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CRITTENDEN GETS THE FINAL NOD IN THE \$75,000 PDJF STAKES AT INDIANA GRAND RACING & CASINO MORE THAN \$87,000 COLLECTED THROUGH AUCTION ITEMS FOR PDJF

SHELBYVILLE, Ind.; – May 30, 2015 – It took the entire length of the stretch during the seven and one-half furlong turf race, but Crittenden and Fernando De La Cruz accomplished their goal in getting to the finish line first. The duo rallied up at just the right moment to take the first running of the \$75,000-added PDJF Stakes Saturday, May 30 at Indiana Grand.

Thirtysilverpieces and jockey Florent Geroux broke well from post three of the nine horse field and led through a majority of the race, but had company early on. Fancy Man and Eddie Perez stayed wide while Serious Talk and Albin Jimenez applied pressure between horses. The top trio began to tire around the turn, giving Oak Brook and Antonio

Gallardo the opportunity to pass and get in front for the stretch drive home. De La Cruz had Crittenden ready for battle late, gaining ground with authority and getting past Oak Brook in the final stride to win by a neck. Thirtysilverpieces maintained ground for third.

Crittenden earned his first win in his third start of 2015. The Distorted Humor son is now three for seven lifetime for Sheikh Mohammed's Godolphin Racing Stable. Eoin Harty is the trainer of Crittenden, who paid \$15.60, \$9.60 and \$4.80 as a bit of a surprise winner.

Harty was not in attendance for the race, but he relayed strict instructions via the assistant to De La Cruz before the race, "Whatever you do, stay on that rail!" De La Cruz obliged Harty's request and those instructions paid off.

"I stayed on the rail and waited in the stretch until I got clear and he (Crittenden) took off," said De La Cruz, who was the 2014 leading rider at Indiana Grand. "The condition of the turf was pretty good even after all the rain we got."

Despite the rain, no one could put a damper on the evening that was dedicated to the Permanently Disabled Jockeys Fund (PDJF). A packed house enjoyed mingling with some of racing's royalty, with more than a dozen Hall of Fame jockeys in attendance, including Triple Crown winners Steve Cauthen and Jean Cruguet. Both a live and silent auction were featured with the Billy Lopa original painting of Cauthen, Laffit Pincay Jr. and Chris McCarron topping the sale at \$31,000. In all, the live and silent auction brought in \$87,250.

In addition to the auctions, Helping Hands for Freedom, which supports military families facing injury, loss and deployment, generously donated \$10,000 to PDJF. Patrick Shannon, a Purple Heart and Bronze Star recipient, noted

that they understand the affects of disabilities while on the job and the organization wanted to do something to support the cause. Shannon was joined by other members of Helping Hands for Freedom, including David Roth and Harry Liggett for the check presentation to Nancy LaSala, executive director of the PDJF.

The 13th season of live Thoroughbred and Quarter Horse continues through Saturday, Oct. 31, 2015. Racing is conducted Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 2:05 p.m. with first post for Saturdays set at 6:05 p.m. Thursday racing will be added Sept. 17, 2015 for the remainder of the 120-day race meet.

About Indiana Grand Racing & Casino: Indiana Grand Racing & Casino, a Centaur Gaming destination, holds multiple awards from industry publications for customer service, entertainment, gaming and dining. Located in Shelbyville, Ind., Indiana Grand features 2,200 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 or www.CentaurGaming.net.



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