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Peyton's Pass wins \$100,000 Shelby County Stakes at Indiana Grand Racing & Casino

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



SHELBYVILLE, Ind. (Aug. 22, 2018) – Peyton's Pass and Eddie Perez made a bold move heading into the turn of the 16th running of the \$100,000-added Shelby County Stakes and never looked back, scoring the win in a time of 1:10.74.

Peyton's Pass showed quick early speed at the start of the Shelby County Stakes from the outside post 12. The Pass Rush mare rallied out join Carmalley Chrome and Rodney Prescott in the center of the track and Polarizing with Fernando De La Cruz on the inside. Perez kept Peyton's Pass three wide down the backstretch and when the trio of horses moved into the turn, the five-year-old Indiana bred mare moved into the lead and took control of the race.



In the stretch, Peyton's Pass was not weakening and held her ground as the late closers got in gear. Expect Indy and Emmauel Esquivel weaved through horses on the inside to find racing room and make a strong bid toward the leader. Hay Little Bit and Andres Ulloa also rushed up late on the extreme outside to close quickly, but it was all Peyton's Pass at the finish line, winning by one and one-half lengths over Expect Indy. Polarizing held on gamely on the inside to win the tight photo with Hay Little Bit for third.

"I pretty much had a hold of her the whole race," said Perez. "I tried to hold onto her as long as I could before I let her go."



As the favorite of the field, Peyton's Pass paid \$8.00, \$4.00 and \$3.20 across the board. The win was her seventh career victory in 16 career starts. She now has in excess of \$320,000 in career earnings for Henry Mast's Mast Thoroughbreds. Peyton's Pass is trained by Bob Gorham.

"The three-quarter distance fits her very well," said Perez. "She tries very hard. I thank God and I thank Bob for letting me ride a mare like this. I also thank him for keeping me busy."

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. A special Thursday racing program will be held Sept. 6 with a 2:05 p.m. post time.

Indiana Grand Racing & Casino, which is owned and operated by a subsidiary of Caesars Entertainment Corporation (NASDAQ: CZR), 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. For more information, please visit www.IndianaGrand.com. Must be 18 or older to wager on horse racing at racetracks and 21 or older to gamble at casinos. Know When To Stop Before You Start.® Gambling Problem? Call 1-800-9-WITH-IT (1-800-994-8448) ©2018 Caesars License Company, LLC.

Trophy presentation by (left to right) Kevin Greely, director of racing, Joyse Bannister, Indiana Thoroughbred Breed Development and Jon Schuster, vice president and general manager of racing at Indiana Grand.