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Indiana Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association

## Hold On Angel flies high in Hoosier Breeders Sophomore Stakes at Indiana Grand Racing & Casino

Story by Tammy Knox

Photos by Linscott Photography



SHELBYVILLE, Ind.; – June 20, 2018 – Hold on Angel and jockey Rodney Prescott made a decision early in the race to move to the lead. It would be a wise choice as the duo scored a gate to wire win in the 10th running of the \$100,000-added Hoosier Breeders Sophomore Stakes.

Starting from post four in the reduced field of five, Hold On Angel hustled out of the gate and had the top spot all to himself as the field headed into the first turn of the one and one-sixteenth mile event. Hold on Angel was not pressured and continued to set the tempo until the turn. Sir Brogan and DeShawn Parker began to advance toward the leaders in the turn and were in perfect striking position for the stretch drive home.

However, Hold On Angel had plenty left and fought off Sir Brogan, pulling away to a five and one-half length win. Redyornothereicome and John McKee scooted around the turn on the inside and made a mild bid to finish third. The time of the race was 1:43.36, the second fastest in the 10-year history of the Hoosier Breeders Sophomore Stakes.

“The couple of scratches in this race helped, but even in a shorter field, the strategy doesn’t really change,” said Prescott, who is the current leading jockey at the track. “We were able to out foot them out of the gate and we got to the front pretty easy. This horse has continued to get better in the past few weeks. I worked him before his last start when he won and I worked him before this start. John (Haran) has really done a good job with him. He has really turned around this year.”

Hold On Angel got a late start to his racing career, making his debut last October at Indiana Grand, and has continued to perfect his skills for Michael Ryan’s Clabar Mor Stables LLC and Haran Thoroughbreds. Trained by Haran, the three-year-old son of Hold Me Back was making his 12th career start in the Hoosier Breeders Sophomore Stakes, his first try against stakes company. He topped \$100,000 in career earnings with his win, which was his second straight trip to the winner’s circle.

A surprise to bettors, Hold On Angel paid \$28.80 and \$10.00 to his backers. Show wagering was canceled due to the short field of five.

For Prescott, the win in the Hoosier Breeders Sophomore Stakes capped off an eight-day run with 15 wins. The Portland, Ind. native, who is Indiana’s all-time leading jockey, is currently leading the 2018 standings with 36 wins.

“Shannon (McGovern) works hard,” said Prescott about his agent. “A few weeks ago I had a bad day. She said it was fine and that she would just have to work harder.”

This is the first year that McGovern has had Prescott’s book in Indiana. The Granite City, Ill. native is also an accomplished barrel racer and still competes when she gets time away from the track.

*The 16th season of Thoroughbred and Quarter Horse racing continues through Wednesday, Nov. 7. Racing is conducted Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday at 2:05 p.m. EST with Saturday racing beginning at 6:05 p.m. EST. Two special Thursday racing dates will be held July 19 and Sept. 6 with a 2:05 p.m. EST post time.*

*About Indiana Grand Racing & Casino: Indiana Grand Racing & Casino 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.*