



Bold Concept Finishes Second in First Start for Grand Gesture Stable at Indiana Grand Racing & Casino

Story by Tammy Knox

Photos by Linscott Photography or as noted



2018 Grand Gesture Stable owners with Jockey Santo Sanjur in the stable's gold and black silks prior to the first start with Bold Concept.

SHELBYVILLE, Ind.; – May 16, 2018 – Bold Concept, the horse representing Indiana Grand's racing club in 2018, finished second in her first start for Grand Gesture Stable Wednesday, May 16. The fractional ownership program allows individuals to become part owner of a Thoroughbred horse during the racing season for a nominal fee.

Starting from post nine with jockey Santo Sanjur aboard, Bold Concept is not known for her early speed and trailed the field of nine in the early stages of the race as Polarizing and Malcolm Franklin set the early pace of the \$34,000 Maiden Special Weight for Indiana sired fillies. Cash Withdrawl and Rodney Prescott applied pressure on the outside and the field began to tighten heading into the only turn of the six furlong contest. Heading into the turn, Sanjur began to ask Bold Concept for speed and she began gaining on her opponents.

Sanjur was able to find a seam with Bold Concept to save some ground heading into the stretch. With tight quarters between the top four contenders, the stretch drive was intense before City Sidewalks and Eddie Perez were able to shake free of the bunch and grab the win by one and one-quarter lengths in a time of 1:13.38. Bold Concept had made her way to the far outside and dug in gamely to run down Elite Johnie Kash and Sonny Leon, finishing second by a nose in a very tight photo.

It was the second start of the year for Bold Concept, who was purchased by Trainer Cipriano Contreras from the 2017 Indiana Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders Association (ITOBA) Training Sale last June. Contreras started Bold Concept five times last year at two before giving her the winter off and returning to race this spring at Indiana Grand. She finished second in her first start of the year for Contreras before being sold to Grand Gesture Stable and moving to the Anthony Granitz Stable.

"Bold Concept came out of the race in good shape after getting bumped several times in the stretch," said Granitz, who is in his second year of training for Grand Gesture Stable. "She showed a lot of courage to put her head in there and get second. I was very proud of her."

Grand Gesture Stable owners were out in full force to watch Bold Concept. The owners were greeted with a special party in the Always Turned On tent before the race. Also, Sanjur came up to meet the owners along with trainer Tony Granitz. Kevin Greely, director of racing, was also on hand to answer questions from the owners about the program as well as the process of entering her into races at Indiana Grand.

"The race was exciting and we enjoyed seeing Bold Concept run so competitively," said Gina Rodriguez via email following the race. "Please tell Santo (Sanjur) how much we appreciate his ride and getting Bold Concept through traffic to let her make her run and keeping her safe."

Rodriguez, a resident of Kokomo, Ind., is one of the returning members of Grand Gesture Stable. She joined the program last year as an owner of AJ Pacer. This season, more than half of those signed up are returning owners from 2017 with the other half as brand new owners into the program.

Bold Concept is stabled next to AJ Pacer. Three of the original members of Grand Gesture, Richard Hyde, Don Kehrt and Joni Patterson purchased the now four-year-old Indiana bred filly at the conclusion of the program last fall. The Keyed Entry filly is also ready to go awaiting a race at Indiana Grand. Two other original members of Grand Gesture Stable, Nate Brannin and Chad Berkemeier, also purchased a two-year-old filly privately following their experience with Grand Gesture Stable. In all the first season of Grand Gesture Stable generated five new owners for horse racing in the state of Indiana.

Bold Concept now has more than \$23,000 in career earnings, adding \$6,800 to her bankroll in her first start for Grand Gesture Stable. She was bred and raised at R Star Stallions by Kerry Hopper and Jesse Hopper. Her sire, Deputy Storm, is one of the stallions included in the lineup at the facility in Anderson, Ind.

Sanjur, who is in his first season of riding at Indiana Grand, enjoys riding Bold Concept. After riding her in her first start this season, he was retained on the three-year-old filly by Granitz for Grand Gesture Stable.

"I really like this filly (Bold Concept)," said Sanjur, who is a native of Panama and currently among the top three jockeys at Indiana Grand. "She is easy to ride and she likes to close. She tries really hard."

With 102 racing days left in 2018, there are a lot of racing opportunities left for Bold Concept.

"We'll see how she (Bold Concept) comes out in a couple of weeks and look for another race for her," added Granitz. "Thanks for everyone with Grand Gesture Stable for coming out to watch her race and for being on the team."

Limited shares are still available for those interested in joining Grand Gesture Stable. A one-time fee of \$300 is required at registration and membership is limited to the first 60 individuals who sign up. All owners of Indiana Grand's racing club must be an Indiana resident and must be 21 years of age or older. To sign up, contact Anthony Iannello at (765) 491-2101 or by email at anthony.iannello@indy-grand.com.

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.