



Sam Thompson Memorial Jockey Award

Presented by Speedhorse Magazine In Conjunction With Jockeys' Guild

The Sam Thompson Memorial Jockey Award was created by *Speedhorse* in 2011 to honor the memory of Sam Thompson and, through reflection, all the Quarter Horse jockeys whose careers and personal character make positive contributions to the sport of Quarter Horse racing.

Thompson, a native of North Carolina, was known for being one of the leaders in the jockeys' room during his racing career. A Jockeys' Guild senator and the room representative at Los Alamitos, Thompson was involved with Los Alamitos management during the expansion and renovation of the jockeys' room at the Orange County track. He was also a council member of the Los Alamitos division of the Race Track Chaplaincy of America.

On December 20, 2008, Thompson was injured when his mount, a first-time starter, fell after the wire during a 300-yard maiden race for two year olds. His condition had deteriorated significantly by Christmas Day and, with family and friends at his side, he was removed from life support so that his donated organs could save the lives of others. Thompson was 36 years old.

It is the hope of *Speedhorse* that this award will ensure the preservation of Thompson's memory, while simultaneously encouraging other riders to aspire to the standards he set.

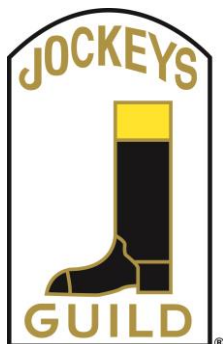
Objective

Since 1950, the Thoroughbred industry has honored jockeys whose careers and personal character earn esteem for the individual and the sport with the George Woolf Memorial Award. Created to honor the memory of one of the greatest Thoroughbred riders of all time, the George Woolf Award is prized as one of the most prestigious awards in all of sports. Thoroughbred jockeys vote for their peers, and the winner is honored in a special ceremony at Santa Anita Park each year.

The *Speedhorse* Sponsored Sam Thompson Memorial Jockey Award was developed to give Quarter Horse jockeys an equally prestigious, peer-elected award. Modeled after the George Woolf

Memorial Award, the *Speedhorse* Sponsored Sam Thompson Memorial Jockey Award rewards Quarter Horse jockeys for positively representing our sport and being role models for their peers, on and off the track.

Each year, *Speedhorse* asks the Jockeys' Guild to find nominees who meet the guidelines set forth for the award. It is not a performance-based award or a popularity contest. The major emphasis is on riders whose careers and personal character have had a positive influence on Quarter Horse racing. The Sam Thompson Memorial Jockey Award is the first of its kind in Quarter Horse racing.



SAM THOMPSON MEMORIAL HALL OF FAME

2011 – Roy Brooks
2012 – Gilbert Ortiz
2013 – G. R. Carter, Jr.
2014 – Cody Jensen
2015 – Eddie Garcia