



# ITOBA



Indiana  
Thoroughbred  
Owners &  
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Association



## Felix Villata named "Groom of the Week" at Indiana Grand Racing & Casino

Story by Tammy Knox

Photos by Linscott Photography



SHELBYVILLE, Ind.; – June 23, 2018 – Felix Villata of the Randy Matthews Stable was named "Groom of the Week" at Indiana Grand Saturday, June 23. The award is presented by Backstretch Supplies, located at Indiana Grand and owned and operated by Bruce Murphy and Genaro Garcia.

"Felix has looked good all week when he came to the paddock to run his horses," said Murphy, who is an owner for Garcia and also owns and operates Murphy Trailer Sales out of Crawfordsville, Ind. "We want fans to come out and enjoy the races at Indiana Grand and we've got a great crowd out here tonight and we want to put on a good show. These guys work very hard with their horses and they don't get a lot of credit, so we wanted to do something to help them out."

Villata, who has been with the Matthews Stable for three years, received a \$100 bill from Backstretch Supplies for his extra effort to

represent his stable well this week. He goes to Oaklawn Park during the winter months, but says, "I like Indiana Grand a lot. This is my favorite place to be."

Villata likes all the horses that he cares for, but one stands out to him. Gifted Justice, owned by Ten Strike Racing Stable, is Villata's favorite in the Matthews barn.

Backstretch Supplies will provide one more round of "Groom of the Week" next Saturday, June 30 to complete the five-week program.

*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.*