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STAKES SEASON HEATS UP IN AUGUST AT INDIANA GRAND RACING & CASINO

SHELBYVILLE, Ind.; – July 31, 2015 – The 21st running of the Grade II \$500,000-added Indiana Derby took on a different role in 2015. Generally, it is one of the last stakes races of the year, but with the move to mid July, the race now serves as one of the first Thoroughbred Stakes races of the year as stakes season gets in full gear beginning in August.

The \$150,000-guaranteed Governor's Stakes and the \$150,000-guaranteed Indiana First Lady Stakes are the next ones on the agenda, set for Wednesday, Aug. 12. The afternoon will also feature the next round of the \$30,000 Don K. Memorial Starter Series running one mile on the turf course.

Last year's Governor's Stakes was won by Mister Pollard and jockey Ricardo Santana Jr., setting a new stakes record in a time of 1:41.64 for the one mile, 70 yard distance on the dirt course. Mister Pollard, trained by Mike Lauer, went on to complete the 2014 racing season in strong fashion, earning the title in the \$85,000 Hoosier Breeders Sophomore Stakes followed by a win on closing night in the \$150,000 To Much Coffee Stakes, a race that he also set a new stakes record in for one mile and one-sixteenth in a time of 1:42.52. The now four-year-old son of Pollard's Vision gave Lauer his second straight win in the Governor's Stakes, also winning the 2013 contest with Joint Tenant, ridden by Jon Court. The Governor's Stakes moves into its 12th running in 2015.

Joining the Governor's Stakes is the 13th running of the Indiana First Lady Stakes, which is one of the original stakes races from the inaugural season of racing at Indiana Grand in 2003. Last year's winner was Mary n' Eileen, who shipped in from the New Jersey racing circuit for trainer Patrick McBurney and jockey Paco Lopez. Mary n' Eileen also set a new stakes record in a time of 1:41.41 for the one mile, 70 yard distance, which is a quicker time than the colts in the Governor's Stakes.

Mary n' Eileen returned closing weekend to take the title in the \$150,000 Frances Slocum Stakes, her final race of her three-year-old season. The now four-year-old daughter of Indy King has been racing at her home base at Monmouth Park where she competed in the Grade III \$150,000 Molly Pitcher Stakes in early July.

To help commemorate the afternoon racing card Wednesday, Aug. 12, Peter Lurie, nationally known on-air racing analyst, will be in attendance to offer additional wagering information as well as provide post race interviews. Lurie, who makes special appearances throughout the racing seasons at both Indiana Grand and Hoosier Park, continues to serve as a host on TVG/HRTV, who merged earlier this year.

Other upcoming stakes include the ITOBA Stallion Season Fillies and the Paul Tinkle ITOBA Stallion Season Colts and Geldings Stakes on Wednesday, Aug. 26 followed by the \$200,000-added Indiana Grand (Listed) and the \$200,000-added Centaur Stakes (Listed), both scheduled for the turf course on Wednesday, Sept. 9. The \$85,000 AJ Foyt Stakes and the \$85,000 Florence Henderson Stakes will also be held that afternoon.

Live Thoroughbred and Quarter Horse racing is conducted Tuesday, Wednesday and Fridays at 2:05 p.m. with a Saturday evening post of 6:05 p.m. Thursday afternoon racing will return Sept. 17 through the remainder of the 120-day race meet, which concludes Saturday, Oct. 31.

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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