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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Justify Takes Triple Crown, Jockey Mike Smith Dedicates Race to Disabled Riders

Donations being accepted for injured jockey Marlon St. Julien

June 11 – Altoona, IA. On Saturday, June 9, history was made. Jockey Mike Smith rode Justify to victory and captured the elusive Triple Crown. Justify is the 13th horse to win the Triple Crown.

Smith, overcome with emotion after the race, stated, “First and foremost, I thank my Lord Savior Jesus Christ, a blessing on this wonderful day. We’re also blessed we made it back safe. This horse ran a tremendous race, he’s so gifted. He’s sent from Heaven, I tell ya – he’s just amazing. I can’t... I can’t describe the emotions that are going through my body right now. I would like to say one thing in the midst of all this. All the disabled riders I dedicate this to you, and Marlon St. Julien get better brother, we’re praying for you!”

Smith’s comments highlight the plight of many disabled jockeys, especially that of Prairie Meadows’ own Marlon St. Julien. The veteran jockey was injured in a one-horse accident just after the start of a race on May 19 at Prairie Meadows. St. Julien, 46, underwent spinal surgery and has a long road of recovery ahead of him. Those in the racing family at Prairie Meadows, The Iowa Horsemen’s Benevolent & Protective Association, The Iowa Thoroughbred Breeders and Owners Association, and Race Track Chaplaincy are doing what they can to help Marlon on his journey of recovery.

“Smith never forgets the fallen jockeys. I spoke with Marlon and he was so overcome with emotion and felt humbled to be mentioned in such a momentous time, it really lifted his spirits, what a friend,” stated Prairie Meadows Chaplain Dennis Luft.

To donate to Marlon St. Julien, visit gofundme.com/give-marlon-a-leg-up or send a check or money order to the Backside Racetrack Chaplaincy Prairie Meadows:

Backside Racetrack Chaplaincy Prairie Meadows
c/o Dennis Luft Chaplain
P. O. Box 1000
Altoona, IA 50009

Checks and money orders should be made payable to Backside Racetrack Chaplaincy Prairie Meadows.

About Prairie Meadows

Prairie Meadows began operations as a non-profit organization in 1989 with the goal of promoting economic development, jobs, agriculture, and tourism in the state of Iowa. Through taxes, grants, and charitable donations, Prairie Meadows has given more than \$1.6 billion to the state of Iowa. Prairie Meadows offers more than 1,700 slot machines, table games, live and simulcast racing, hotel accommodations, entertainment, and more.

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