



## Sky Writer Flies Away With \$100,000 Snack Stakes Title at Indiana Grand Racing & Casino

Story by Tammy Knox - Photos by Linscott Photography (unless noted)



SHELBYVILLE, Ind. (July 18, 2018) – Sky Writer and jockey Eddie Perez stepped up in a big way Wednesday, July 18 in their first start over the Rod Ratcliff Turf Course at Indiana Grand. The duo timed the wire just right, scoring the victory by a head in the 10th running of the \$100,000 Snack Stakes.

Sky Writer was unrushed out of the gate as race favorite Its Just Fate took his expected spot on the lead with Rodney Prescott aboard. Pegasus On the Go and Sammy Bermudez used early speed to gain positioning on the outside along with Buck Dynasty and Fernando De La Cruz also sitting outside just off the early pace. Its Just Fate looked strong on the lead through the majority of the one mile event before the field began to bunch up around the final turn.

Sky Writer began to advance heading into the final turn and was one of the horses on the move after Its Just Fate. At the head of the lane,

Sky Writer busted out of the pack and turned on the speed for the stretch drive. In a Fog and John McKee came up along the outside for a battle and even got a head in front before Sky Writer fought back to take the win by the margin of a head over In A Fog. Mike The Man and Declan Cannon rallied from the back of the pack to finish third. The time of the race was 1:37.40.

“It was kind of where we needed to be,” said Trainer Bob Gorham of his mid pack spot early on. “The race over there looked like there were three horses. When Eddie (Perez) came to the paddock, Eddie said that there were three speed horses in the race, boss, and we need to set right in back of them.”

Owned by Mast Thoroughbreds, Sky Writer earned his first career stakes win in the Snack stakes and his third win overall. The Sky Mesa gelding nearly doubled his career bankroll to more than \$120,000 with the win.

“You never really know how they’re going to perform on the turf until you get a chance to try it,” said Gorham. “We thought the Sky Mesa part of this horse is strong for a turf pedigree. He is a well bred horse and usually those are the kind of horses that step up in these kinds of races.”

The seventh choice on the board, Sky Writer paid \$27.80, \$15.20, \$8.60 across the board. He was bred by Deann and Dr. Greg Baer DVM and Tommy Wenthe, all of Indiana.

As far as the next step for Sky Writer, Gorham added, “Certainly have to come back in the mile and 70 on the dirt here and that’s where we’ll go next.”

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.

