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Association



Uphold Following in Hoof Prints of Defining Hope at Indiana Grand Racing & Casino

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



SHELBYVILLE, Ind. (Aug. 22, 2018) – It wasn't a big money race or an event that would receive additional accolades outside of a regular race at Indiana Grand, but for owner-breeder Colette VanMatre of Zionsville, Ind., the win with her three-year-old Uphold was special Wednesday, Aug. 22. Ridden by Fernando De La Cruz, Uphold was collared halfway through the stretch and came back along the inside to win the \$34,500 Allowance race for Indiana bred's running a distance of one mile.

The race was intended for the turf but after heavy rains earlier in the week, the race was moved to the dirt course and the field was reduced to five starters. Uphold began his journey from post five in the five-horse field and was vying for the lead the entire race. In the stretch, he got his wishes and had the lead along the inside but Alittlevodka and Rodney Prescott had other plans. They placed a strong challenge on Uphold and even got by him for a couple of steps before the sophomore son of Lentenor

fought back, winning the tight photo by a head at the finish line in a time of 1:37.68. Derby Day Gray and Santo Sanjur finished third.

It was the second win in four career starts for Uphold, who broke his maiden in early July at Indiana Grand for VanMatre. That race was also slated for the turf but taken off due to rain. Jordan Blair trains Uphold, who doubled his career bankroll to more than \$40,000 with his latest win.

What makes the win so special for VanMatre is Uphold is the second foal from her only mare, On The Point, who she rescued from the kill pen. After purchasing the mare, she decided to raise a foal and bred the Point Given mare to Strong Hope, which produced her first foal Defining Hope. Defining Hope went on to win year-end honors at two and with five career wins, she now has in excess of \$300,000 in career earnings. It was the incentive VanMatre needed to seek another foal from On The Point, which turns out to be Uphold.

"On the Point has one in the oven," said VanMatre. "She will have a foal next spring. We bred her to Blueskiesnrainbows. We are hoping for a turf horse."

Blueskiesnrainbows currently stands at Dr. Roger Beam's Midwest Equine and Veterinary Hospital outside Trafalgar, Ind. The one on the way will join Uphold as an Indiana sired foal, eligible to the increasingly lucrative Indiana Thoroughbred racing program at Indiana Grand.

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.