** into the Northfield Park winner's circle for owner Frank E. Chick of Harrington, DE in 1:51.3 in the 3-year-old filly pace Championship. The rangy McArdle filly, who left the gate at 2-1 odds, was bred by Brad Wallace and bested 6-5 **Giggles In Dreams** (Shawn Barker II), with 80-1 **Norman's Madeline** (Lewayne Miller) getting up for third. Queen Of The Pride pushed her bankroll to \$660,479 with this, her 13<sup>th</sup> career win.

Finally, 4-5 **Lane Of Stone** and Jeff Nisonger captured the 3-year-old colt trot Championship for trainer Mark Winters, Sr. and owner/breeder Harry Horowitz of Brooklyn, NY. The son of Wishing Stone was never headed throughout the one mile test, stopping the clock in 1:54.1 as he recorded career victory number 15 and added the \$150,000 winner's share to his bank account of \$281,213. **Voyage To Paris** was second for Dan Noble at 6-1 with 35-1 longshot **Yes** was third for Anthony MacDonald.

Eight, \$75,000 OSS Consolation races will be held Saturday, Sept. 7 at Scioto Downs, along with a pair of \$75,000 Veteran Championships for pacers, ages 4-year-old and up.

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