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EAST HALL GETS THE UPSET IN THE GRADE II \$500,000-ADDED INDIANA DERBY

By Tammy Knox - SHELBYVILLE, Ind.; – Oct. 4, 2014 – In a night that presented a lot of longshots in the winner’s circle, the Grade II \$500,000-added Indiana Derby followed suit as East Hall turned the tables on Vicar’s in Trouble and recorded the upset in the 20th running of the one mile and one-sixteenth race.

A few surprises sprung out of the gate. Atreides, who was the race favorite, was expected to roll to the lead early for jockey Joel Rosario but wasn’t in contention, leaving Vicar’s in Trouble and Rosie Napravnik to gain the early advantage along the inside while East Hall and Luis Saez sat just to the outside in second, pressing the pace. CJ’s Awesome and Edgar Prado were forced three wide in their quest to get to the lead early on.

The pace of the race wasn’t particularly quick, passing the first quarter in :22.42 seconds, with the top six in the field of seven tightly packed down the backside and through the half in :48.06. CJ’s Awesome rallied closer to try and take control of the race around the turn with Just Call Kenny and Paco Lopez moving the quickest of all on the far outside, landing in a perfect spot for the drive home.

In the stretch, Vicar’s in Trouble retained control of the top spot while East Hall and Just Call Kenny were looking for their next gear to accelerate forward. Halfway down the lane, close quarters and contact was experienced between East Hall and Just Call Kenny, but both continued forward. Late in the stretch, East Hall had the most momentum and after catching up to Vicar’s in Trouble on the outside, he went right on by and secured the victory by one length over Vicar’s in Trouble. Just Call Kenny was a solid third place finisher followed by CJ’s Awesome, who finished fourth well ahead of the other three starters.

“He (East Hall) wanted to switch leads, and he came out a little, but I saw the other horse (Just Call Kenny) coming over,” said Saez, who was the subject of an objection that was disallowed from Just Call Kenny’s rider Paco Lopez. “That’s why our horses touched. This is the first time I rode this horse and I didn’t know the horse. The trainer (Bill Kaplan) told me to bring him and put him in the race and sit right there and ask him at the half mile. I had horse. He wanted to switch leads and when he did, he kept running. He really surprised me.”

A nice payout for his backers, East Hall returned \$35.80, \$10.60 and \$13.40 across the board, marking the largest \$2 payoff for an Indiana Derby winner in the history of the race. The previous record was set by Orientate in 2001 when he returned \$32.60 to win. The time of the one and one-sixteenth mile race was 1:42.24.

East Hall is owned by Jack Hendricks and Roger Justice, who have been partners in both business and horses for many years. Both men worked at UPS near their hometown in Lexington, Ky. for 35 years, and their partnership currently owns seven horses together. Bill Kaplan serves as their trainer.

“We’ve been together in partnership on horses a long time and we’ve never had an argument,” said Roger Justice. “We have a great trainer in Bill (Kaplan) and he has done well with this horse.”

East Hall adds the win in the Grade II Indiana Derby to his only other win this season in the \$300,000 Ohio Derby at Thistledown. He has garnered more than \$584,000 lifetime, most of which has been earned this year in 10 starts.

“You have to give credit to this horse (East Hall),” said Hendricks. “He’s a jockey’s horse. He’ll do whatever the jockey asks him to do. He’s campaigned heavy this year but he loves to run and he’s 100 percent sound. As long as he’s sound, we’ll keep going. It will be up to Bill when he (East Hall) gets back to Florida where he goes for his next start.”

Indiana Derby Night at Indiana Grand brought in a total handle of \$1,668,745 with a total of \$406,909 wagered on the Derby race. Despite cooler temperatures, a large crowd was on hand to witness Indiana’s richest Thoroughbred race and the state’s richest night of racing ever with more than \$1.4 million in purses over the 11-race card. Coach Rick Pitino of University of Louisville and Coach Tom Crean of Indiana University served as co-chairs of the Indiana Derby and presented the trophy to the winning connections following the race.

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.

www.itoba.com
Phone: 317-709-1100

info@itoba.com
Fax: 317-755-1320