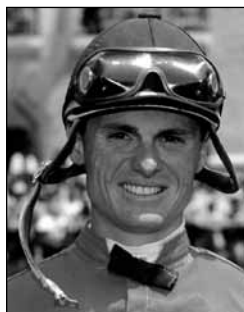


Del Mar Thoroughbred Club

Jockey Profiles – 2011



Paul Atkinson

Born: March 20, 1969
Idaho Falls, Idaho
Resides: Monrovia, California
Height: 5'7" • Weight: *115 pounds

2010	Mounts	1st	2nd	3rd	Purses
	221	15	13	16	\$691,896

Career 1985-2010 • 7,972 mounts, 718 wins • \$14,434,519 in purses

- Had a nice taste of fame with the Cal-Bred ace Caracortado (“scarface” in Spanish) in 2009-10, as they reeled off five straight wins – including a couple of stakes – and got heavily into the Triple Crown conversation. Chestnut gelding didn’t make Kentucky Derby, but tried his luck in the Preakness and showed some speed before finishing seventh. Nice part for veteran Atkinson was that trainer and part owner Mike Machowsky stuck with him all the way, even when the pressure was on to replace him with a “name” rider.
- Rider’s previous good taste of stakes fun was when he won four added-money events aboard quick South American Memo for trainer Richard Mandella during the horse’s 1993 and ’94 campaigns.
- Other stakes credits: Try n Express, Journalism, His Legacy, Afto, Robannier, Merida, Irish Bar and Genuine Talent.
- Rode 2-year-old filly Got Tobe Rio to Santa Anita track record of 21 seconds flat for 2 furlongs during track’s 2007-2008 winter-spring meet.
- Got his start on small, unrecognized tracks in Utah before coming to tough Southern California circuit in 1992.
- Only member of family in racing.
- Besides his jockey credentials, he’s an in-demand exercise rider at several stables each morning.
- Family: Wife Ami; two daughters.



Tyler Baze

Born: October 19, 1982
Seattle, Washington
Resides: Monrovia, California
Height: 5'4" • Weight: 110 pounds

2010	Mounts	1st	2nd	3rd	Purses
	727	112	106	104	\$3,943,259

Career 1999-2010 • 12,573 mounts, 1,772 wins • \$71,298,928 in purses

- Won the Eclipse Award as nation’s leading apprentice rider for 2000. Was top apprentice that year at Del Mar and all other Southern California race meets.
- Had his biggest year for purse money in 2004 when he won 239 races and posted earnings of a little more than \$10 million. Also

that year, won his first riding title during Hollywood Park’s spring/summer meet. At 21, became the youngest meet title winner at the Inglewood oval since Laffit Pincay, Jr. in 1968.

- 2008 proved to be his second-best year at the track, including five Grade I scores, headed by Mast Track’s tally in the Hollywood Gold Cup and including triumphs in the Kilroe Mile (Ever a Friend) and Del Mar Futurity (Midshipman). Finished up the year with more than \$8.3-million in purse earnings.
- Had another \$8-million-plus year for purses in 2009, including graded stakes victories with Blind Luck, Battle of Hastings, Carlsbad, Gotta Have Her and Informed.
- Booted home 1,000th winner on March 11, 2005 at Santa Anita aboard Mashiko.
- First career victory came on Fleeting Wonder on October 29, 1999 at Oak Tree at Santa Anita. Shortly thereafter, moved his tack to Arizona for the long winter meet at Turf Paradise, preparing him for his return to the Southern California circuit and his Eclipse year. Won 246 races in 2000, 239 of them before losing his “bug” on December 12. His win total for the year was best of all Southern California riders.
- Took some time off to deal with personal problems early in the 2007 campaign, but came back and got his career rolling again with a Top 10 finish at Del Mar and then winning the Oak Tree at Santa Anita riding title.
- Missed nearly half of 2010 and a portion of 2011 when a mount head butted him at the starting gate at Del Mar on July 24, causing facial fractures and subsequent vision problems. Won with his second mount back April 28 at Hollywood Park.
- Has won Grade I races with Avanzado, Sabiango, Kela, Star Over the Bay, Mea Domina, Diplomat Lady, Cost of Freedom and Hyperbaric. Other stakes winners ridden include: Special Matter, Master Belt, Hosco, Dr. Park, Persianlux, Waingarh, Expected Program, King Robin, Quero Quero, St Averil, Icantgoforthat, Leprechaun Kid, Sharp Lisa, Congrats, Boule d’Or, Tres Borrachos, Evita Argentina, Monterey Jazz, Dixie Chatter, Alpha Kitten and Century Park.
- Another in the long line of the Baze family in racing. Father Earl and mother, the former Cammie Hunt, both were riders, as well as uncle, Gary, along with second cousin and North America’s all-time winning jockey, Russell.
- Got on a horse for the first time at age 3; began galloping horses the day after 16th birthday and won his first race 10 days after his 17th birthday.
- Developed a feel for riding as a jockey by using his Uncle Gary’s Equicizer and then getting instructions from Gary on how to switch hands on his whip as well as other fine points of riding.
- Family: Wife Christina.

* All riders’ weights listed in this book are actual body weights. Riders normally “tack” two or three pounds above that weight, depending on the type of saddle used.



Rafael Bejarano

Born: June 23, 1982
 Arequipa, Peru

Resides: Pasadena, California

Height: 5'2" • Weight: 105 pounds

2010	Mounts	1st	2nd	3rd	Purses
	1,292	310	248	178	\$14,225,120

Career 2002-2010 • 11,901 mounts, 2,391 wins • \$103,806,267 in purses

- Swept the riding titles at all five major Southern California race meets in 2008, his first full year in California. Subsequently he won the riding crown again at the big Santa Anita meet for six straight. His half-dozen consecutive titles tied the Southern California standard set by Chris McCarron between 1982 and 1984 and tied by Alex Solis in 1996-'97.
- Involved in an opening-day spill at Del Mar in 2009 where he suffered multiple facial fractures that all but cost him the rest of the meeting. (He did wind up riding 26 horses and winning six races at the stand.) Despite that bit of tough luck, he still won more than \$12.4-million in purses for the year, ranking him seventh best in the nation.
- His \$16.4 million in purses in 2008 was second-best in the country; his \$14.2-million in 2010 was fifth-best. His 310 wins for 2010 was fourth best in the country.
- Posted his second Breeders' Cup championship day victory by guiding Ginger Punch to the winner's circle in the 2007 Breeders' Cup Distaff. First B.C. win came aboard Intercontinental in the Filly & Mare Turf in 2005. Win on Ginger Punch was one of five with her during the year, the final three being in Grade I races.
- In just about nine years in this country has won more than 130 graded stakes, including 30 Grade Is.
- Led all riders nationally in victories in 2004 with 455 wins, including a nose victory with 62-1 shot Colonial Colony over Southern Image in Churchill Downs' Stephen Foster Handicap, the rider's first Grade I victory.
- Won five riding titles in Kentucky in 2005: Churchill Downs spring and fall meets; Keeneland fall, Ellis Park and Turfway Park.
- Won riding title at first — and perhaps last — Oak Tree-at-Hollywood meet in fall 2010.
- Won 1,000th race on October 14, 2005 at Keeneland aboard Northern Vacation.
- Only member of his family involved in racing. Attended races and then chose to enter Peru's jockey school, where he stayed for a year and a half. He groomed horses to earn the money to pay for school.
- Began riding in Lima, Peru on December 8, 2001, winning with his first mount. Went on to win apprentice title at Hipodromo Monterrico.
- Came to the United States in May 2002 with the help of trainer Dante Zanelli, Sr. First U.S. win came aboard John Bobby at Cincinnati's River Downs on July 10, 2002. It was his first mount in this country.
- Came to Southern California in mid-November, 2007 to ride first call for the late trainer Robert Frankel. His remarkable success has not allowed him to leave.
- Family: Single.



Omar Berrio

Born: October 5, 1968
 Panama City, Panama

Resides: Temple City, California

Height: 5'4" • Weight: 113 pounds

2010	Mounts	1st	2nd	3rd	Purses
	159	23	26	24	\$932,126

Career 1990-2010 • 6,459 mounts, 541 wins • \$15,034,980 in purses

- Finished first on his initial mount in Southern California on April 13, 1990 — a 47-1 shot named Fit To Run at Santa Anita. Alas, the stewards found him wanting and DQed him to second. Nonetheless, he bounced back to become Southern California's top apprentice that year.
- First stakes win came in Walter Knott Handicap on Lyphard's Song at Los Alamitos in 1990.
- Won 1991 Pomona Derby with Nijinsky's Prince.
- Has had much success over the years partnering with A.C. Avila, a trainer who is a native of Brazil. They often have teamed up to score victories at handsome odds.
- Won Grade III Berkeley Handicap in 2001 aboard Avila's Blade Prospector at Golden Gate Fields; in 2007 won Grade III Hawthorne Handicap at Hollywood Park with trainer's River Savage.
- In 2010 he's continued to click using the Avila connection, scoring stakes victories at double-figure prices for the conditioner on Fantasy Free in the \$150,000 Tiznow Stakes and aboard Made for Magic in the Grade II, \$150,000 Milady Handicap, both at Hollywood. Also dead-heated for the win at Del Mar last August on trainer's Go Forth North in the Sandy Blue Handicap at double-digit odds.
- Overcame what was diagnosed as a minor stroke at the very end of 2010 and bounced back only a few weeks later to return to the saddle.
- Enjoyed most productive year in 2000 when mounts accounted for \$1.4 million in purse earnings.
- A graduate of Panama's famed jockey school and considers, as so many Panamanians do, retired rider Laffit Pincay, Jr. as his hero.
- Began race riding at age 19, with his first mounts being at Panama's Presidente Remon racetrack. Then rode as an apprentice in Maryland before heading west to Southern California in 1990.
- Family: Wife Karina; two sons.



Brice Blanc

Born: January 16, 1973
 Lyon, France

Resides: Arcadia, California

Height: 5'3" • Weight: 109 pounds

2010	Mounts	1st	2nd	3rd	Purses
	486	50	50	67	\$2,510,012

Career 1993-2010 • 8,834 mounts, 837 wins • \$46,635,246 in purses

- Personable Frenchman has built a reputation on numerous victories on the turf and his patience in a race, so much like the European style.
- Rode first winner on February 5, 1995 at Santa Anita on Gulf Tide at 19-1.

- Big 1999 season when he had 64 winners and \$4.1 million in purse earnings, with 20 percent of his wins coming in stakes races. Twelve of 13 added-money wins were in turf races, headed by Happyanunoit's late surge for a just-in-time victory on the line over Tuzla in the \$500,000 Matriarch in Hollywood Park's Turf Festival.
- Had two Grade I victories in 2000, both on grass: Happyanunoit in Beverly Hills and Caffè Latte in Del Mar's Ramona Handicap, now the John C. Mabee Handicap. In all, won five stakes, four of them graded, with Happyanunoit.
- Won first stakes race in 1995 in Las Palmas Handicap with Onceinablumamoon for Hall of Fame trainer Jack Van Berg. Was top apprentice rider that year at Santa Anita, Hollywood Park and Del Mar.
- Got encouragement early from trainers Van Berg, Charlie Whittingham, Rodney Rash, Ben Cecil, Robert Frankel and Walter Greenman.
- Won first Grade I race with Famous Digger in the 1997 Del Mar Oaks.
- Moved his tack from Southern California to Kentucky and Florida in 2003, but returned in 2007.
- Biggest win in 2007 came in the Grade I Del Mar Debutante with Set Play.
- Has had good luck this year with improving grass filly Malibu Pier, a double graded stakes winner at the Hollywood spring/summer meet.
- Other major winners include, in 2008, On the Acorn in the Jim Murray Handicap at Hollywood Park and Church Service in the Dallas Turf Club Handicap at Lone Star Park; Shaconage, Prince Arch, Sister Star, Straight Line, Hard Buck, Honest Lady, Lexa, Don't Get Mad, Queenie Belle, Fighting Falcon, Perim, Senor Swinger, Senure, Shanawi, Nazirali, Tuzla, Hal's Pal, Grammarian and Wavy Run.
- Became interested in riding at age 14 because he was small and not doing well in school.
- Attended apprentice school in native France before coming to the United States.
- Family: Wife Molly; one son.



Victor Espinoza

Born: May 23, 1972
Mexico City, Mexico

Resides: Arcadia, California
Height: 5'2" • Weight: 112 pounds

2010	Mounts	1st	2nd	3rd	Purses
	982	126	155	152	\$7,005,855

Career 1993-2010 • 17,986 mounts, 2,783 wins • \$139,375,576 in purses

- One of the solid veterans in the Southern California riding colony.
- Won the Kentucky Derby and Preakness Stakes in 2002 aboard War Emblem. Horse stumbled badly leaving the gate in the Belmont Stakes and finished eighth in his attempt to become first Triple Crown winner since 1978.
- Had breakout year in 2000, headlined by victory in the Hollywood Gold Cup with 24-1 shot Early Pioneer and the Breeders' Cup Distaff with Spain, who paid \$133.80. His earnings for the year totaled \$13.3 million and put him seventh on the jockeys' earnings list.
- Racked up \$15.9 million in 2004 and then bettered that with \$16.1

- million in 2006, when his purse money put him third in the country.
- Has been leading rider at 11 Southern California race meets, including 2000, 2005 and 2006 at Del Mar. Part of his 2006 meet included a record-setting seven victories on Labor Day, September 4. Several riders had held the previous mark of six winners in a day at the beach.
- Also on his 2006 ledger were victories with The Tin Man in the Arlington Million and the Clement L. Hirsch Memorial Turf, the Santa Anita Oaks and Las Virgenes with Balance and the Del Mar Oaks with Point Ashley. All told, he won 30 graded stakes on the year.
- Won a trio of Grade I sprints in 2009 with the extra-fast gray Zensational. Won another 2009 graded threesome with The Usual Q.T., including the Grade I Hollywood Derby.
- Won seven stakes at 2010 Del Mar meet, including a trio of Grade Is with The Usual Q.T. (Eddie Read), Smiling Tiger (Bing Crosby) and Evening Jewel (Del Mar Oaks).
- Has victories in nine races worth at least \$1-million, including his tally this year in the Santa Anita Derby aboard Midnight Interlude.
- Won 2,000th career race on March 19, 2006 when he guided Fear No Darkness to victory at Santa Anita.
- When he came to United States in 1993, he rode briefly in Southern California before finding good success in Northern California. He then spent a short time riding in Kentucky before heading to Southern California permanently in 1996.
- He was top apprentice rider at Bay Meadows in 1993-94 and at Golden Gate Fields in '94. He was runner-up to perennial Northern California champion rider Russell Baze at the 1995 Golden Gate fall meet.
- His list of top stakes horses is a long one and includes Southern Image, Into Mischief, On the Acorn, Molengao, Somethinaboutlaura, Worldly, Greg's Gold, Tiz Elemental, Tough Tiz's Sis, El Roblar, Tiznow, Point Determined, Officer, Kafwain, Star Parade, Hollywood Story, Memorette, Declan's Moon, David Copperfield, Sweet Catomine, Special Ring, Lovely Rafaela, Willow O Wisp, El Corredor, Disturbingthepeace and Congaree.
- First encounter with horses came on a farm outside Mexico City following high school. He went on to attend jockey school in his native Mexico City, where he learned from the ground up by mucking stalls, walking hots, grooming and galloping and working horses.
- Drove a bus in Mexico City before becoming a jockey and acknowledges: "It's a lot easier riding horses than driving in that traffic in Mexico City."
- Two brothers are jockeys. Jose Espinoza is a regular on the New York circuit and Leo Espinoza exercises horses in Southern California and has ridden occasionally in the afternoons.
- Family: Single.



David Flores

Born: February 5, 1968
Tijuana, Mexico

Resides: Duarte, California
Height: 5'4" • Weight: 115 pounds

2010	Mounts	1st	2nd	3rd	Purses
	797	94	94	100	\$4,752,279

Career 1984-2010 • 23,375 mounts, 3,347 wins • \$139,715,307 in purses

- Has been riding in Southern California since 1989 after spending his first five years riding in his native Tijuana at Agua Caliente

racetrack. Set an apprentice record of 61 wins at Caliente in 1984.

- Won 3,000th career race on May 20, 2007 in Lazaro S. Barrera Memorial Stakes at Hollywood Park aboard Time to Get Even.
- Captured a trio of Grade I stakes in 2010 at Hollywood Park aboard Awesome Gem (Hollywood Gold Cup), Turbulent Descent (Hollywood Starlet) and Rigoletta (Oak Leaf Stakes at Oak Tree-at-Hollywood meet).
- Had a good year in 2008 that included a quartet of Grade I scores (a pair of them on sprint ace Street Boss) and 10 other graded stakes.
- All told, old pro with a reputation as an excellent gate rider has won more than 100 graded stakes.
- First Grade I victory came aboard Marquetry in the 1991 Hollywood Gold Cup. Came back later in the year to boot Marquetry home in the Grade I Eddie Read at Del Mar.
- Was regular rider of Siphon, who won the 1996 Hollywood Gold and the 1997 Santa Anita Handicap, as well as finishing second in the '97 Dubai World Cup.
- Has won three Breeders' Cup championship day races: the 2001 Juvenile Fillies with Tempera, 2003 Juvenile aboard Action This Day and 2004 Mile with Singletary.
- Won six riding titles at Fairplex Park and was leading rider at the 1998-99 Santa Anita season.
- Won 1999 riding title at Del Mar during a meeting in which he finished first in four of the track's five Grade I races. The biggest score was the \$1-million Pacific Classic with General Challenge. That year proved to be his best ever, money-wise, when his mounts netted \$11.9 million. Had \$10-million-plus years for purses won in both 2003 and 2007.
- In 2003, won the Arlington Million with Sulamani. Has won 10 races worth at least \$1 million.
- Other major stakes winners: Keeper Hill, winner of the 1998 Kentucky Oaks; Amorama and Silent Sighs, winners of the 2004 Del Mar Oaks and Santa Anita Oaks, respectively; Romance is Diane, Hollywood Story, A.P. Warrior, Dixie Meister, Chilukki, Tuzla, Subordination, Tout Charmant, Isitingood, Anet, Commitisize, Marlin and Prime Timber.
- Father, David, was a jockey at Caliente and then for several years was an exercise rider in Southern California.
- Family: Four daughters.



Martin Garcia

Born: October 23, 1984
Veracruz, Mexico
Resides: Monrovia, California
Height: 5'1" • Weight: 106 pounds

2010 Mounts 1st 2nd 3rd Purses
933 154 140 123 \$10,151,584

Career 2005-2010 • 5,287 mounts, 772 wins • \$28,777,907 in purses

- Twenty-six-year-old has been riding only since turning 20, but his career is starting to take on some heavy steam.
- Got the call by trainer Bob Baffert to pinch hit on 2009 juvenile champion Lookin At Lucky in 2010 Preakness and rode the colt to a thrilling score, followed up by victories in the Haskell and Indiana Derby. Earned a spot as Baffert's "go to" rider in 2010 and into this year, including other Grade I stakes scores on Gabby's Golden Gal in the 2010 Santa Monica, Misremembered in the 2010 Santa Anita Handicap and Plum Pretty in the 2011 Kentucky Oaks.
- Additionally in 2010, he registered Grade I tallies in New York's Acorn with longshot Champagne d'Oro and Hollywood Park's

American Oaks with Harmonious.

- 2010 was far and away his best year to date with earnings of more than \$10.1-million (ranking him ninth in the country), despite missing the last several months of the year due to visa issues in his native Mexico.
- Had early success at Bay Meadows and then snared the 2005 spring riding title at Golden Gate Fields from perennial leader and Hall of Fame rider Russell Baze. Headed south for the 2006 Hollywood Park spring/summer meet and has remained on the Southern California circuit since.
- Registered his first victory on August 17, 2005 at Bay Meadows Fair aboard Wild Daydreamer. First stakes victory came in the \$75,000 Foster City Handicap at Bay Meadows on February 4, 2006 aboard Somethinaboutlaura. A week later, won his first \$100,000 race by booting home Sierra Sweetie in the California Breeders' Cup Oaks.
- Scored his first graded stakes win on Sweeter Still in the Senorita Stakes at Hollywood Park in 2008.
- Has won seven stakes at Del Mar.
- Was one of three finalists for an Eclipse Award as top apprentice rider of 2006.
- Difficult family life for extra-short, but extra-tough, rider: Abandoned by his 14-year-old mother, and never having seen his father, youngster was raised by his grandmother and had to work construction in Veracruz, Mexico as an 11-year-old.
- Came to the United States in 2003 and got a job as a dishwasher and cook in a Pleasanton, CA delicatessen. Deli owner Terri Terry had a small string of show jumpers and Garcia persuaded her to let him ride.
- With just a handful of mane and riding bareback, the youngster took the horse over the jumps successfully, earning a chance to begin exercising horses at the Pleasanton racetrack for six months before beginning his career in earnest.
- Family: Single.



Garrett Gomez

Born: January 1, 1972
Tucson, Arizona
Resides Duarte, California
Height: 5'3" • Weight: 114 pounds

2010 Mounts 1st 2nd 3rd Purses
800 161 122 127 \$15,689,037

Career 1988-2010 • 19,761 mounts, 3,426 wins • \$176,329,832 in purses

- In 2009 – for the fourth year in a row – he was nation's leading money-winning jockey – with more than \$18.5 million in purses. His other numbers were \$23.3 million in 2008; \$22.8 million in 2007, and \$20.1 million in 2006. His 2010 purses of "only" \$15.6-million merely ranked him fourth-best in the country.
- He was awarded an Eclipse as America's champion jockey in 2008 and 2007.
- In the last five years, he has ridden 53 Grade I winners and won 21 races worth at least \$1-million. He won a total of 76 stakes during 2007, a single-season record.
- Won the biggest race of his career last fall at Churchill Downs when he saved just a bit for the finish aboard the colt Blame to best champion Zenyatta by half a head in a thrilling Breeders' Cup Classic as the big mare went for her 20th straight victory. It was his 12th Breeders' Cup victory and 27th win in a race worth \$1-million or more.

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- This year his peers tipped their caps to him in high respect by designating him the George Woolf Memorial Jockey Award winner in nationwide voting.
- Rode four Breeders' Cup winners in '08; two in '07, and two in '05. Won the Shoemaker Award for outstanding performance by a rider at the Breeders' Cup in all three of those years.
- Among his \$1-million victories are four editions of the Pacific Classic (2000-'01 on Skimming; 2005 on Borrego, and 2008 on Go Between), the most by any rider.
- Pulled off a nifty coast-to-coast double in 2008 when he won the \$1-million, Grade I Travers at Saratoga on Saturday, August 23 on Colonel John, then flew back to Del Mar to win the \$1-million, Grade I Pacific Classic the next day on Go Between.
- In 2006 he chose to shift his tack east and ride primarily for multiple-Eclipse Award trainer Todd Pletcher, a lucrative association that continued into 2008.
- With aid from the Winners Foundation, was able to overcome serious substance abuse problems that cost him nearly two years of his career (from December 2002 to September 2004). The rider speaks openly now of overcoming those troubles with the help of the non-profit based in Arcadia, CA, that provides counsel and direction to members of the racing community who have been affected by drug or alcohol abuse.
- Scored the 3,000th victory of his career on September 28, 2008 on Hyperbaric at the Oak Tree-at-Santa Anita meeting.
- Posted career win No. 2,000 aboard Adalgisa August 10, 2002 at Del Mar.
- Among Grade I victories at Del Mar, in addition to his four Pacific Classics: Cindy's Hero, 2000 Del Mar Debutante; Golden Apples, 2001 Del Mar Oaks; Georgie Boy, 2007 Del Mar Futurity; Black Mamba, 2008 John C. Mabee Handicap; Lookin At Lucky, 2009 Del Mar Futurity, and Internallyflawless in 2009 Del Mar Oaks. He has 32 stakes wins at Del Mar.
- Among his many other major winners: Midnight Lute, Indian Blessing, Ventura, Pluck, Life Is Sweet, More Than Real, Midshipman, Albertus Maximus, Stevie Wonderboy, Artie Schiller, Hysterical Lady, Shakespeare, Wait a While, Rags to Riches, Panty Raid, Pussycat Doll, Champs Elysees, Nashoba's Key, Pioneer of the Nile, Any Given Saturday, Denon, English Channel and Honor Glide.
- Has been leading rider at seven major race meetings, including all the Southern California sessions with the exception of Del Mar.
- Began career in 1988 at Santa Fe Downs in New Mexico, then moved on to Fonner Park and Ak-Sar-Ben in Nebraska.
- Rode against his father, Louie, at least four times.
- Family: Wife Pam; two sons, two daughters.



Corey Nakatani

Born: October 21, 1970
Covina, California

Resides: Bradbury, California

Height: 5'1" • Weight: 116 pounds

2010	Mounts	1st	2nd	3rd	Purses
	660	102	104	87	\$4,519,772

Career 1988 – 2010 • 20,265 mounts, 3,398 wins • \$193,550,886 in purses

- Fell out of the Top 100 riders nationally for earnings in 2009 for the first time since 1990, causing him to shift his tack to the midwest in search of a fresh start in 2010. Returned to Southern California

- circuit and rode out the year, but has followed a similar midwestern course again in 2011.
- Finished second among all money-winning riders in 1995 with \$15.1 million. He won 300 races that year and tied with Gary Stevens for most stakes wins at 52.
- Was regular rider of Lava Man, who won three straight Hollywood Gold Cups, two straight Santa Anita Handicaps and a Pacific Classic. In 2006, horse became first to win all three in the same year. Gelding finally called it a day in 2009 with career earnings of \$5,668,245, third-best all-time among Cal-breds.
- Has won Breeders' Cup Sprint four times: Lit de Justice in 1996, Elmhurst in '97, Reraise in '98 and Thor's Echo in 2006. Also, won B.C. Distaff with Jewel Princess in 1996, B.C. Mile in 1999 with Silic and 2004 Juvenile Fillies with Sweet Catomine.
- Rider won \$2-million Dubai Golden Shaheen with Caller One in 2001.
- Won the Kentucky Oaks twice: Lite Light in 1991 and Pike Place Dancer in 1996.
- Owns 14 victories in races worth at least \$1 million.
- Has won riding title three times at Del Mar – 1994, 1998 and 2004. Is the seaside track's second-leading (behind Chris McCarron) stake-winning rider with 96 black-type scores. Also ranks seventh on the track's all-time-wins list with 614 victories.
- Was Southern California's top apprentice in 1989 and his purse earnings of \$2.5 million topped the national standings for apprentices. Had started career in 1988 at Agua Caliente in Tijuana.
- Other major stakes winners: Itsallgreetome, Serena's Song, Colonel John, In Summation, Great Hunter, Wanderin Boy, Dancing Edie, General Challenge, Windsharp, Val Royal, Captain Steve, Rock Hard Ten, Andujar, Unfurl The Flag, Sharp Lisa, Possibly Perfect, Sandpit, Romarin, Pembroke, Dramatic Gold, Twilight Agenda, Fastness, Sharp Cat, Wandesta, Sarafan, Voodoo Dancer, Dynever, Rutherienne, Blackdown, Ariege, Mistical Plan and Spring House.
- Introduced to racing at age 16 by his father, Roy Nakatani, a Japanese-American who was born in a World War II internment camp in Colorado and later spent time at Santa Anita when it served as a relocation camp.
- Graduated from jockey school at Castaic, CA, and worked on a Thoroughbred farm and galloped horses for the legendary Johnny Longden.
- Was champion high school wrestler and is a low-handicap golfer often invited to play at celebrity events.
- Was one of the featured riders of the popular Animal Planet cable series "Jockeys."
- Family: Wife Lisa; one daughter, two sons by a previous marriage.



Martin Pedroza

Born: July 20, 1965
Panama City, Panama

Resides: Duarte, California

Height: 5'4" • Weight: 113 pounds

2010	Mounts	1st	2nd	3rd	Purses
	838	128	125	124	\$3,642,443

Career 1982 – 2010 • 26,307 mounts, 3,269 wins • \$87,902,548 in purses

- All-time leading rider at the Fairplex Park "bullring," having won 13 riding titles, including last 12 in a row. Holds the record for wins in a single meet at 51 in 2004 and wins at the track all-time at 651.

- Had a remarkable run to open the Fairplex meeting in 2008, winning seven races on September 5 (including win No. 3,000 on Airplane Attendant in his first mount of the day), then three races on September 6 followed by seven more on September 7. He's only second rider in history to win seven times in a year.
- Became only the 10th rider to win 1,000 races at Hollywood Park on July 10, 2010 when he took the Grade I Triple Bend Handicap on E Z's Gentleman.
- Burst into prominence on the Southern California scene when riding 50-1 shot Martial Law to victory in the \$1-million Santa Anita Handicap in 1989.
- Rode three straight winners of Landaluce Stakes – Garden Gal, Fluttery Danseur and Zealous Connection 1990-92 – for the late Brian Mayberry, for whom he often rode first call.
- Won six straight races at Oak Tree meeting on October 31, 1992, equaling the Santa Anita record set by Laffit Pincay, Jr. in 1987.
- Won first meet title at a major Southern California venue when he booted home 31 winners at Hollywood Park's fall meet in 2005. Posted best-ever earnings mark that year with \$5.2 million, then topped that in 2006 with \$5.4 million.
- Other top horses ridden: Saratoga Gambler, Star Parade, Vieille Vigne, Medici Code, Cavonnier, Amorama, Sea Cadet, Forest Fealty, Truly a Judge, Miss Iron Smoke, Two Step Salsa and Stoneside.
- Came back well from the worst injury of his career, a broken pelvis suffered at Santa Anita in January, 2009, that cost him just about the entire first half of the year.
- Graduate of Panama's famed jockey school, where he started at age 17.
- Brother Marcelino also has been a rider.
- Name is pronounced "Mar-teen."
- Family: Two sons.



Alonso Quinonez

Born: November 13, 1983
Sinaloa, Mexico

Resides: Arcadia, California

Height: 5'5" • Weight: 110 pounds

2010	Mounts	1st	2nd	3rd	Purses
	870	90	109	125	\$3,953,796

Career 2006-2010 • 3,811 mounts, 446 wins • \$13,203,371 in purses

- Had his breakout year in 2010, winning a baker's dozen stakes and nearly \$4-million in purses.
- Clicked in a pair of Grade Is with Tell a Kelly in Del Mar's Darley Debutante and Richard's Kid in the Goodwood at the Oak Tree meet held at Hollywood Park.
- Looked like he might be ready to stamp his Kentucky Derby ticket this spring with owner-trainer-breeder Myung Kwon Cho's Premier Pegasus, a colt he had ridden to four wins in five starts, including a tally in the San Felipe that was going to make him the favorite for the Santa Anita Derby. But a leg injury put the horse on the shelf and his plans for roses on hold.
- Second-place finish to top jockey Julien Leparoux in 2007 winter/spring meet at Turfway Park sent rider to Southern California to finish his apprentice year.
- Had immediate impact at Del Mar, tying for eighth among riders with 17 wins.
- Scored hat trick November 11, 2007 at Hollywood Park, winning with Angel's Reward (\$27.60), Cajun Monarch (\$22.60) and Standing High (\$108.20). Finished eighth in jockey standings with 14 wins.
- First stakes win in Southern California: Del Mar's 2007 Harry F.

- Brubaker with Masterpiece.
- Found his first "big" horse in the late-running filly Intangaroo and rode her to a sparkling 2008 season consisting of four wins from coast-to-coast including a trio of Grade I tallies – the Santa Monica at Santa Anita, the Humana Distaff at Churchill Downs and the Ballerina at Saratoga.
- He also won the two prestige races at the 2008 Fairplex meeting, the Pomona Derby on Bingham and the Ralph M. Hinds Invitational on Plug Me In; registered another noteworthy 2008 score when he got Swift Winds home on top in the Cal Cup Mile.
- Won stakes in 2009 at Turf Paradise, Del Mar and Fairplex Park.
- Learned to ride at age 7 to help with rounding up cattle on family's farm in Sinaloa, Mexico. Older brother Luis was already riding professionally in the United States and another brother, Belen, began in 2002. Both are still active.
- Began walking hots at Oaklawn Park in 2003 before galloping horses at Lone Star Park and Louisiana Downs, where he got connected with trainer Morris Nicks. Rode a few races at Louisiana Downs and also served as a valet in the jockey's room.
- Traveled with Nicks to Churchill Downs in fall 2006, winning first race that November.
- Last name is pronounced "keen-yo-nez."
- Family: Single



Joel Rosario

Born: January 14, 1985
Santo Domingo,
Dominican Republic

Resides: Duarte, California

Height: 5'2" • Weight: 109 pounds

2010	Mounts	1st	2nd	3rd	Purses
	1,335	305	223	204	\$15,897,538

Career 2006-2010 • 5,388 mounts, 965 wins • \$40,828,431 in purses

- Fast-rising riding star finished third in the nation in 2010 with nearly \$16-million in purses and more than 300 wins. This on the heels of his fifth-place finish in 2009 with more than \$13-million in purses and 284 winners. When you talk of the top riders in the country now, you must mention this congenial Caribbean native.
- His 2010 ledger featured 42 stakes wins, more than half of them graded, including nine Grade Is. His biggest tally of the season was in the Breeders' Cup Dirt Mile at Churchill Downs where he got Dakota Phone up in a last-jump thriller.
- Has been leading rider at the 2009 and 2010 race meetings at Del Mar, Hollywood spring/summer and Hollywood fall. Also captured the riding crown at the 2010-2011 Santa Anita meet.
- Had his breakout year in 2008, placing himself among the cream of the Southern California riding crop with a series of high-up finishes in the jockey standings of all six meets.
- Captured 14 graded stakes and 11 other black-type events in 2009, including the Breeders' Cup Sprint on Dancing in Silks and the Grade I La Brea on Evita Argentina. Those were his first Grade I tallies.
- First graded stakes winner was Zappa, who captured the Grade II, \$250,000 San Pasqual Handicap at Santa Anita January 12, 2008 for trainer John Sadler. The trainer had put him aboard Only One Way to get him his first win in Southern California on June 21, 2007 at Hollywood Park.
- Had nine stakes scores at Del Mar in 2010 and now has 16 stakes wins on his local resume.

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- Rode five winners on December 6, 2008 at Hollywood, topped off by Slew's Tizzy's track-record triumph in the Native Diver Handicap. Also rode five winners on April 14, 2007 at Bay Meadows.
- Rode his 1,000th North American winner on 2/17/11 at Santa Anita aboard Coe Cachoo.
- Rang the stakes bell three times on Cal Cup Day in 2008 at the Oak Tree meet with Lightmyfirebaby (Distaff), Lucky Primo (Juvenile) and Famous Ruby (Matron).
- First tipped his mitt to how good he might be when he finished second to perennial riding champ Russell Baze at Golden Gate Fields' 2007 winter meet with 30 wins; then was second to him at Bay Meadows with 54 firsts.
- Won 2005 Angel Cordero, Jr. Jockey Challenge at El Commandante in Puerto Rico.
- Family had horses and donkeys on its ranch outside Santo Domingo. They used to ride them for transportation.
- Got his rider's license at 14 and attended jockey school for six months. Rode first winner in July, 2000 at V Centenario racetrack at the age of 15.
- Leading rider in Dominican Republic four times before fellow Dominican Herbert Soto, a bloodstock agent and former trainer, arranged for him to head to California, where he rode at Fairplex Park before going north to Golden Gate Fields in September 2006.
- First name is pronounced "Jo-ell"
- Family: Two sons, one daughter.



Christian Santiago Reyes

Born: September 1, 1989
San Juan, Puerto Rico

Resides: Pasadena, California

Height: 5' 3" • 108 pounds

2010 Mounts 1st 2nd 3rd Purses
581 64 67 68 \$2,160,810

Career 2009-2010 • 1,316 Mounts, 158 wins • \$4,622,025 in purses

- Puerto Rican's first full season of riding was 2009 and he did very well with it, thank you.
- Won with his second mount in the U.S. – a horse named Chilhulykee for trainer Wesley Ward on April 12 at Gulfstream Park in Florida – then won a dozen races at Churchill Downs before shifting his tack west to Hollywood Park in June under the auspices of agent and fellow Puerto Rican Tony Matos.
- Subsequently, young rider was top apprentice at every Southern California meeting and finished up the year with more than \$2.4-million in earnings, most of any "bug" in country.
- His 2009 body of work earned him an Eclipse Award as nation's top apprentice.
- Won his first graded stakes on May 15, 2010 aboard Acclamation in the Grade II Jim Murray Handicap at Hollywood Park on his next-to-last day with the "bug." On June 5, 2010 he won his first Grade I stakes with the same horse in Hollywood's Charles Whittingham Memorial.
- Got his first Del Mar stakes credit when he took the 2010 CTBA Stakes aboard Swiss Wild Cat.
- First contact with horses came at his grandfather Efrain's farm in Puerto Rico at the age of 12.

- Attended Puerto Rican jockey school for two years and also hit the gym as a teenager learning how to box. Riding bested fighting and he rode first in his native land before breaking an arm in a riding spill and going on the shelf for six months.
- Older brother, Victor Santiago, is a rider in Florida.
- Family: Single.



Mike Smith

Born: August 10, 1965
Roswell, New Mexico

Resides: Pasadena, California

Height: 5'4" • Weight: 111 pounds

2010 Mounts 1st 2nd 3rd Purses
545 81 60 88 \$8,686,890

Career 1982-2010 • 30,207 mounts, 4,925 wins • \$214,733,667 in purses



- Entered racing's Hall of Fame in 2003; currently the only active member of the Hall riding on the Southern California circuit.
- With the exception of the big mare's first three starts, Smith was the main man for the remarkable champion Zenyatta, whose marvelous four-year, undefeated run ended at 19 straight with her last-gasp loss to the colt Blame in the 2010 Breeders' Cup Classic at Churchill Downs. Smith's partnership with the massive daughter of Street Cry helped earn her four Eclipse Awards, including the sweetest prize of all — Horse of the Year 2010. Along the way the dynamic duo took down honors in Del Mar's Clement L. Hirsch Stakes in 2008, 2009 and 2010.
- Was the regular rider for another award-winning female – triple Eclipse winner Azeri, twice champion mare and Horse of the Year in 2002. He rode the chestnut in her first 18 starts, winning 15 times with two seconds and a third.
- Also was at the controls in 2008 for the gray filly Stardom Bound, who made Zenyatta-like moves through the stretch at Del Mar and Santa Anita to capture the Del Mar Debutante, Oak Leaf Stakes and the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies en route to Eclipse honors as the nation's top 2-year-old filly.
- Added a sweet prize to his extensive collection in 2010 when he captured the Belmont Stakes for the first time aboard a colt named Drosselmeyer, a \$600,000 yearling that he had to "pedal all the way" for a three-quarter length victory in the Triple Crown's third jewel.
- Won the 2005 Kentucky Derby aboard the John Shirreffs-trained and Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Moss-owned and -bred Giacomo at odds of 50-1. Those same connections went together with Zenyatta, as well as Madeo, whom Smith also rode to capture the Del Mar Derby in 2008.
- Rider built his career mostly on the East Coast, but has done well in Southern California since moving his tack in 2001. Switched his base to Kentucky in 2005 and then rode in the east in 2006 before returning to Southern California full time in 2007.
- Big horse in 2007 was Tiago, half-brother to Giacomo, who won the Santa Anita Derby and finished seventh in the Kentucky Derby and third in the Belmont Stakes. Also won Swaps Stakes and Goodwood that year while finishing fifth in the Breeders' Cup Classic.
- Has now won 13 Breeders' Cup races, second only to Jerry Bailey's 15. Five times has won two races on B.C. cards – 1994 with Tikkanen in Turf and Cherokee Run in Sprint; 1995 with Unbridled's Song in Juvenile and Inside Information in the Distaff; 1997 with Ajina in the

Distaff and Skip Away in the Classic; 2002 with Vindication in the Juvenile and Azeri in the Distaff, and with Stardom Bound (Juvenile Fillies) and Zenyatta (Ladies Classic) in 2008.

- Won his first Triple Crown race in 1993 when Prairie Bayou took Preakness and can brag of having won 19 races with purses of at least \$1-million. Three of those were at Del Mar, first when he guided the 3-year-old Came Home to a victory over older rivals in the 2002 Pacific Classic, then back-to-back in the same race in 2009-10 with the late-kicking Richard's Kid.
- Added 13 more Grade I wins in 2010 to his ever-expanding file of honors.
- Recovered from near-career-ending broken back suffered in a spill at Saratoga in 1998, returning to race riding during 1999 Gulfstream Park season.
- In 1994, led nation's jockeys in earnings with a then-record \$15.9 million. Also established record of 67 stakes victories, breaking his mark of 62 set in 1993. Captured Eclipse Award each of those years as nation's top jockey.
- Other top horses ridden: Fourstars Allstar, winner of the 2,000 Guineas at The Curragh; Holy Bull, 1994 Horse of the Year; two-time Breeders' Cup Mile champion Lure; Sky Beauty, Heavenly Prize, Devil His Due, Glitter Woman, Adoration, Alphabet Kisses and Lion Heart.
- Currently ranks 10th all-time on money-won list for riders with more than \$217-million in purses, including this year.
- Rode first winner – Future Man – at Santa Fe Downs on June 12, 1982. Rode primarily in the Midwest – Oaklawn Park, Churchill Downs and Canterbury Downs – until heading to New York in late 1989.
- 4,000th winner, Lift Off, on June 17, 2001 at Hollywood Park.
- Son of jockey George Smith.
- Began riding races at age 11 in New Mexico. Took out jockey's license when he was 16 in 1982.
- Awards: Mike Venezia Award, 1994; George Woolf Memorial Jockey Award, 1999; ESPY Award for outstanding jockey, 1993; "Big Sport of Turfdom" award in 2010, after having been part of winning the same award in 2009 as part of "Team Zenyatta."
- Was one of the featured characters on the popular Animal Planet TV series "Jockeys," notably around his romantic interaction with Canadian rider Chantal Sutherland.
- Family: Single.



Danny Sorenson

Born: March 6, 1958
Seattle, Washington

Resides: Arcadia, California

Height: 5' 4" • Weight: 113 pounds

2010	Mounts	1st	2nd	3rd	Purses
	56	4	4	8	\$135,850

Career 1978-2010 • 15,118 mounts, 1,379 wins • \$24,688,435 in purses

- Gritty veteran has taken extensive physical and mental punishment throughout his 30-plus-year career, yet keeps coming back for more.
- Has been out of action for over a year and a half now with back woes, but is still trying to make it back to the saddle.
- Broke a hip March 2007 in a training accident and was out until September 2008, working through two surgeries and 18 months of rehab to make his return.
- Rider proved again he was tough – cowboy tough right down to his regular 10-gallon hat and big belt buckle – as his additional

comebacks from both a fractured vertebra in his neck and a fractured shoulder in 2003, then a broken clavicle in a spill at Del Mar in 2005, surely attest.

- Got his start in his native Washington, although he scored his first victory at Hollywood Park June 23, 1978.
- That year he was the leading apprentice rider at the Oak Tree-at-Santa Anita meeting.
- In 1979, won riding title and set single-season record of 139 winners at Longacres near Seattle.
- In 1981, won \$200,000 Gottstein Futurity at Longacres on the filly Belle of Rainier, beating males, including the eventual Eclipse Award sprinter Chinook Pass.
- Won Bay Meadows Budweiser Breeders' Cup and the Frank J. DeFrancis Memorial Dash with the fast horse Superstrike in 1992.
- Had big summer in 1997 when, during a six-week stretch, he won major stakes at Louisiana Downs (Sport of Kings Futurity with Keene Dancer), Retama Park (Jovan Stakes also with Keene Dancer) and Santa Fe Downs (Indian Nations Futurity Cup with Grady).
- Among his other stakes winners are Capitano, Festival, Giovannetti, Whatsthenameman, Sweet Stepper, Red Eye, Evening Promise, White Hot, Oncefortheroad and The Name's Jimmy.
- Family: Wife Kim; one daughter, one stepdaughter.



Chantal Sutherland

Born: February 23, 1976
Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada

Resides: Sierra Madre, California and
Toronto, Canada

Height: 5' 2" • Weight: 111 pounds

2010	Mounts	1st	2nd	3rd	Purses
	1,050	152	138	144	\$8,778,038

Career 2000-2010 • 6,474 mounts, 836 wins • \$39,977,788 in purses

- Canadian jockey riding her first full Del Mar meeting. She has ridden three horses here previously, going unplaced aboard one mount in 2008 and managing a third from two starters in 2010. That third was aboard the Canadian filly Perfect Shirl behind Evening Jewel and Harmonious in the Grade I Del Mar Oaks.
- Though she was born on the Canadian Prairie, she grew up on the family farm near Toronto. Her father, Paul, trained standardbreds and his athletic daughter was first involved in dressage and jumping competitions, then into soccer and field hockey.
- After graduating from York University in Toronto with a double major in psychology and mass communications, she started to chase the dream of being a rider, first schooling under riders and trainers in the U.S., then accepting her first mount at Woodbine near Toronto in 2000.
- In both 2001 and 2002 she earned Sovereign Award honors in her homeland as the country's leading apprentice rider.
- She'd been a Woodbine regular since with forays to the States to ride at the major meets at Saratoga and Santa Anita. This year she decided to give the Southern California circuit a full go and rode the big meet at Santa Anita and then Hollywood Park prior to coming to Del Mar.
- Was second-leading rider at the Woodbine meeting both in 2008 and 2009, then third-leading rider in 2010, and twice had ridden five winners on a single card at Canada's premier racetrack.
- In 2008 won a trio of stakes at Woodbine on a promising 2-year-old name Mine That Bird. Alas, she didn't get the call when he made his winning run in the 2009 Kentucky Derby.

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- Her 2010 purse winning of \$8,778,038 represent her best year yet in that category.
- Scored the biggest win of her career in 2011 when she coaxed Game On Dude to a hard-fought upset in the \$750,000 Santa Anita Handicap, becoming the first female to win the historic race in its 74th edition.
- Besides Mine That Bird, has won graded stakes on Mulrainy, Smokume, Gigawatt, Van Lear Rose, Pretty Unusual, Amen Hallelujah, Mr. Rod and Star Billing.
- Her good looks had her named one of People magazine's "100 Most Beautiful People" in 2006 and have generated magazine spreads in both Vogue and Sports Illustrated, as well as various modeling and TV spots.
- She was one of the riders featured on the popular Animal Planet TV series "Jockeys" – including her then-romantic link to Hall of Fame rider Mike Smith. Also will have a regular role in the upcoming HBO racetrack series "Luck."
- Family: Single.



Joseph Talamo

Born: January 12, 1990
Marrero, Louisiana

Resides: Monrovia, California

Height: 5'4" • Weight: 108 pounds

2010	Mounts	1st	2nd	3rd	Purses
	1,092	145	181	169	\$7,261,614

Career 2006-2010 • 5,390 mounts, 775 wins • \$34,006,465 in purses

- Came to Southern California in 2007 as a highly touted 17-year-old apprentice rider after becoming the first "bug boy" to win the riding title at New Orleans' Fair Grounds with 119 victories, 25 more than runner-up and often-local-champion Robby Albarado. Didn't disappoint as he battled throughout Hollywood Park spring-summer season with Michael Baze before finishing second. He and M. Baze went back at it at Del Mar with Talamo finishing second again, but in the process young Talamo all but assured himself an Eclipse Award as the nation's top apprentice.
- Became first apprentice to win two Grade I races on same program with victories on Nashoba's Key in the \$300,000 Vanity and Bilo in \$300,000 Triple Bend at Hollywood Park July 7, 2007. Now considers 7/7/07 his lucky day.
- On his first day as a journeyman – July 22, 2007 – rode three winners at Del Mar, including Spenditallbaby in the Fleet Treat Stakes.
- Has now established himself as a solid Top 10 rider on one of the most difficult circuits in the racing world, underscored by the fact he's ridden more than four dozen stakes winners locally in a little more than four years time.
- Had to deal with a heartbreaker at 2009 Kentucky Derby: Came to the track Derby morning expecting to ride the favorite in the Run for the Roses – the colt I Want Revenge, aboard whom he earlier had won the Gotham Stakes and Wood Memorial. Instead, he found out that the horse had been injured and would be scratched, robbing him of his first ride in America's most famous race.
- 2009 finished up on a high note for him, however, when he zoomed home first in the Breeders' Cup Turf Sprint with the gray bullet California Flag for his first tally in racing's championship events.
- Picked up a live one at Del Mar in 2009 when the 2-year-old colt Sidney's Candy scooted to a track record, then came back in 2010 to win a trio of stakes – including the Santa Anita Derby. The horse got the rider that missing Kentucky Derby mount, but the son of Candy

- Ride faded to finish 17th after showing good speed for a mile.
- Only got to win 12 races at the 2010 Del Mar meet, but that was because he only got to ride 12 days. Went down in a turf course spill August 5 and broke his left wrist, knocking him out for the remainder of the session.
- First victory: Well Heavens Sake, July 9, 2006, Louisiana Downs.
- First graded stakes win: Ashley's Kitty in Railbird at Hollywood Park for trainer Ted H. West on May 13, 2007.
- Among his growing list of stakes winners are Acclamation, Unzip Me, Fluke, Ball Four, NowNowNow, Final Fling, Black Astor, Stream Cat and Red Arrow.
- Grew up in Marrero, across the Mississippi River from New Orleans, with horses in his backyard and as a big part of his life. Did his first riding at age 11, learning his trade like many Cajun riders before him on the bush tracks of Louisiana. Rode his first recognized meet at age 16 at Louisiana Downs in Bossier City.
- Was one of the featured riders in the two seasons of the Animal Planet cable series "Jockeys."
- Family: Single.



Patrick Valenzuela

Born: October 1, 1962
Montrose, Colorado

Resides: Monrovia, California

Height: 5' 5" • Weight: 118 pounds

2010	Mounts	1st	2nd	3rd	Purses
	934	146	147	133	\$5,266,186

Career 1978-2010 • 27,368 mounts, 4,220 wins • \$157,813,237 in purses

- Ended a two and a half-year California hiatus last August 4 at Del Mar and quickly jumped right into the thick of the local riding fray. He wound up as third-leading rider at the seaside track and has once again become a serious force year-round in Southern California, where many will tell you he's as gifted a jock as has ever sat on a horse.
- Has battled substance abuse problems throughout his checkered career, issues that have cost him years of riding time and no fewer than a dozen suspensions or license revocations. Still, he has won more than 4,300 races and more than \$160-million in purses, halfway through 2011, ranking him among racing's elite riders.
- "P Val," as he is known to many, came from a riding clan: his father, A.C. and brother, Fabian, were jockeys, as were his four uncles – Ismael (Milo), Angel, Santiago and Mario – as well as his cousin Fernando.
- Started out with a bang by setting Santa Anita (main meet) apprentice record in 1979-'80 season with 83 firsts, a mark that still stands.
- Has won five Del Mar riding titles — 1986, '90, '91, '02 and '03; additionally, has won 10 other meet riding crowns in California.
- Coming into the 2011 session, he sits fourth on the track's all-time wins ledger for riders with 732 firsts and ninth among its stakes winners with 63.
- Has won 11 million-dollar races, including seven Breeders' Cup events.
- One of his million-dollar victories came aboard an upstart 3-year-old named Best Pal who beat a classy field of older horses in the very first running of Del Mar's Pacific Classic in 1991. Best Pal went on to earn more than \$5.6 million and proved himself one of the best California-bred horses of all time.
- Was primary rider for Hall of Fame trainer Charles Whittingham on the 1989 Horse of the Year Sunday Silence, winning both the Kentucky Derby and Preakness aboard the near-black colt. Many

still call his Preakness victory that year in which he battled through the stretch with eastern star Easy Goer one of the most exciting Thoroughbred races ever.

- Established a Santa Anita record for an apprentice when he won 83 races during the 1979-80 big meet, a mark that still stands.
- Was the winning rider – in a thrilling “by a whisker” score – in Del Mar’s most recent match race, the “Battle of the Sexes” in which he faced off with Hall of Fame rider Julie Krone on September 7, 2003. He also beat Krone that year in a hard-fought, meet-long battle for the riding title by a tally of 52 wins to 49.
- Besides Sunday Silence and Best Pal, he’s also won major stakes on such stars as Arazi, Lava Man, Codex, Interco, Fran’s Valentine, Snow Chief and In Excess.
- Family: Four daughters.