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Indiana Thoroughbred Owners & Breeders Association



It's Just Fate takes over in \$100,000 Sagamore Sired Stakes at Indiana Grand Racing & Casino

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Photos by Linscott Photography or as noted



SHELBYVILLE, Ind.; - May 23, 2018 - Sometimes fate steps in and intervenes, which is exactly what happened in the fifth running of the \$100,000 Sagamore Sired Stakes at Indiana Grand Wednesday, May 23. The race marked the first stakes race of the season and provided a great platform to showcase some of the state's best Indiana sired products.

One of those horses with the spotlight was It's Just Fate, ridden by Rodney Prescott. The three-year-old son of Skylord rallied out of the gate with early speed, and after putting Instant War and Alex Canchari and Stone Sober and Sammy Bermudez, It's Just Fate was all alone on the lead heading into the only turn of the six furlong event.

Coming out of the turn, Prescott had It's Just Fate in full stride extending his lead by open lengths at one time, leading by eight lengths in the stretch. Santisteban and Marcelino Pedroza made a move late

in the turn to move up in position and looked to be the only horse that could catch It's Just Fate. But in the end, It's Just Fate was too tough, crossing under the wire by four lengths as the favorite to win his first stakes race. Mike the Man saved ground around the turn to move into a comfortable second over Santisteban for third.

Owned by Patrick and Donald Donahoe, It's Just Fate earned his third trip to the winner's circle in six career starts and boosted his career earnings tally over the \$120,000. The gelding is trained by Wayne Mogge, who has numerous stakes wins to his credit at Indiana Grand.

"This horse (It's Just Fate) ran really well for us in his first two starts and then we discovered a little problem with his knee, so we gave him some time off and so far, he has come back really good this year," noted Mogge. "Last time out, Rodney (Prescott) had plenty of horse, and we wanted to let the other horse engage him in the stretch and he got caught at the end. This time, we put blinkers on him to keep him more focused and let him knock it out turning for home. Being Indiana sired, we'll keep him right here at Indiana Grand. I think the next big question is will he be able to get a route of ground. It seems like the options coming up for him are going to be that."



It's Just Fate paid \$3.40, \$2.40, \$2.20 across the board as the race favorite. The time of the race was 1:10.83. Prescott has been aboard for all six of his career starts.

"This is a very classy horse," said Prescott. "Last time out, it was an older horse that caught him in the end and this time, he's going up against three-year-olds which helped. We just let him run more of his own race today."



It's Just Fate comes from a long line of horses under the Donahoe family name. Patrick Donahoe is also the breeder on the gelding and he also raced his father (Skylord) and his mother (She's A Pioneer). The Donahoe's have a lot to look forward to in the coming years.

"We have a nice two-year-old that is a full brother to this horse and a foal that is still on his mother's side that is a full brother," added Donahoe, who resides in Middletown, Ind., a suburb of Louisville, Ky. in the southern portion of Indiana. "Our farm is actually in Shelby County Kentucky but we bring all our mares to Breakway Farm in Dillsboro, Ind. Scott, Janice and Tara all do such a great job with our horses, from foaling to breaking them to getting them started. Right now we have five brood mares and they all have Indiana sired foals. It's especially good with the rewards the Indiana program has for breeders and there are great incentives to breed in this state."

Donahoe is one of those owners that grew up in the business around his grandfather's Thoroughbreds and then left the industry for a while. He has always had a love for horses, focusing on showing Quarter Horses before coming back to the business 25 years ago. Sometimes, it's just fate that takes over as the appropriately named colt has now made Donahoe a stakes winning breeder and owner in the state of Indiana.

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.