Ohio THOROUGHBRED
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Breeders & Owners

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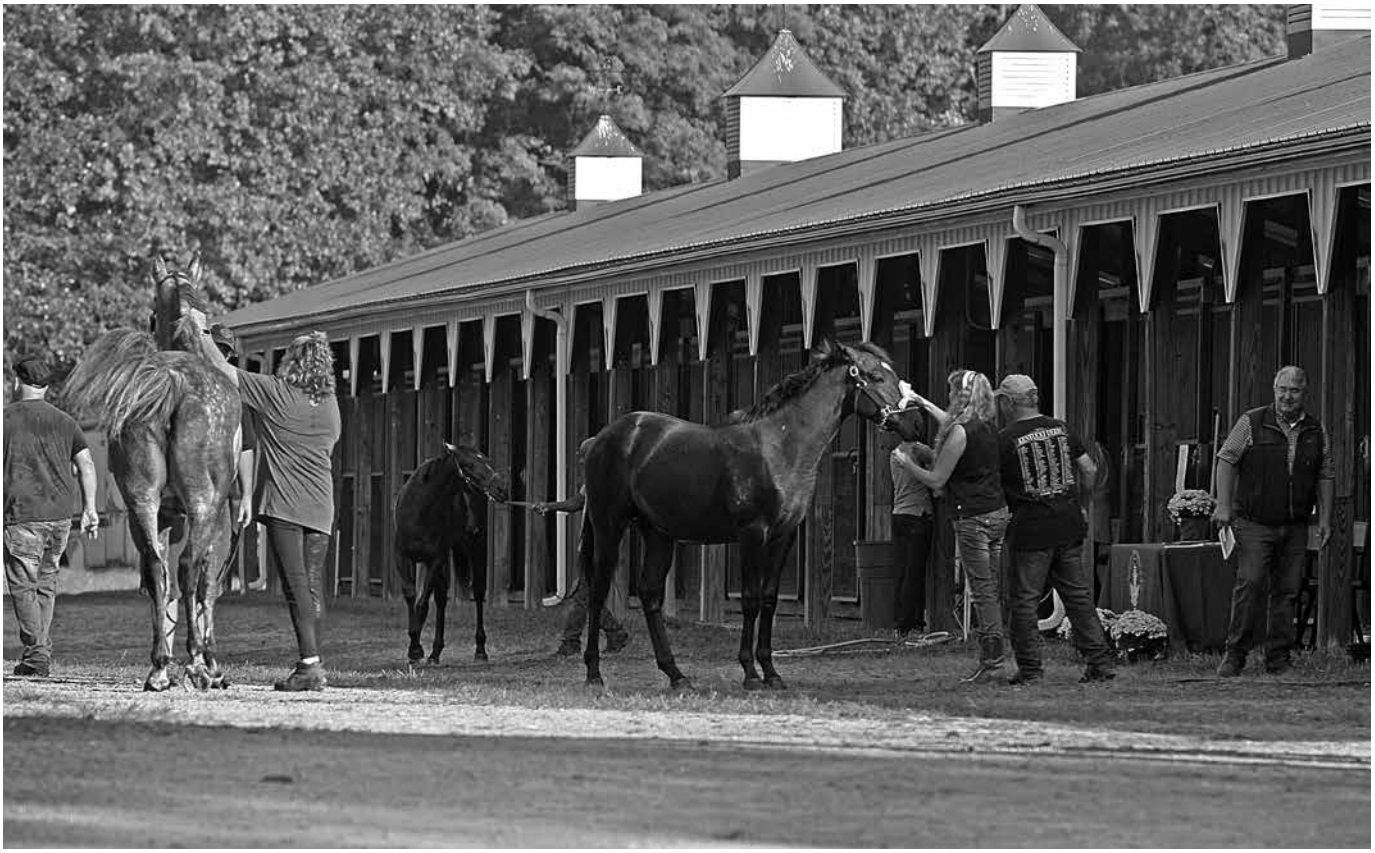
OHIO THOROUGHBRED BREEDERS & OWNERS ADD SECOND SESSION TO OCTOBER MIXED SALE



After getting input from regional horsemen, the Ohio Thoroughbred Breeders & Owners have decided to add a second session for "Horses of Racing Age" to their Mixed Sale in October. "We already have everything in place for a sale – a great facility with 200 stalls and the staff to see it through. Why not open it up to a second set of horses for buyers of all kind," stated Executive Director John Engelhardt.

"I remember an old anecdote where I believe a gentleman approached legendary trainer "Smiley" Adams in his shedrow near the end of a meet," Engelhardt recalled. "He asked 'Do you have any Hunter/Jumpers for sale?' Adams replied 'Oh, I'm sure I do – but I haven't figured which ones they are yet!" He continued, "This can be an excellent opportunity to purchase a race-ready Thoroughbred or sell yours for a continued career on the track with new connections or in a second sporting or career endeavor. We are going track-to-track and approaching Hunter/Jumper and Polo Associations to generate interest.

"Our purpose in the 'Horses of Racing Age Sale' is to offer a venue for those looking for horses to come together to buy from stables that are willing to part with a few of their runners at a fair price."

The day of the sale is Sunday, Oct. 20 at Majestic Farm in Batavia, Ohio, just northwest of Cincinnati. The first session offers yearlings, weanlings and broodmares and starts at 1:30 p.m. After a brief break, the Horses of Racing Age Sale will follow. Entries will be accepted until Oct. 10 with an entry fee of only $150 – the minimum start bid in the ring will be $500. For entry forms contact: Duane swingleyauctioneers.com; for further information contact the O.T.B.O. at 937-723-6026.

THE $75,000 VIVACIOUS HANDICAP GIVES RIDER AND TRAINER FIRST CAREER STAKES VICTORY

Birdacious gets first career stakes wins for jockey Sonny Leon and trainer Michael Evans II. *Photo: Coady Photography*

A field of 11 Ohio Registered fillies and mares went to post in the $75,000 Vivacious Stakes contested at 1⅛ miles on the turf Aug. 4. Accredited-bred Leona's Reward, an earner of $748,056 and winner of five of her last six starts (four of them in stakes), was sent away the favorite. The second favorite was Mayas Queen Neetee, an earner of $264,623 who captured the 2018 Vivacious.

As the runners broke from the gate, riders were taking position as Birdacious made her way to the rail under rider Sonny Leon, where he only left this position once during the race. As the race progressed, the speedsters vied for the lead under opening fractions of :23.25, :47.29, 1:11.50, and turned for home in 1:36.51.

When Leon sensed the pacesetters tiring, he kept position on the rail inside the sixteenth-pole and gave a rail-skimming ride to the winner's circle, winning by a 1¼ lengths. The final time for this impressive daughter by Birdrun finished up in 1:42.59 paying $34.40, $13.60 and $8.60. Completing the superfecta were Mayas Queen Neetee, Grizabella and Cali Dream. The odds-on favorite Leona's Reward finished fifth – 3¾ lengths behind the winner.

According to Birdacious' trainer Michael Evans II: "She faced the boys last out [in the Buckeye Native], was off slow and encountered trouble at various points of the race. The next day she was kicking down the barn and we felt confident to take our shot in the Vivacious seven days later. This was the first stakes win for rider Sonny Leon and myself."

The 4-year-old filly was bred by Robin Murphy, who stands Birdrun at Poplar Creek Horse Center in Batavia. Owned by Sheltowee Farms and Patricia Adams, Birdacious pushed her career earnings to $206,991 with the win in the grassy Vivacious.

VERISSIMO EARNS A HARD FOUGHT VICTORY FOR FIRST GRASS AND STAKES WIN IN $75,000 HORIZON STAKES

A field of nine 3-year-old Accredited Ohio-breds went to post in the $75,000 Horizon Stakes Aug. 11 at Belterra Park. Manga Man was made the lukewarm morning line favorite for trainer Alan Sobol and rider John McKee for the race run at 1⅛ miles on the turf.

When the gate opened, third choice Verissimo broke outward from the nine post, immediately straightened out to grab the lead as they passed the stands for the first time and was guided to the rail. Scraping the paint, the gelded son of Vertiformer ridden by Luis Rivera set dawdling fractions of :24.02, :49.36 and 1:13.99 while holding a short lead.

Verissimo led the pack and was shadowed by Pat's Karma just off his flank to the half way point. As he started to back off the leader, Sammy Da Bull, recent winner of the George Lewis Memorial came calling along the rail. As Verissimo put away Pat's Karma, Sammy Da Bull tipped off the rail at the top of the lane and made a strong late charge only to be repelled by Verissimo, who dug into the firm turf to maintain a neck lead at the wire and finish in 1:44.66. Manga Man was clear for the third spot.

Verissimo notched his fourth win from 10 career starts while trying the turf for the first time. His dam, Blue as the Nile, a daughter of Spunky Rascal, produces 67 percent winners with first time turf runners, and the speedster did not disappoint owners/breeders Richard Spicer and William Spitler. Trainer Jeffrey Radosevich is winning 33 percent at the Belterra meet and shipped his runner from Cleveland to try the greensward at Belterra Park. Verissimo notched his fourth lifetime victory and boosted his bankroll to $130,003.

GALLOPING OUT: It was a trifecta for Poplar Creek Horse Center in the Horizon. The top three finishers were all sired by stallions from the farm in Bethel. The top two finishers are sons of Vertiformer who certainly gives them the credentials to perform long and well on turf. Vertiformer is by Dynaformer out of a Rahy mare. A multiple graded stakes-placed winner, Vertiformer is a half-brother to European champion Declaration of War a multiple Group 1 winner of $1,847,489, and multiple graded stakes winner War Correspondent ($351,989). Manga Man is sired by the deceased Kingship, winner of the Grade 3 Arlington Classic.

Ohio stallion Vertiformer, sire of 1-2 finishers in the Horizon Stakes.

We reported that jockey Perry Ouzts was due for a return to the saddle after dislocating his shoulder. Prior to his return to riding he went back for a final check up with his doctor who requested to run an MRI. They discovered three breaks in his rotator cuff that will require surgery and an estimated seven-month recovery period for racing's seventh-leading rider with 7,065 wins. According to his longtime agent Jamie Fowler, "We discussed his options and at this time it is his intent to come back and ride again. He wants to leave the saddle on his own terms and not from an injury."

SEASON'S BIGGEST UPSET AT THISTLEDOWN IN THE $75,000 HONEY JAY

Jeff Radosevich hasn't become the leading trainer in Ohio by not being able to read his horses when they need a change. The 5-year-old gelding Brown Buckeye had worn blinkers throughout his 11-race career. It was "Blinkers Off" for Brown Buckeye when a compact field of five Ohio-bred runners took the stage in the $75,000 Honey Jay Stakes Aug. 10. The overwhelming favorite was 2018 Ohio Horse of the Year Altissimo, the defending champion and an earner of $624,388 seeking his fourth straight win after shipping back from Delaware Park where he captured the $100,000 Hockessin Stakes.

Altissimo grabbed the lead and was pressured the entire trip. Brown Buckeye stumbled out of the gate and quickly regained his stride to stalk in the two path and keep a close eye on the prevailing champion.

Solid fractions of :22.82 and :46.46 kept Altissimo busy as Over Icce tried to sneak up the rail but was immediately repelled. Brown Buckeye was in the clear and as Over Icce faded back to third, Brown Buckeye moved swiftly to bring the heat to the leader, not giving him a breather.

Brown Buckeye scores the upset of the year in the Honey Jay. *Photo: J.J. Zamaicko*

Those two locked horns and battled gamely from the quarter-pole to the wire. They were neck and neck and exchanged bumps in a fair fight until they reached the sixteenth-pole, when Brown Buckeye grabbed the lead and inched away from Altissimo with Jose Bracho wearing the familiar lime green "Looch Laundry" for owner Ron Paolucci Racing, LLC. The final time was 1:11.02 with Over Icce safely maintaining the third spot.

The "official" sign on the tote board was replaced by both an "Inquiry" and "Objection" signal as the field returned to the winner's circle. The objection was lodged by Gary Johnson, trainer of Over Icce, who felt his horse's chance was compromised when the hole tightened up

down the backstretch. The stewards seemed more intent to view the sparring match through the lane where neither runner was going to throw in the towel. In the end it was a no-call and the results stood.

A son of Big Brown out of Prizes, by Prized, bred by Bruce Talisman, Brown Buckeye was third in last year's running and the win increased his lifetime earnings to $187,464 for his seventh lifetime win from 12 starts. This notched his sixth win at the Cleveland track where he is nine-for-10 in the money. Brown Buckeye paid $16 to win, with no place or show wagering.

Steve DeMaiolo named TOBA 2018 Ohio Breeder of the Year

Ohio breeder Steve DeMaiolo took home a special mare when he picked up 14-year-old Lilah. A daughter of Defrere bred in Kentucky by Jayeff "B" Stables, Alan Goldberg, and Wayne Lyster out of the Dixieland Band mare Dixie Rouge, Lilah was a hard-knocking runner who'd made 40 starts bouncing up and down the East Coast.

Lilah's best efforts came relatively late in her career. The mare picked up graded stakes honors at 8 in the 2005 Hurricane Bertie Handicap-G3 for then trainer H. Allen Jerkens. She retired one year later at the mature, but capable, age of 9.

At the time she fell into DeMaiolo's hands, the mare had already produced a son of Bluegrass Cat named Big Blue Nation who would go on to place third in the 2011 Hopeful Stakes-G1. She had only four more foals in her career as a broodmare, beginning with the winning

Dark Kestrel filly named Sheezalisa. Two of her later foals, born when Lilah was 16 and 18, went on to earn black-type and award the mare with the Ohio Thoroughbred Breeders' Association 2016 title of Broodmare of the Year.

Homebreds Mo Dont No and Takechargedelilah, a 5-year-old gelding and 3-year-old filly, respectively in 2018, each picked up stakes wins last year for DeMaiolo and his Beechwood Racing Stable operation. Mo Dont No, who was purchased for $50,000 by agent Steve Young as a yearling, picked up his third consecutive win in the Best of Ohio Endurance Stakes at Belterra Park by a dominating 12 lengths. The victory marked the eighth stakes win overall for the son of Uncle Mo. He has amassed earnings of more than $900,000 in 36 starts.

Takechargedelilah earned her stakes victory at Thistledown, rallying from last to first to score in the nine-furlong Best of Ohio Distaff Stakes. Her total purse earnings are nearly $250,000.

Lilah produced only one foal after Takechargedelilah – a 3-year-old gelding by The Factor named He's a Momma's Boy. */Meredith Daugherty*

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