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Grade III \$500,000-guaranteed Indiana Derby draws 47 nominations at Indiana Grand Racing & Casino

Story by Tammy Knox
Photos by Linscott Photography



SHELBYVILLE, Ind.; - July 3, 2018 - The Grade III \$500,000-guaranteed Indiana Derby, presented by Miller Lite, has drawn nominations from 47 three-year-old colts and geldings. Indiana's richest horse race will be the featured event Saturday, July 14 among six stakes races on the evening card totaling more than \$1.1 million.

Heading the list of nominations is a pair of horses from the Doug O'Neill Stable. Blame the Rider and Blended Citizen have both been nominated to the race as O'Neill would look for his third Indiana Derby win. The defending training champ conditioned Irap to a victory in 2017 and was also the trainer of Excessivepleasure, 2003 winner. Blended Citizen ran in his last start in the Belmont Stakes behind the Triple Crown winning effort of Justify. With more than \$400,000 in career earnings, the Proud Citizen colt has two wins this season, including the Grade III Peter Pan at Belmont Park two starts back. Stablemate Blame The Rider was a winner two starts back in the Singletary Stakes at Santa Anita followed by a second place finish in the Rainbow Stakes, also at Santa Anita.

The richest horse nominated to the Indiana Derby is Noble Indy, who ran in both the Belmont Stakes and the Kentucky Derby. Trained by Todd Pletcher, the Take Charge Indy colt owned by WinStar Farm and Repole Stable has in excess of \$660,000, including a win in the Grade II \$1 million Louisiana Derby this past spring. Noble Indy has not started since his last start in the Belmont Stakes June 9.

Eight of the horses on the nomination list for the Indiana Derby have appeared in at least one of the Triple Crown races this season. Two-time Triple Crown winning Trainer Bob Baffert has nominated five horses to the Indiana Derby, a race he has won four times over the past 24 years. The most experienced nominee from the Baffert barn is Ax Man, a three-year-old son of Misremembered, who still holds the stakes record for the Indiana Derby set in 2009 in a time of 1:40.80. Ax Man is owned by Patti and Hal Earnhardt, who is one of Baffert's longest clients in horse racing. The Arizona native owns one of the largest automobile dealerships in the Southwest.

Joining the Indiana Derby on the Saturday, July 14 racing program will be the 23rd running of the Grade III \$200,000-guaranteed Indiana Oaks. The race brought in a total of 44 nominations including the talented Violence filly Talk Veuve to Me. The Rodolphe Brisset-trained sophomore only has four starts lifetime but comes into Indiana off an impressive second place finish in the Grade I \$700,000 Acorn Stakes at Belmont Park. She is owned by Rodolphe and Stephen McKay along with Team Valor International.

Other stakes slated for Indiana Derby Night include the \$100,000 Mari Hulman George Stakes (Listed), the \$100,000 Warrior Veterans Stakes (Listed), the \$100,000 Michael G. Schaefer Memorial (Listed) and the \$100,000 Indiana General Assembly Distaff (Listed.). First post for the racing program is 5:30 p.m. for the 10-race card, featuring the Indiana Derby as Race 9 with an estimated post time of 9:48 p.m. .

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 at 6:05 p.m. EST. Two 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.