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Expect Indy takes Richmond Stakes at Indiana Grand Racing & Casino

Story By Tammy Knox

Pictures By Linscott Photography (unless noted)

SHELBYVILLE, Ind. (Oct. 2, 2018) – Expect Indy and Emmanuel Esquivel scored a gate to wire victory in the 18th running of the \$100,000-added Richmond Stakes at Indiana Grand Tuesday, Oct. 2. The duo covered the one and one-sixteenth mile race over the dirt course in a time of 1:43.93.

Expect Indy and Esquivel broke from the inside post one and she was ready to tangle early with the field of 11. The Mr Mabee five-year-old mare went directly out for the lead, challenged early by Bar Rag and Jose Riquelme, who sat directly to her outside. The two females pushed each other until the halfway mark when Expect Indy began to pull away. However, she was quickly faced with the second half race opponents who were just gearing up for the stretch drive.

Prompted and Sammy Bermudez challenged Expect Indy with Hay Little Bit and Andres Ulloa and Express Run and DeShawn Parker also closing in with every stride in the stretch. But Expect Indy had another gear and pulled away for the three and three-quarter length victory over Hay Little Bit, who beat Express Run to the wire for second.

“She broke sharp and I expected her to be close,” said Esquivel, who is the nephew of trainer Cipriano Contreras. “I really was not wanting the lead but she was pulling on me pretty good. I tried to take a hold of her but she was fighting me so I left her alone. She got on the bit early, but when I asked her, she responded and did her job. I just hung on at that point.”

The second choice of the field, Expect Indy paid \$6.60, \$4.00 and \$2.20 across the board. It was her fifth win of the season in 11 outings and her first under the direction of Contreras.

“I figured she would be a little better going long,” said Contreras. “Mr. Kieron (Magee) did all the work, I was just lucky enough to have her here for this race. I think she will stay here now for the rest of the meet. There is another stakes race for her coming up. She’s a nice horse to be around and to handle, so I’m happy to have her. I’d like to thank the owners for the opportunity to train her.”

Expect Indy is now eight for 29 lifetime. She has earned in excess of \$274,000 during her career for Andrew Berg’s Gumpster Stable LLC. The Indiana sired mare has spent the majority of her past year racing on the Maryland circuit of racetracks, but recently returned to Indiana for stakes action. Her win in the Richmond Stakes was her first career stakes win. The well-traveled filly now has four wins at Indiana Grand.

Expect Indy is expected to return for the \$150,000-added Frances Slocum during the final week of racing in 2017. The race is slated for Tuesday, Nov. 6 running one and one-sixteenth of a mile over the dirt course. It will be joined by the \$150,000 To Much Coffee for the boys running at the same distance.

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.

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 Brew-pub & 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 T