

OHIO CHAMPION SOMEDAY SOON IMPRESSIVE IN GRADE 1 ASHLAND STAKES

2016 2-Year-Old-Filly Champion is off to an impressive sophomore season. In her seasonal debut she went wire to wire at Oaklawn Park recording one of the fastest times for a mile at the meet. In her next start she set the pace in the Grade 3 Honeybee Stakes, but faded in the lane. "I think she just bounced off that first race," said owner and breeder Tommy Ligon prior to the \$500,000 Ashland Stakes at Keeneland on April 8. "It's not every day you get to run in a race this rich and she's been training well, so we decided to take a shot."

Someday Soon looked the picture of health in the Keeneland walking ring and appears to have put on weight and size since last season. Ligon brought in Jose Lezcano from New York for the mount and was hoping for a clean break from the inside post position. He got what he wished for and after clearing the field Someday Soon settled into stride and stayed ½ length in front of Sailor's Valentine until those two bumped with a furlong left to run in the 1 1/6-mile test. The Ohio-bred was just caught for the second spot by graded stakes winner Daddy's Lil Darling.

The morning after her \$50,000 payday, trainer Will VanMeter reported that Tommy Ligon's Someday Soon, who finished third at odds of 21-1, exited the Central Bank Ashland in great condition but likely would bypass the Kentucky Oaks. With 20 points, she is 15th on the list of leading point earners for the Oaks, which is limited to 14 starters.

VanMeter has year-round stalls in Keeneland's Rice Road barn area with amenities that include small turnout pens where Someday Soon spent part of Sunday morning. "She was bucking and squealing when we turned her out," he said. "But we probably won't run in the Oaks unless there are some major defections. We'll keep our options open." From nine lifetime starts Someday Soon has a record of 3-2-1 for earnings of \$222,027.