



Midwest Justice Tops List as Winningest Horse for 2018 at Indiana Grand Racing & Casino

Story By Tammy Knox

Pictures By Linscott Photography (unless noted)



SHELBYVILLE, Ind. (Nov. 8, 2018) – Trainer John Ortiz completed a great season at Indiana Grand in his first year stabled at the track. One of those horses that performed exceptionally well was Midwest Justice, who completed the year with five wins to earn the honor as the 2018 Winningest Horse.

After starting the year off with a couple of starts over the turf course, Midwest Justice kicked into gear in early June, reeling off four straight wins for owner-trainer Marvin Johnson before being claimed by Ortiz for \$25,000 in early August. The three-year-old son of Midshipman continued to perform well, earning two seconds and a win in early October for his new connections Brent Gasaway, Hooties Racing LLC and WSS Racing LLC. In all, Midwest Justice earned five wins and three seconds in nine starts for his Indiana campaign with purse money in excess of \$118,000.

Trainer Randy Matthews stepped in for Ortiz, who was racing at Churchill Downs on the final day of racing at Indiana Grand, to accept the blanket for Midwest Justice. Jon Schuster, vice president and general manager of racing, and Kevin Greely, director of racing, made the winner's circle presentation with assistance from Rachel McLaughlin, on-air racing analyst at Indiana Grand.

Since leaving Indiana Grand in early October, Midwest Justice went on to another victory at Churchill Downs at the end of October. He now has six wins in 10 outings for 2018.

Ortiz plans to head to warmer ground for the winter months. He will send a string of horses to Oaklawn Park and the other half will go to Fair Grounds for the upcoming meet. Ortiz, who is in his third year of training after serving as an assistant for Kellyn Gorder, currently oversees the conditioning of 30 horses.

The 16th season of Thoroughbreds and Quarter Horse racing concluded Wednesday, Nov. 7. Racing will resume in April 2019 with dates expected to be released by the Indiana Horse Racing Commission in December 2018.

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.

Photo above:

Blanket presentation from left Jon Schuster, vice president and general manager of racing, Randy Matthews, accepting the award on behalf of John Ortiz, Rachel McLaughlin, on-air racing analyst, and Kevin Greely, director of racing.