

INDIANA THOROUGHBRED BREED DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

HOOSIER HORSEPOWER



July 2026
Thoroughbred

Celebrating 32 Years of Parimutuel Thoroughbred Racing in Indiana



With over one million in purse money distributed, Derby Day at Horseshoe Indianapolis is Indiana's biggest day of racing, and this was reflected in the record handle of \$9,536,346 and impressive attendance of 4,754 this year.

Derby Day's 13 race card featured two \$100,000 handicaps restricted to Indiana Bred/Sired thoroughbreds, The \$200,000 Indiana Oaks, and Indiana's richest race for thoroughbreds: The \$300,000 Indiana Derby.

The day was full of excitement, despite early morning

rain and cloudy skies. Horse racing fans from all over the state (and country) gathered to cheer on their favorite horses and enjoy the festivities.

This year saw the 32nd running of both the Indiana Oaks and Indiana Derby, stakes that were introduced in the beginning of pari-mutuel thoroughbred racing in Indiana and have since grown tremendously. This year's Indiana Oaks and Indiana Derby were won by Maximum Offer and Leading Change, respectively

The first pari-mutuel thoroughbred race in Indiana was run in 1995 at Hoosier Park in Anderson. While thoroughbred racing existed in Indiana long before then, it was mostly restricted to county fairs or out of state shipping of horses. The first Indiana Oaks was held on September 16, 1995, and had a purse of \$40,800, an amount that has quadrupled since.

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Mare Incentive Program

The Indiana Thoroughbred Breed Development Program is offering up to \$2,000 in incentives for new mares foaling in the state.

For the first \$1,000 incentive:

- ✓ Purchase a mare at a public auction for a minimum purchase price of \$2,500
- ✓ Verify that the mare has not been previously registered as a foaling mare in Indiana
- ✓ Register mare with the IHRC and submit proof of purchase
- ✓ Register foal with the IHRC

For an additional \$1,000:

- ✓ Breed the purchased mare back to an Indiana Sire
- ✓ Register Mare prior to foaling & comply with all requirements of registration
- ✓ Register foal with the IHRC

Incentive payments will be issued once the applicable foal has been registered with the program and eligibility is verified.



The Nobody Listens



C. J's Storm

(Storm's Eye - Perfect List)

Breeder: Triple D Partners

Stallion Owner: Barefoot Farms

C. J's Storm finished first in the Nobody Listens Handicap in 1:08.91, the third fastest time recorded for the Handicap! The six-year-old gelding has amassed \$428,627 in career earnings.

The Checkered Flag



Hot Middles

(Klimt - Pretty Miss Trippi)

Breeder: Tianna Richardville

Hot Middles secured her third straight win in the Checkered Flag handicap, raising her total career earnings to \$314,479! The four-year-old filly set a new record for the Handicap at 1:08.71, beating the previous record of 1:09.25 set by Ever Wonder in 2021.

Hoosier Breeders Sophomore



Jr Shadow Boy

(Unbridled Express - Mildred)

Breeder: Paul King

Stallion Owner: LTB Inc & Hillerich Racing

Jr Shadow Boy remains undefeated in the Hoosier Breeders Sophomore Handicap! This marks the fifth consecutive win for the Unbridled Express gelding who was champion of the Sagamore Sired Handicap last month.

Hoosier Breeders Sophomore Fillies



Grand Harbor

(Instagrand - Marina's Legacy)

Breeder: Bone Doctor's Stable

Grand Harbor triumphed in the Hoosier Breeders Sophomore Fillies Handicap! The daughter of 4-time stakes winner Marina's Legacy, finished first in 1:10.41, the fastest time for the handicap since the distance was reduced to 6 furlongs.

Upcoming Restricted Handicaps

The Snack [T]

August 12, 2026

\$100,000 | 3 yrs

The Ellen's Lucky Star [T]

August 12, 2026

\$100,000 | 3 yrs | F

The Buccheri [T]

August 26, 2026

\$100,000 | 3 yrs +

The Peony [T]

August 26, 2026

\$100,000 | 3 yrs + | F/M

The Governor's

September 11, 2026

\$150,000 | 3 yrs

The Indiana First Lady

September 11, 2026

\$150,000 | 3 yrs | F

The Empire (*S)

September 11, 2026

\$100,000 | 3 yrs +

The Hoosier Heartland (*S)

September 11, 2026

\$100,000 | 3 yrs + | F/M

[T] denotes turf race

F denotes fillies only

F/M denotes fillies/mares

(*S) denotes sired only

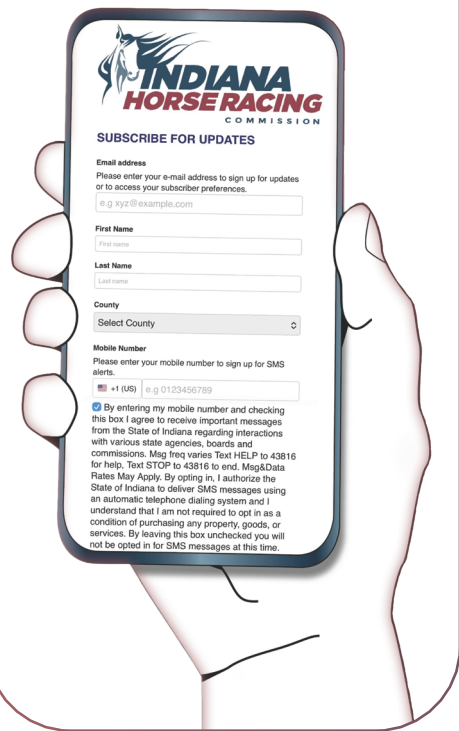


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TOP INDIANA BRED HORSES '26	TOTAL PROGRAM AWARDS '26
JR SHADOW BOY	\$56,800
HOT MIDDLES	\$50,600
GRAND HARBOR	\$27,200
CITY PRAYERS	\$25,120
HARD LUCK PRAYER	\$24,500

TOP INDIANA STALLIONS '26	TOTAL PROGRAM AWARDS '26
UNBRIDLED EXPRESS	\$78,070
PRAYER FOR RELIEF	\$48,010
HARRY'S HOLIDAY	\$31,550
QURBAAN	\$27,200
TURBO COMPRESSOR	\$23,450

2026 Awards Tracker

You can now find all awards earned in 2026 on our website's [Awards Tracker](#)!

Simply navigate to our Thoroughbred homepage, open the *Award Information* dropdown, and select *Breeder Awards* to see our 2026 Leaderboard and Awards Tracker. All fields on the Awards Tracker are sortable to help you find what you are looking for. Perform a table search to find specific information or export the full dataset to Excel for further analysis and formatting.

The Awards Tracker is updated regularly to give you the latest information available. If you'd like to know the status of a specific award, navigate to "[Payment Status](#)" under the *Award Information* dropdown.

For any questions or concerns regarding Breed Development Awards, please call or email our Thoroughbred & Quarter Horse Breed Development Coordinator, Megan Eads | 317-234-2543 | MeEads@hrc.in.gov

Celebrating 32 Years of Parimutuel Thoroughbred Racing in Indiana Continued

In 1995, Harrah's Hoosier Park was the only racetrack in Indiana and raced both Standardbreds and Thoroughbreds (Quarter Horse racing was introduced in 1997). When Indiana Downs opened in 2003, both tracks would alternate between hosting flat racing and harness racing. Ten years later, with the completion of the casino, Indiana Downs rebranded as Indiana Grand and officially held all thoroughbred races in the state, including the Indiana Oaks and Indiana Derby. In 2022, the racino rebranded to the Horseshoe Indianapolis we know today. The racino underwent a major expansion that allowed the horse racing programs to grow and purses to increase.

The first Indiana Derby was held on October 7, 1995, and was won by Peruvian. Then, it was only a listed stakes

race and had a purse of \$111,500. Today, the Indiana Derby is classified as a grade III Stakes race and offers a purse of \$300,000.

The first flat racing meet at Indiana Grand was 30 days. Now, Horseshoe Indianapolis offers 117 days of thoroughbred racing. The 2026 schedule features 47 premier thoroughbred races, 39 of which are restricted to Indiana-Bred or Indiana-Sired horses. On top of the lucrative purse offerings, Indiana breeders and stallion owners are eligible to earn an additional incentive award of 20% and 10%, respectively.

Parimutuel Thoroughbred racing in Indiana has come a long way since its inception 32 years ago, and thankfully, still has a long way to go. Horse racing is an indispensable part of Indiana's culture, history, and economy.

Thoroughbred Breed Development Advisory Committee Meeting

The Indiana Thoroughbred Breed Development Advisory Committee will have a meeting on Wednesday, July 29 at 11:00 AM.

The meeting will be held on the 3rd floor of Horseshoe Indianapolis, 4300 N. Michigan Rd, Shelbyville, IN 46176

All are welcome to attend.

Questions regarding the information covered in this newsletter or have a topic you would like covered?

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