



## Ohio State Racing Commission

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# Tall Stack & Classen Stakes feature Ohio's Best

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by Kimberly Rinker for the Ohio Thoroughbred Race Fund

The Buckeye State plays host to a pair of \$75,000 stakes on Saturday, May 6, highlighting a national day of racing that includes the 143<sup>rd</sup> running of the historic Kentucky Derby. Thoroughbred racing fans will witness Ohio-bred runners flying through turns at racetracks located at opposite ends of the birthplace of Aviation.

**The Tall Stack Stakes** at Belterra Park in Cincinnati features ten Ohio-registered 3-year-olds competing at 6½ furlongs while Jack Thistledown in Cleveland hosts the **Dr. T. F. Classen Memorial Stakes** for Ohio-Accredited fillies and mares, 3-year-olds and up, vying at six furlongs. The Tall Stack has a scheduled seventh race post time of 4:45 pm, ET while the seventh race Classen field is set to break from the gate at approximately 5:15 pm, ET.

Noonan Stakes victor **Coincidentally** carries the white, green and black silks of owners/breeders Winstar and Blazing Meadows Farms postward in the Tall Stack. The Super Saver gelding is fresh off his impressive, six-length victory in the \$75,000 Noonan Stakes at Mahoning Valley on April 15 for trainer Tim Hamm and jockey Jaime Rodriguez. The winner of \$105,225 lifetime, Coincidentally will be looking to notch his fourth consecutive victory in the Tall Stack.

Making his seasonal debut after winning the \$150,000 Best of Ohio Juvenile last fall at Mahoning Valley is the Lemon Drop Kid colt **Tough It Up**. Steered in all of his three lifetime efforts to date by jockey John McKee, Tough It Up is conditioned by Thomas Drury for owner/breeder Maccabee Farm and has a healthy \$108,516 in his coffers. Drury also sends out **Strike Your Light**, a son of Majestic Warrior and Maccabee homebred, who finished third to stablemate Tough It Up in the 2016 Juvenile.

The well-bred **Cake Pop** comes into the Tall Stack with three wins in eight career starts and \$103,490 in his bankroll for breeder/owner Penny Lauer. Conditioned by Michael Lauer, the son of Notional-Hey There Cupcake, by Prized was second best in a Mahoning allowance test on March 29. Marcelino Pedroza rides the winner of last season's \$75,000 Hoover Stakes.

**Jocker Justice** hails from trainer Aaron West's barn for breeder/owner Justice Farm. The \$93,570-winning son of Stay Thirsty won the 2016 edition of the \$75,000 Cleveland Kindergarten Stakes for these connections by a head over rival Cake Pop going six furlongs. Albion Jimenez rides the two-time victor, who also has a pair of seconds and one third in eight career starts. West also tightens the girth on **Prime Time Justice**, an Into Mischief gelding who makes his 3-year-old debut after winning a Mahoning maiden special weight in commanding style on Nov. 30, 2016.

**Fireupthejet, Hansenation, Cat's Rhythm and Nuttin' Faster**, all well-bred sophomores looking for their first stakes triumph, round out the field of ten and.

Seven Accredited (horses foaled by Ohio-based stallions and broodmares) fillies and mares, ages 3 and upward, vie in the 12<sup>th</sup> edition of Dr. T. F. Classen Memorial Stakes, each carrying 122 pounds.

Six of the seven contestants in the Classen are stakes winners, including **Leona's Reward**, who boasts an impressive \$189,246 in career earnings for breeders/owners Blazing Meadows Farm and Michael Friedman. Trained by Tim Hamm, the 4-year-old daughter of Parents' Reward-Prime Time Dancer, by Montbrook secured victories in the 2016 editions of the Bricker Memorial and Ohio Debutante Handicap. Leona's Reward, a striking chestnut, won her seasonal debut on April 18, demolishing her competition by 14 lengths in a Mahoning allowance with Luis Colon in the saddle.

**Ebby**, a bay daughter of Mercer Mill-Pyrite Captain, by Magesterial is conditioned by William Cowans for owner Fairwinds Farm and Steve Shafer, and has amassed \$131,520 thus far. Her stake victories include the 2016 Glacial Princess and 2016 Emerald Necklace. Rodney Prescott rides in her seasonal debut.

**True Cinder** will be trying for her third consecutive victory in the Classen, having scored back-to-back wins late last fall—including capturing the \$75,000 Glacial Princess by five lengths for trainer-owner Michael Rone on Dec. 3. The winner of \$98,650 was bred by Larry Byer and will be ridden by Hector Rosario, Jr.

Trainer Jeff Radosevich saddles two contestants in the Classen—**Blanconia** and **Pyrite Slew**. The latter won her last start—the \$75,000 Emerald Necklace on Oct. 1, 2016 at Thistledown in a romp. Pyrite Slew is a dark bay or brown filly by Lunarpal—Pyriteville, by Evansville Slew who has \$64,480 in career earnings for owner Gerald Silver. Bred by Mapleton Thoroughbreds, Pyrite Slew has won two of her four career starts and will Luis Rivera in the irons on Saturday.

Blanconia was third in her last start on April 10 at Mahoning Valley, but did score her lone win in the \$75,000 Miss Ohio Stakes at Thistledown on July 23, 2016. The winner of \$53,194 lifetime is a daughter of Vaquero, out of the Ago mare Zoey Kay, and is owned by Michael Annechino. Bred by Rainmonde Farms, Blanconia will be ridden by Jeffrey Skerrett in the Classen Memorial.

Ivan Vazquez saddles stakes winner **Mom Genes** and her stakes placed **Hope's Frog Song**, both for owner Raymond Donald and both sired by stallion Kentucky Dane. Mom Genes is a 4-year-old lass bred by the Divine Intervention Farm with \$81,245 in her bankroll, whose solo victory came in the \$75,000 Horizon Stakes on Aug 14 last year. Irwin Rosendo rides.

Stablemate Hope's Frog Song is a 6-year-old bay with \$173,828 in her coffers. This hard-knocking mare has come close, but has yet to visit the winner's circle for a stake event. She does have five victories to her credit in 36 starts, however, with nine seconds and a pair of third-place finishes for her breeder/owner. Megan Fadlovich gets the riding assignment on Mom Genes.

**Next up:** Saturday, May 13, the \$75,000 Rowland Memorial at Jack Thistledown. For a complete schedule of OTRF stakes, eligible stallions, racing, licensing forms and other information, go to <http://www.racing.ohio.gov/RaceFund.html> .

**Photo Cutline:** Tough It Up, shown here winning the \$150,000 Best of Ohio Juvenile last fall for jockey John McKee, heads up the \$75,000 Tall Stack Stakes at Belterra Park on Saturday, May 6. **Photo by Brad Conrad**

**Photo Cutline:** Leona's Reward will lead a field of seven fillies and mares postward in the \$75,000 Dr. T. F. Classen Memorial on Saturday, May 6 at Jack Thistledown. **Photo by Brad Conrad**