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Association



Marcus Guerrero named "Groom of the Week" at Indiana Grand Racing & Casino

Story by Tammy Knox

Photos by Linscott Photography



SHELBYVILLE, Ind.; – June 16, 2018 – Backstretch Supplies, owned by Bruce Murphy and Genaro Garcia, has implemented a new program this season at Indiana Grand. They are honoring some of the hard working men and women of the backstretch with \$100 cash as part of the "Groom of the Week."

The third recipient of the award was Marcus Guerrero. Guerrero, who works for the John Ortiz Stable, was honored during a special presentation in the winner's circle following the fifth race Saturday, June 16. Murphy presented Guerrero with the cash while Nancy Holthus, on-air paddock analyst, conducted the presentation.

"We like to see the grooms come up to the paddock with their horses well groomed and themselves well groomed too," said Murphy. "Marcus is a great example of how a groom represents himself and his stable when racing a horse."

Guerrero recently went to work for Ortiz, who is spending his first season at Indiana Grand this year. Ortiz has several strings of horses currently racing at different locations. The string at Indiana Grand is off to a great start, already securing seven wins in the first two months of racing.

A native of Mexico, Guerrero has worked at Indiana Grand for several years. After Indiana Grand closed last fall, he went to Oaklawn for the winter before returning to Indiana this past spring.

"I love everything about being a groom," said Guerrero. "That is my life. I've been doing this for five years and there isn't anything I don't like about working with the horses."

Backstretch Supplies, located in the barn area at Indiana Grand, will provide two more "Groom of the Week" awards. The program has provided awards to grooms for five consecutive Saturdays in June. Murphy has judges in place to watch all grooms during the week before the final decision is made for the Saturday presentation. Other recipients of Groom of the Week include Kenny Brown of the Aaron West Stable and Leonel Morales of the Mike Nance Stable.

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.