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Overanalyzer Wins His First Two-Year-Old Race of 2018 at Indiana Grand Racing & Casino

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Photos by Linscott Photography or as noted



SHELBYVILLE, Ind.; – May 22, 2018 – It’s always an exciting time of the year when the fresh crop of racehorses hit the track. The Tuesday, May 22 racing program at Indiana Grand included the first showing of two-year-olds for 2018 with Overanalyzer and Andres Ulloa impressing the crowd with a win in the \$31,000 Two-Year-Old Maiden for Indiana bred colts and geldings.

Stayonthe grind and jockey Magdaleno Salazar rallied out of the gate quickly and were on top of the field of six by open lengths in the first few strides of the race. Devilish Charm and Sonny Leon tracked the progress of Stayonthe grind while Overanalyzer stayed on the outside in a stalking position.

Stayonthe grind kept control of the lead rounding the only turn of the sprint and was the one to catch as he lengthened his lead on the field. Overanalyzer took a cue from Ulloa and found another gear, chasing down Stayonthe grind to get the win in the first race of his career. Stayonthe grind finished a neck back in second while Algo First and James Graham moved up late for third. The time of the five-furlong event was :59.24 seconds.

Owned by Amy Elliott’s Elliott Ventures and her daughter Michelle, Overanalyzer is a some of Overanalyze. He is conditioned by Michelle, who is in her first year as a Thoroughbred trainer. Most of the horses under her care are products of the family farm near Delphi, Ind. but Overanalyzer had a different route into the Elliott barn.



“This horse (Overanalyzer) was bought in a package of four horses,” said Amy Elliott, who has maintained the family horse racing business that she helped build with her husband, Jim, who recently passed away. “We bought two yearlings and two two-year-olds. We had the all in a sale this Spring, but nobody really looked at this colt and nobody wanted him so we kept him.”

One of the reasons Overanalyzer might have scared off a few buyers is the horse is blind in one eye. His right eye is still in place, but the vision is extremely low, which can be a challenge for a racehorse.

“He (Overanalyzer) lost his vision from an injury when he was a yearling,” said Michelle. “The breeder tried to save the eye and the eyesight, but it just wasn’t possible. They did save his eye but he can just see shadows. When we placed him in the sale, we had to have his eye further examined so we know he has very limited vision.”

Michelle has been patient with the freshman colt and the barn has learned to approach the colt on his left side so he can see them. Overanalyzer also overcompensates on the track to check out all his surroundings when he’s out for exercise.

“Andres (Ulloa) told me the first time he came in that he had his head turned a lot,” said Michelle. “He is always looking to the outside to compensate for the lack of vision on that side of his body. But he’s had the injury for a while now so he’s had time to acclimate to the eye and he’s getting along fine now.”

Michelle also credits Ulloa for helping Overanalyzer adjust to racing. He has been the only jockey on his back and has gotten along with him well to get him to his first race.

“He (Andres Ulloa) is really quiet and this horse really relaxes with him,” said Michelle. “He had total confidence in this horse going into today’s race and the eye injury doesn’t affect the way he rides him at all.”

Ulloa may be new to Indiana, but he’s not new to riding. The Chilean-born jockey won 80 races in his native Chile at Club Hipico de Santiago before venturing to the United States, following in the footsteps of several of his brothers, who are also in the racing industry. The younger Ulloa, who is one of eight brothers where six are or have been jockeys, won his first U.S. race last fall at Gulfstream Park West before spending the winter at Tampa Bay Downs, which led into his decision to try Indiana this year. Since his arrival he has earned four wins in limited starts and is among the track’s top 12 riders, catching the eye of trainers such as the Elliott Stable, who gave him a shot aboard Overanalyzer.



Michelle admits that Overanalyzer “ran a little green” in his first start, but she liked what she saw from the colt. He came from off the pace and closed well, so she’s hoping that will be a trend that he maintains for future races.

“Andres (Ulloa) says he really likes this horse and the first thing he said when he came back to the winner’s circle was that he (Overanalyzer) has a big heart,” added Michelle. “We are just going to see what is available for him now that he broke his maiden. We will look into several options and might even try a little stakes race. We will just have to see what the best option will be for his next start.”

After years of assisting her mother and father with several aspects of the family business, from buying and selling horses to raising and racing babies from their farm, Michelle received her trainer’s license at the end of 2017. She won her first race with Decisive Boss, a horse that earned his way back into the heart of the Elliott Stable and back to the track.

“That first win was very special in a lot of ways,” said Michelle. “It was with Decisive Boss, a horse that had been on a vacation for two years with an injury that we worked hard to get back to the races. Getting my trainer’s license is a little tribute to my dad (Jim Elliott). Before he passed away, I told him I would get my trainer’s license someday. I told him it was a way for me to carry on his name in racing.”

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.