



Indiana Thoroughbred Owners & Breeders Association



\$100,000 Swifty Sired Fillies and \$100,000 Sagamore kick off 2018 stakes season at Indiana Grand Racing & Casino

Story by Tammy Knox

Photos by Linscott Photography or as noted

SHELBYVILLE, Ind.; – May 18, 2018 – Stakes season has arrived at Indiana Grand Racing & Casino. The first two stakes of the year will be contested Wednesday, May 23 featuring the \$100,000 Sagamore Sired Stakes and the \$100,000 Swifty Sired Fillies Stakes. The races are slated as the sixth and eighth, respectively, on the 10-race program. A total of 96 horses are included on the racing day with purses for the day over the \$410,000 mark.

Heading the list of entrants for the fifth running of the \$100,000 Sagamore Sired Stakes for three-year-old Indiana Sired colts and geldings is Mike The Man, trained by Mort Shirazi. The son of Pass Rush comes into the race off a very impressive Maiden Special Weight win May 1 at Indiana Grand where he pulled away from the competition for more than an 11- length win. Owned and bred by Swifty Farms, Inc. of Seymour, Ind., Mike The Man will try follow in his mother’s hoof prints. Maggie Slew, his dam, was also a stakes winner in Indiana during her career with earnings in excess of \$200,000. Mike The Man will begin his journey from post two in the eight-horse lineup with Jockey DeShawn Parker aboard.

Joining Mike The Man as a contender for the Sagamore Sired Stakes title is Its Just Fate from the Wayne Mogge barn. The Skylord gelding, owned by Patrick and Donald Donahoe, has stakes experience, competing in stakes action as a two-year-old at Indiana Grand. His lone start this season was a second place finish to prepare for his first stakes start of 2018. Rodney Prescott will ride Its Just Fate from post six.

Trainer Wayne Mogge will be going for a stakes double on the afternoon as he saddles Ideal Sky in the fifth running of the \$100,000 Swifty Sired Fillies Stakes. The Skylord filly was impressive in her only start of 2018, winning by more than seven lengths in an allowance event. Ideal Sky will be ridden by Jesus Castanon from post one.

Another impressive winner this spring was Making Rainbows from the Aaron West barn. The Santiva filly has only one career start, winning the maiden special weight at Indiana Grand by nearly five lengths. She will begin her race from post two with Leandro Goncalves aboard for owner Tammy Lewis.

The Sagamore Sired Stakes and the Swifty Sired Stakes are the first two events of the year on the stakes schedule that includes 35 races and more than \$4.2 million in purses. Of that amount, more than \$2.5 million is dedicated to Indiana sired and Indiana bred horses, showing the growth of the Thoroughbred racing industry in the state of Indiana.

The next stakes on the schedule for Indiana Grand are the \$75,000 ITOBA Stallion Season Stakes for fillies and for colts and geldings, slated for Saturday, June 9. Both races will be contested at one mile on the dirt course and are both heading into their fifth season of competition as well. Other stakes set for June including the pair of \$100,000 Hoosier Breeders Sophomore Stakes for fillies and for colts and geldings slated for Wednesday, June 20 leading into Indiana Derby Night set for Saturday, July 14 featuring the Grade III \$500,000-guaranteed Indiana Derby and the Grade III \$200,000-guaranteed Indiana Oaks. A special post time of 5:30 p.m. has been set for Indiana Derby Night.

For a full list of entries and a stakes schedule, visit www.indianagrand.com.

The 16th season of Thoroughbred and Quarter Horse racing continues through Wednesday, Nov. 7. Racing is conducted Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday at 2:05 p.m. EST with Saturday racing beginning at 6:05 p.m. EST. Two special Thursday racing dates will be held July 19 and Sept. 6 with a 2:05 p.m. EST post time.

About Indiana Grand Racing & Casino: Indiana Grand Racing & Casino holds multiple awards for customer service, entertainment, gaming, dining, and diversity. Located in Shelbyville, Ind., Indiana Grand features 2,200 of the latest slots and electronic table games in addition to a one-mile dirt race course and a seven-eighths mile turf course offering live Thoroughbred and Quarter Horse racing each year. Simulcast wagering is also offered year-round at Winner’s Circle Brewpub & OTB located on the casino floor as well as a Winner’s Circle OTB located in Clarksville, Ind.