



Piedi Bianchi Doesn't Disappoint in Frances Slocum Stakes at Indiana Grand Racing & Casino

Story By Tammy Knox

Pictures By Linscott Photography (unless noted)



SHELBYVILLE, Ind. (Nov. 6, 2018) – Piedi Bianchi may have just made her first start in Indiana in the \$150,000 Frances Slocum Stakes Tuesday, Nov. 6, but she has been representing the state for more than a year with her performances nationwide. The grey three-year-old daughter of Overanalyze made history last fall when she joined Bucchero as the first two Indiana bred to ever compete in the prestigious Breeders Cup. Now she joins Bucchero as a stakes winner at Indiana Grand.

Starting from post 10 in the 11-horse lineup, Piedi Bianchi was unhurried out of the gate by jockey Manuel Franco, sitting near the back of the pack as Sweet N Wicked and Perry Ouzts claimed the early lead. Marina's Legacy and Jesus Castanon added some pressure just to the outside while Expect Indy and Emmanuel Esquivel tracked the leaders from the inside. Piedi Bianchi began to come into the picture about the halfway point of the one and one-sixteenth mile race, saving ground along the inside before being forced to choose a path to the outside about halfway through the final turn.

At the head of the lane, Expect Indy was overtaking Sweet N Wicked and was quickly joined by Piedi Bianchi. She dug in gamely and stayed with the heavy favorite for most of the stretch before Piedi Bianchi kicked into one final gear that brought her home a winner by two and one-half lengths in a time of 1:44.36. Expect Indy was several lengths ahead of Sweet N Wicked for second over the wet track that was listed as good.

"I talked to her connections and they told me to take my time and not to rush her early," said Franco, who flew in specifically to ride Piedi Bianchi from his home base in New York. "I let them get their positions and wanted to save some ground in the first turn. Down the backstretch, it opened up for us. From there, we got a good trip. I knew when the other filly was running with us down the stretch that my horse would give me a little more and she did to get the job done."



Piedi Bianchi was the legitimate favorite of the field. The filly was purchased by Steven Spielman's Nice Guys Stable along with Jack Bick and Jay Oringer for \$80,000 out of the spring Ocala Breeders Sale last year. She raced on the West Coast as a two-year-old, hitting the board in several Grade I races before finishing fifth in the Grade I \$2 million Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies last fall. After a break this winter, she returned to action on the East coast under the direction of Todd Pletcher. The well-traveled filly was flown in for the Frances Slocum from her home base in New York.

"When we bought her, we really weren't thinking about her being an Indiana bred," said Oringer. "But we started seeing Bucchero and it started to click. We've love to have the first Indiana bred to hit one million in earnings, and we think she's good enough to do that."

With her win in the Frances Slocum, Piedi Bianchi increased her career bankroll to nearly \$350,000. It was her first stakes win and her first of 2018 in four starts. She was bred by Deann and Dr. Greg Baer of Columbus, Ind.

"We've really been waiting for this race," said Spielman. "We have her a few months off and she rested up in Ocala and then went to Todd Pletcher in April. She's a well-traveled filly. We will talk to Todd (Pletcher) and she what he where he wants to go next with her."

Piedi Bianchi has been an inspiration to her connections. She was the first horse purchased by the new Thoroughbred owners. Because of her success, they are now fully immersed in horse racing.

"She was our first horse we ever bought," added Oringer. "She gave us the bug. Steve's stable (Nice Guys Stable) now has 40 horses. She's been a great advocate for the sport. She's brought a lot of people together, and we plan to be back next year to defend her title in this race."

The 16th season of Thoroughbreds and Quarter Horse racing comes to a close 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

Interview photo includes Owners Jay Oringer (left), Rachel McLaughlin, on-air racing analyst, and Steve Spielman (right)

