



Sirenusa No Surprise In \$100,000 Ta Wee Stakes at Indiana Grand Racing & Casino

Story by Tammy Knox - Photos by Linscott Photography (unless noted)



SHELBYVILLE, Ind. (July 19, 2018) – It was a special filly that took home the feature of the day on a special Thursday, July 19 racing program at Indiana Grand. Sirenusa and Adam Beschizza earned their fourth win in five starts with a victory in the sixth running of the \$100,000-guaranteed Black Type stakes at Indiana Grand.

Owned by Joni and Barry Butzow, Sirenusa began her journey in the one-mile turf event from post four among the 10 three-year-old fillies in the stakes race. As expected Pearl's Opinion and DeShawn Parker used early speed inside to get the top spot. They were tracked closely by Roussalka and Marcelino Pedroza Jr., who also utilized their inside post for good early positioning. This left just enough room for Beschizza to settle Sirenusa into a stalking position just behind the top two, but they were soon covered up by America's Tale and Fernando De La Cruz on the outside.

Beschizza sat patiently as the race progressed and just as expected, when it was time to move, Sirenusa was diligent in responding to her cue. The Tiznow filly began her attack on the top two and by the head of the stretch, the lead was secured. Sirenusa began to stride out, making it difficult on the late closers to have enough time to close in. Sirenusa crossed under the wire one and one-half lengths ahead of a hard charging Deadline and Brian Hernandez Jr. for the comfortable win. Monte Crista and Julian Pimentel, the favorites of the field, finished a head back in third, just nipped at the wire by Deadline. The time of the mile was 1:36.99.

"I thought we would have a bit more speed in the race," said Beschizza, who had just arrived from his native England the day before to ride Sirenusa in the Ta Wee Stakes. "I decided to let the horse go on the outside of us (America's Tale). This filly has a bit of class. It might have gone a little smoother had there been more speed, but by no means did she have a troubled trip."

Sirenusa rewarded her backers with payouts of \$6.00, \$3.60 and \$2.40 across the board. Trained by Joe Sharp, the \$105,000 Keeneland Yearling Sales purchase increased her career bankroll to more than \$178,000 with her win. Beschizza has been aboard her for all five of her starts since she began her racing career this spring at Fair Grounds.

Beschizza has been riding for the past nine years, beginning his trade in England where he won 200 races before venturing to the United States. He rode this past winter at Fair Grounds, just missing the leading jockey title by one win behind Shaun Bridgmohan who earned 66 wins to Beschizza's 65. Now a Graded Stakes winning jockey, Beschizza actually rode Girvin, winner of the Grade II \$1 million Louisiana Derby, in the horse's final start in the Grade III Steve Sexton Mile at Lone Star Park in May, finishing second.

"I have had a little association with Joe (Sharp) for years," added Beschizza. "I have done a bit of work for him behind the scenes. He has done a fantastic job with this filly (Sirenusa). Of course, the king in his stable is Girvin, who just retired a few weeks back, but I have no doubt he will have another one just like that soon in his stable."

Beschizza has followed Sirenusa to four different tracks, winning at all four destinations. Their only defeat came in the \$100,000 Lady Canterbury Stakes in late June when they finished second. Otherwise, the duo has been exceptional in their performances.

"This filly has an A-plus temperament," said Beschizza. "She's very easy to work with and very easy to ride. She is all class. I'd like to thank the Butzow's (Joni and Barry) and Joe (Sharp) for allowing me to ride her."

After turning his first trip around the track at Indiana Grand into a winning effort, Beschizza is off to another new destination.

"I'm off to Ellis Park tomorrow and that will be my home base for a while," added Beschizza. "I was ready to come back (from England). This has become my second home. I plan to ride the Kentucky tracks and then return to Fair Grounds later this year."

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.

