



Sweet Victory for Snicker Cookie in Indiana Futurity at Indiana Grand Racing & Casino

Story By Tammy Knox

Pictures By Linscott Photography (unless noted)



SHELBYVILLE, Ind. (Nov. 7, 2018) – It was a big day for the team of Tammy and Richard Rigney along with their trainer Phil Bauer. They connected for two stakes wins on the closing day card, Wednesday, Nov. 7 at Indiana Grand including Snicker Cookie in the 19th running of the \$100,000 Indiana Futurity.

A flurry of horses left the starting gate in pursuit of the lead. Jockey Alex Canchari elected to lay off the early pace with Snicker Cookie in the one mile and 70-yard event as Flowerpecker and Jesus Castanon were the eventual leaders around the first turn. Havenhill and Eddie Perez tracked closely in second along the inside as Solly's Chief and Angel Moreno held their ground in between horses. It wasn't until the final turn that Snicker Cookie became visible and proved he would be a threat for the stretch drive.

In the stretch, Snicker Cookie exploded to the lead and continued to make it difficult for any of the horses in the back to catch up. He strode away with the win by seven and one-half lengths at the wire in 1:42.51. Toss of Fate and Malcolm Franklin moved in for a comfortable second over Comes N Threes and Marcelino Pedroza who closed in well on the outside for third.

"This is an impressive colt," said Canchari, who will head to Oaklawn Park for the winter. "I sat with him early and let the speed go. I knew at the quarter pole I had a lot of horse. He just pulled me up there to the front. By the sixteenth pole, I had him wrapped up."

It was the first career win for Snicker Cookie, who was stretching out around two turns for the first time in only his third career start. He ends his freshman campaign with more than \$80,000 in purse earnings for Rigney Racing and Bauer.

"We always thought the further he went the better he would get," said Bauer. "We are very pleased with both efforts today from Snicker Cookie and Fireball Baby (winner of the Miss Indiana Stakes one race earlier)."

As the favorite of the field, Snicker Cookie paid \$6.60, \$3.20, \$3.40 across the board. The Noble's Promise freshman brought the red and white silks with three hearts across the back in the winner's circle for Rigney Racing one last time for 2018 at Indiana Grand.

"We have three kids, so the three hearts across the back represent them," said Tammy Rigney. "Then, there are two hearts over the left chest in front that represents both us and two older kids in our family."

Tammy and Richard met in the early 1990s. Both had an appreciation for horse racing while growing up in their respective locations, Richard in southern California and Tammy in southern Indiana. Their shared interest turned into a wedding gift prior to their nuptials in the early 2000s.



"Richard grew up going to Santa Anita and I grew up attending the races at Churchill Downs with my grandfather," added Tammy. "For a wedding present for Richard, I bought him a share of a horse into a partnership and it has just grown from there."

The Rigney's connected with Bauer in 2013 and he now oversees all training duties for their stable as their private trainer. Many of the horses under Bauer's care are homebreds from the Rigney's operation.

The 16th season of Thoroughbreds and Quarter Horse concluded Wednesday, Nov. 7. Racing will resume in April 2019.

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Photo info:

Interview with Trainer Philip Bauer and Rachel McLaughlin, on-air racing analyst at Indiana Grand.

Trophy presentation, from left, Jon Schuster, vice president and general manager of racing, Jessica Barnes, director of Indiana breed development, Tammy and Richard Rigney, owners, Alex Canchari, jockey, Philip Bauer, trainer and Kevin Greely, director of racing.

