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Photos by Linscott Photography



Photo by Linscott Photography – last year’s Centaur Stakes winner Free World and Chris Landeros. Free World is nominated this year to the J. Kenneth Self Shelby County Boys & Girls Club Stakes the same day as the Centaur Stakes.

\$200,000-ADDED CENTAUR STAKES DRAWS 45 NOMINATIONS AT INDIANA GRAND RACING & CASINO

SHELBYVILLE, Ind.; – June 20, 2014 –Nominations for the \$200,000-added Centaur Stakes and the \$100,000-added J. Kenneth Self Shelby County Boys & Girls Club Stakes have been tallied, bringing in nods from several Graded Stakes winners for both events. The stakes races will kick off the turf season at Indiana Grand Racing & Casino Wednesday, July 2. The Centaur Stakes has 45 nominations while the Boys & Girls Club Stakes picked up 48 on the list.

The Centaur Stakes, formerly known as the Oliver Stakes, is the only open stakes race that was established in 2003. It joins two state-bred stakes, the \$85,000-added Shelby County and the \$150,000-added Indiana First Lady Stakes, as the only ones from the inaugural season still contested at Indiana Grand.

The Centaur Stakes has developed into a quality one-mile Listed turf race for three year olds, attracting nominations from several top trainers in the sport once again this year. Last year’s event garnered 37 nominations and went to post with eight starters. Free World with rider Chris Landeros aboard ran under the wire first for his connections, owner Maggi Moss and trainer Tom Amoss.

Headlining the list of nominees in the ninth running of the Centaur Stakes is Bobby’s Kitten, who comes into the race off a win in the \$500,000 Penn Mile over the turf at Penn National. Trained by Chad Brown, the three-year-old son of Kitten’s Joy has more than \$589,000 in career earnings and is two for three in 2014. A start in the Centaur Stakes would be his first try over the turf course at Indiana Grand.

Joining Bobby’s Kitten on the nomination list as a possible starter is Medal Count, who finished third in the Grade I \$1.5 million Belmont Stakes. Also a Kentucky Derby starter, Medal Count has more than \$411,000 in career earnings for trainer Dale Romans and is one for one on the turf, an allowance win at Gulfstream Park earlier this year. The Dynaformer colt’s biggest win to date was in the Grade III Transylvania at Keeneland in April.

Vicar’s in Trouble from the Mike Maker stable also adds a hefty bankroll to the nomination list. The son of Into Mischief made his last start in the Kentucky Derby. He was a winner earlier this year in the Grade II \$1 million Louisiana Derby at Fair Grounds to earn the bulk of his \$788,000-plus career bankroll. Vicar’s in Trouble would be making his first start over a turf course in the Centaur Stakes.

The record for the \$200,000-added Centaur Stakes was recorded in 2012 when Silver Max, with Victor Lebron aboard, rallied home in a time of 1:33.88. The race enters its third year in 2014 under the name Centaur Stakes, named after the parent company of Indiana Grand.

Joining the Centaur Stakes on the program Wednesday, July 2 will be the fifth running of the \$100,000-added J. Kenneth Self Shelby County Boys & Girls Club Stakes, also a Listed event. A Diehl has been the winner the past two years for rider Marcelino Pedroza and trainer George Arnold II. A Diehl established the record for the one-mile turf race in a time of 1:34.67. This year’s race will be contested at a distance of one and one-sixteenth miles over the turf course. A Diehl is not on the nomination list this year, opening it up for a new horse to earn the title.

Headlining the list of horses on the nomination list for the J. Kenneth Self Shelby County Boys & Girls Club Stakes includes last year’s Centaur Stakes winner Free World for Amoss. The four-year-old son of Stormy Atlantic is currently on a five-race win streak. A start in the Boys and Girls Stakes would be his second of the year. Free World is two for two over Indiana Grand’s turf course.

Free World is joined on the nomination list by the Graded Stakes winning four-year-old Admiral Kitten. Trained by Maker, the Kitten’s Joy colt is a turf specialist, with the Grade I \$500,000-added Secretariat Stakes at Arlington Park as the biggest win of his career thus far. Admiral Kitten could meet up with Bad Debt, another horse who prospers on the grass. Trained by Michael Trombetta, Bad Debt has 14 career wins, 12 of which are on the turf. The Graded Stakes winning son of Grand Reward has won races over nine different tracks and has more than \$737,000 earned during his career.

Prayer for Relief from the Dale Romans barn has been added to the nomination list. The six-year-old Jump Start horse has never started over the turf and comes into the race from the Grade I \$500,000-added Stephen Foster Handicap at Churchill Downs.

The nomination list also includes an import from Ireland. Trainer Kelyn Gorder has nominated That’s Plenty, who has spent his entire career racing over courses in England and Ireland. The five-year-old gelding has two wins in four starts this season and earnings of more than \$118,000. His last start was a stakes win at Curragh in Ireland.

Live Thoroughbred and Quarter Horse racing continues through Saturday, Nov. 1 offering racing Tuesday and Wednesday at 2:05 p.m. with Friday and Saturday action beginning at 5:05 p.m. Thursday racing will be added at 2:05 p.m. July 17. For more information, visit the Website at indianagrand.com.

About Indiana Grand Racing & Casino: Indiana Grand Racing & Casino holds multiple awards from industry publications for customer service, entertainment, gaming and dining. Located in Shelbyville, Ind., Indiana Grand features 2,000 of the latest slots and electronic table games in addition to a one-mile oval race course offering live Thoroughbred and Quarter Horse racing each year. Simulcast wagering is also offered year-round at Indiana Grand Racing & Casino as well as an off-track betting facility located in Clarksville, Ind. For more information, please visit www.IndianaGrand.com.

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