



Brotherly Love Spreading in Hammond Stable at Indiana Grand Racing & Casino

Story by Tammy Knox - Photos by Linscott Photography (unless noted)



SHELBYVILLE, Ind. (Aug. 29, 2018) – Trainer Kim Hammond is racing’s all-time leading female trainer with more than 2,200 career wins. She has operated a strong stable in the Midwest for more than two decades and part of that success is identifying horses that will be profitable for her owners. Saturday Tryst is one of those horses with more than \$132,000 in career earnings. So, when his younger brother, Wrinch, moved into her barn earlier this year, she was hopeful the three-year-old would follow in the footsteps of Saturday Tryst.

It only took a few weeks to detect different personalities in the full brothers. Saturday Tryst, who is by Any Given Saturday, is high spirited while Wrinch, who is by Girolamo, is more laid back. Al-

though Hammond has a farm nearby and often shuttles horses in and out of her stable at Indiana Grand, one thing Saturday Tryst and Wrinch have in common is they are full-time residents of the backstretch at the track.

“Saturday Tryst can be hard to worth with and Wrinch is like an old pet,” said Hammond. “In fact, I had to make a difficult call to the owner (Henry Chau) about Wrinch. I told him his horse was the slowest one in the barn, but we would do the best we can with him.”

The Hammond Stable kept working with Wrinch and June 1, they got a big surprise as both Wrinch and Saturday Tryst won during the afternoon program, giving Hammond a training double on the day.

“We decided to run Wrinch long because he just has one speed,” said Hammond. “I was surprised he won but so happy and hopeful for the client (Chau). When I called Kim (Kritzer, the breeder on both horses and still the owner of Saturday Tryst), she was as happy as can be that both horses won on the same day. We’ve been lucky with Saturday Tryst. Once he ran through all his conditions, we were fortunate enough that he can run on the grass.”

Hammond has continued to work with both horses all summer and got rewarded again Wednesday, Aug. 29. Jockey Rodney Prescott climbed aboard Wrinch for the first time in his career and after staying close the entire mile, was able to outgun Auction Light and Eddie Perez to win his second race of his career by a neck.

“I’ve ridden the other one (Saturday Tryst) before but this was the first time I’d ridden this one (Wrinch),” said Prescott. “The race set up good for him and the slow fractions helped. It was slow enough that he was able to fight off that horse in the stretch for the win.”

Prescott noticed the calm demeanor in Wrinch, noting he was easy to ride and didn’t show the same tendencies of being fiery like his brother. Indiana’s all-time leading jockey said Wrinch tried to win the race all the way to the wire, which is good news for Hammond and Kritzer.

Kritzer and her husband, BJ, who is a former science teacher at Brown County Junior High School, own and operate a working farm south of Nashville. They have several broodmares on their



property and raise a few colts each year, hoping they will advance onto Hammond and join the racing portion of the business, just like Saturday Tryst and Wrinch have done.

Wrinch now has two wins in eight career starts. Saturday Tryst, who is in to race Friday, Aug. 31, will now be the one playing catch-up to his younger brother. Both horses, who are out of Kritzer’s mare Easter Tryst, have another brother waiting in the wings.

“We have another young horse from this family we are working with now that is showing a lot of potential,” said Hammond. “Hopefully, he can run like they do.”

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. A special Thursday racing program will be held Sept. 6 with a 2:05 p.m. post time.

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