



## Bizerk in control of \$100,000-added AJ Foyt Stakes at Indiana Grand Racing & Casino

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



SHELBYVILLE, Ind. (Sept. 4, 2018) – Bizerk and Jesus Castanon used a horse-splitting move down the backstretch that turned out to be a winning maneuver, scoring the win in the 14th running of the \$100,000-added AJ Foyt Stakes at Indiana Grand Tuesday, Sept. 4. The six-year-old son of Drinkwiththediabolo scored the win in the one and one-sixteenth mile turf race in a time of 1:43.88.

Castanon used his inside post position three to his advantage out of the gate to get good early positioning, but he expected company and he got it. Bizerk had a short lead coming by the grandstand for the first time but was quickly overtaken by The Money Dance and Edgar Morales on the inside and Mystery Unbridled and Malcolm Franklin on the outside. Bizerk

soon found himself shuffled back along the inside and covered up by a slew of horses heading into the backstretch.

Bizerk was not interested in following along. He was able to find a small seam between the two leaders and split horses heading to the halfway mark, getting into perfect position for the last part of the race. At the head of the lane, the lead was his and he only had to fend off a handful of horses that were in striking distance, including Rebel Bull and Fernando De La Cruz, who also weaved his way through horses on the inside to have a good shot at the win. Bizerk was strong all the way to the wire to win by one and one-quarter lengths over Rebel Bull. Retrospection and Alex Canchari moved up late to finish third.

“Every time he’s on the track, he gives 100 percent,” said Castanon. “The main thing today was to just let him do his thing. Down the backside, he just took me out there. Mr. (Marvin) Johnson supports so many people here and I want to thank him for all the support he has shown me.”

The win for Bizerk was the third of the year in eight outings, all of which have been with Castanon aboard. He paid \$8.60, \$4.80 and \$3.00 for his efforts. The Indiana sired gelding now has in excess of \$240,000 in career earnings for Marvin Johnson, who is the owner, breeder and trainer of the hard knocking racehorse.

“It’s always nice when one of your own can get there,” said Johnson, who is also the breeder and owner of Bizerk. “Jesus (Castanon) is a very smart rider. There was a lot of speed in this race and a lot of them going out for the lead, but he didn’t get in their game. He watched the speed and did a great job. He’s got a great clock in his head.”

Castanon had a great day, winning four of the eight Thoroughbred races on the card, including both stakes. In addition to his win with Bizerk in the AJ Foyt, he was also victorious aboard Marina’s Legacy in the Florence Henderson Stakes. It was also a good day for Johnson, who had a training double on the program.



The 16th season of Thoroughbreds and Quarter Horse racing continues through Wednesday, Nov. 7. Racing is conducted Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday at 2:05 p.m. with Saturday racing beginning at 6:05 p.m. A special Thursday racing program will be held Sept. 6 with a 2:05 p.m. post time.

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