

April-May 2009



Jockeys' Guild News

“Riders Up!” Event At Keeneland To Benefit Permanently Disabled Jockeys’ Fund

On Friday evening, April 17, many leading current and retired jockeys will be participating in “Riders Up!” a charity karaoke talent competition to be held at the Keeneland Entertainment Center for the benefit of the Permanently Disabled Jockeys’ Fund.

Included among the active jockeys scheduled to display their talents are Robby Albarado, Jon Court, Brian Hernandez, Jamie Theriot, and John Velazquez. Retired riders ready to take part are Jerry Bailey, Angel Cordero, Jr., Pat Day, Chris McCarron, Earlie Fires, and Patricia Cooksey.



Riders Up!

The competition will be judged by celebrity judges from the music and racing industries as the riders are accompanied by an “all-star” band and back-up singers. Among the judges will be Eddie Montgomery of the country music duo Montgomery Gentry. The event will be emceed by Laura Bell Bundy, a Lexington, Kentucky native and Tony-nominated actress.

“The Permanently Disabled Jockeys’ Fund (PDJF) currently provides assistance to 60 permanently disabled riders. Without the support from the racing industry, this fund would not be possible,” said Nancy LaSala, executive director of the Permanently Disabled Jockeys’ Fund. “The PDJF is very appreciative of Keeneland for hosting this event as well as the many sponsors who are participating. Having the jockey community come out and support this event with their talents is a special way to honor their fellow jockeys.”

Presenting sponsors are Keeneland Race Course and the Jockeys’ Guild. Gold level sponsors include Breeders’ Cup, Darley America, and Ramsey Farm. Silver sponsors are WinStar Farms and Vinery with Bronze sponsors Shadwell, Denali Stud, Equibase Company, Meyocks & O’Hara Racing Enterprises and Padua Stables. In-kind sponsors are MSI Production Services, Turf Catering, Cornett Integrated Marketing Systems, NTRA Safety & Integrity Alliance and Thoroughbred Printing.

The event will be promoted on track at Keeneland, on WKYT-TV, and by radio station partners Mix 94.5 and 98.1 The Bull.

Tickets are \$50 (advance purchase only) and include a “Bayou Meets the Bluegrass” buffet. Cash bar will be available.

Inside this issue:

- Brain Injury Research 2
- John Velazquez Wins Woolf Award 2
- Documentary on Women in Racing 3
- Losing Mount Fees Increase 3
- “JOCKEYS” Renewed 3
- Guild News 4



“This finding could indicate that ketosis, the production of ketones, is the underlying mechanism responsible for the beneficial effects of fasting after brain injury, and could represent a potential therapeutic intervention for the treatment of traumatic brain injury.”

Fasting Can Reduce Brain-Injury Impact

Researchers at the University of Kentucky have found that fasting within the first 24 hours of a moderate traumatic brain injury reduces the damage to brain tissue and improves cognitive function.

Using rats as their model system, a research team led by Patrick Sullivan of the UK Spinal Cord and Brain Injury Research Center found that fasting after such an injury increases the amount of brain tissue that is preserved. This dietary therapy also preserved the rats' ability to use and develop spatial memory, indicating that the tissue spared is functional.

“In this study we were primarily interested in the preservation of mitochondrial function since mitochondria are the powerhouse of the cell and responsible for the production of most of the energy used by the cell,” explains Laurie Davis, a graduate student and lead author on the article reporting these findings, which appeared in the *Journal of Neuroscience Research*. The UK team also investigated ketone bodies, which are produced by the liver from fat in response to a prolonged decrease in glucose levels. Giving the animals ketones increased preservation

of brain tissue compared with a control group of untreated animals.

“In previous studies, we showed that ketones preserve mitochondrial function after neuronal injury,” Davis says. “This finding could indicate that ketosis, the production of ketones, is the underlying mechanism responsible for the beneficial effects of fasting after brain injury, and could represent a potential therapeutic intervention for the treatment of traumatic brain injury.”

For more information about SCoBIRC and its research programs, please visit <http://www.mc.uky.edu/scobirc/> or call (859) 323-7901.

This article originally appeared in *Odyssey*, the magazine highlighting the latest research advances, innovative scholarship, and outstanding people at the University of Kentucky.

During Keeneland's spring racing season, representatives from the Jockeys' Guild and the Thoroughbred industry will meet with the research team of the UK Spinal Cord and Brain Injury Research Center to learn more about their on-going programs.

John Velazquez Wins Santa Anita Woolf Award

John Velazquez, a native of Puerto Rico and a two-time Eclipse award winning jockey, was selected by a vote of his peers as the 2009 winner of the Santa Anita George Woolf Memorial Jockey Award. He was presented with the Woolf Award on March 8 in a ceremony between races in the Santa Anita Winner's Circle.

Presented annually by Santa Anita since 1950, this year marks the 60th presentation of one of racing's most prestigious awards. The Woolf Award honors and recognizes those riders whose careers and personal character earn esteem for the individual and the sport of Thoroughbred racing.

The Woolf Award was created to honor and memorialize Woolf, who was known as one of the greatest riders of his era and who died soon after a spill at Santa Anita on Jan. 13, 1946. The Woolf trophy is a replica of the full-size statue of the late jockey which adorns Santa Anita's Paddock Gardens area.

Velazquez, 37, was America's leading money-winning and Eclipse Award winning jockey in 2004 and 2005. He moved from Puerto Rico and began riding in New York in 1990, where he has amassed 24 riding titles at Aqueduct, Belmont Park and Saratoga.

A winner of the 2007 Belmont Stakes aboard the filly Rags to Riches, who was conditioned by one of his primary clients, Todd Pletcher, Velazquez has won six Breeders' Cup races and numerous other stakes nationwide.

In 2004, he won the Bill Shoemaker Award for top Breeders' Cup performance by a jockey, as he took the Distaff with Ashado and the Sprint with Speightstown.

Velazquez, born Nov. 24, 1971, got his 4,000th career win on Sept. 28 at Belmont Park. His recent stakes victories include a win aboard top Kentucky Derby (G1) contender Quality Road in the Florida Derby (G1) and Runnin Red in the New Mexico Breeders' Derby at Sunland Park.

“Johnny V.” as he is known in racing circles, has long been regarded as a leader among his peers and he commands the respect of horsemen and media throughout the racing world. Velazquez first came to New York at the behest of fellow Puerto Rican and retired Hall of Fame

jockey Angel Cordero, Jr., who currently serves as his agent.

Velazquez is married to the former Leona O'Brien, daughter of trainer Leo O'Brien. They have two children, a daughter, Lerina, and a son, Michael Patrick. The Velazquez's reside permanently in New York.

Edited from Santa Anita Press Release



Documentary To Focus On Women In Racing

Jason Neff has a story to tell.

Growing up in a family steeped in the horseracing industry - his father was a jockey turned trainer, his uncle was a jockey, and both his grandfathers were trainers.

If anyone has the background to make a documentary film about horse racing, it's Neff - call it bloodlines.

And Neff, the producer/director of JOCK, is doing just that by creating the first documentary detailing the history of female jockeys in United States Thoroughbred racing. Neff began what promises to be a cross-country trek with a stop at Charles Town Races & Slots to film the 40th anniversary celebration of Barbara Jo Rubin's historic victory at the track. On Feb. 22, 1969, Rubin became the first female jockey to win a pari-mutuel race in the United States when she rode

Cohesion to victory at Charles Town.

Neff said JOCK, which will be a feature-length documentary, will focus on the first generation of women to push the gender barrier in horse racing. Before Diane Crump broke through in 1969 to ride in a recognized race and Rubin followed two weeks later with her historic winning ride, no female jockeys had been permitted to ride in the United States. Their struggle to gain acceptance and a chance to compete is the story Neff plans to tell in his film.

"We're focusing on what I call the first generation," Neff said. "The jockeys that competed in the first three to five years, we're basically capturing their stories."

"I think it's great that he's doing the documentary," Rubin said. "It shows how hard it was to get into it and what the female jockeys had to go through."

For Rubin, that included a nasty reception in her initial foray to the track. After obtaining her apprentice jockey's license in Florida, Rubin was scheduled to become the first female jockey to ride in the United States. But the male jockeys at Tropical Park, where she was set to ride, largely refused to race against her and threatened a boycott of the race if Rubin was allowed to enter. Ultimately, she didn't ride and Crump broke the gender barrier the following month on Feb. 7, 1969.

Neff plans to feature other pioneering female jockeys, including Mary Bacon, Patty Barton and P.J. Cooksey.

"A lot of people that I've talked to love the idea," Neff said of JOCK. "Fortunately for me, there's never been a documentary done on female jockeys."

Edited from a story by Jeff Nations/Charles Town Journal-News

Losing Mount Fees Increased At Charles Town, Prairie Meadows

Negotiations continuing at Kentucky, Arkansas, Louisiana and Oklahoma Tracks

The Charles Town HBPA has approved a new scale, relative to purse size, that ranges from \$75 to \$105 for riders who do not finish in the top three positions in a race. The former scale was \$45 to \$105.

"We are pleased to reach this accord and would like to thank CTHBPA president Randy Funkhouser, the board of CTHBPA, its executive director Lenny Hale as well as the Guild's regional manager Larry Saumell and jockey Larry Reynolds for their time and effort in reaching this agreement," Guild National Manager Terry Meyocks said.

Jockeys who ride at Prairie Meadows will also earn higher losing mount fees which will begin at \$75 on the low end to \$105 for races of \$100,000 or more. Previously, losing mount fees ranged from \$45 on the bottom to \$105.

"I would like to thank Iowa HBPA president Leroy Gessman and the entire board of the HBPA for their cooperation and recognition than increase was in order. Thanks also goes to Jeff Johnston, the Guild's regional manager and jockey Perry Compton for their efforts in reaching this agreement. There is much work we can do together to help the industry in the state," said Jockeys' Guild national manager Terry Meyocks.

While Charles Town and Prairie Meadows became the latest tracks to implement increased losing mount fees, negotiations are at an impasse in Arkansas. Cecil Alexander, chairman of the Arkansas State Racing Commission said he believed that an agreement had been reached on March 13 but during a regularly scheduled commis-

sion meeting on March 14 the two sides remain apart. Alexander said Oaklawn will operate under the fee scale already in place until the meeting ends April 11.

Negotiations will resume this summer in hopes of reaching an agreement for the 2010 meeting.

In Kentucky, representatives of the Jockeys' Guild and the Kentucky Thoroughbred Association said they would favor a proposed across-the-board increase of \$15 per mount in races where riders finish out of the top three places through 2009. But the Kentucky Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association would not endorse the plan.

Currently, Kentucky riders receive \$45 for a losing mount in a race with a purse of \$5,000 to \$9,999. The scale increases as the purses increase.

The Guild is still in negotiations with horsemen in Louisiana, Oklahoma, New Mexico and Massachusetts. Meetings continue with the Delaware Racing Commission and their horsemen for an increase in losing mount fees at Delaware Park. Their meet begins April 18.

Increases in losing mount fees have been negotiated at Aqueduct, Belmont, Saratoga, Finger Lakes, Arlington Park, Hawthorne, Fairmount Park, Calder, Tropical Park at Calder, Gulfstream Park, Indiana Downs, Hoosier Park, all California tracks, Tampa Bay, Turf Paradise, Charles Town and Prairie Meadows. Increases will take effect at Atlantic City, Monmouth, and Meadowlands this year.

"JOCKEYS" Renewed For Second Season

Following the successful first season, which brought in more than 9.2 million unique viewers, Animal Planet has ordered a second season of seven hour-long episodes set to premiere late this summer.

"It's our goal in the second season to bring viewers even deeper into the exciting, challenging and complex lives of the jockeys," said Marjorie Kaplan, President and general manager of Animal Planet. "Hour-long episodes give us a broader palette to do so and to create a richer experience of the whole world of racing, horses, and the track."

For season two, the network, in conjunction with entertainment production house Go Go Luckey, will bring back six of the jockeys previously featured and introduce viewers to two new jockeys, Garrett Gomez and Corey Nakatani.

Returning to the show after appearing on season one are Chantal Sutherland, Mike Smith, Kayla Stra, Alex Solis, Joe Talamo, and Aaron Gryder. Jockey Jon Court will depart the show during the first episode of season two as he moves his riding base from California to the Midwest.

Edited from Animal Planet Press Release



JOCKEYS' GUILD, INC.

103 Wind Haven Drive
Suite 200
Nicholasville, KY 40356

866-GO-JOCKS (866-465-6257)
859-305-0606
859-219-9892 FAX
E-mail: info@jockeysguild.com

Visit the revamped website at:
www.jockeysguild.com

JOCKEYS' GUILD STAFF

Terence J. Meyocks
National Manager
tmeyocks@moreracingent.com

Gloria Hinkson-Barajas
Bi-lingual Receptionist, Administrative Assistant
gloria@jockeysguild.com

Jamie Carter
Mount Fees, Media Rights,
Special Events
jamie@jockeysguild.com

Tina Linville
Accounts Receivable/Payable, Invoicing
tina@jockeysguild.com

Shevawn Moore
Temporary Disability, Life Insurance
Benefits, Permanently Disabled Members
smoore@jockeysguild.com

Jennifer Ray
Membership, Website Administration,
Newsletter
jray@jockeysguild.com

Jockeys' Guild Regional Representatives

John Beech
(512) 826-3344
jbeech@jockeysguild.com

Darrell Haire
(909) 241-2704
dhaire@jockeysguild.com

Jeff Johnston
(859) 547-8084
jeff@jockeysguild.com

Herbie Rivera, Jr.
(727) 637-2426
herbie@jockeysguild.com

Larry Saumell
(410) 262-9991

Richard Mena, Jockeys' Chaplain
(626) 536-5413
RACETRACKBIBLESTUDY.COM
THOROUGHNBRED@RACETRACK.COM

Congratulations to **Jose Lezcano** on his 1,000th career victory February 13 at Gulfstream Park; **Billy Troilo** on career win 2,500 accomplished at Turfway Park on February 21; **Ramon Dominguez** on riding 5 winners in one day at Aqueduct including a win aboard Haynesfield in the Whirlaway Stakes; **Alan Garcia** on winning the \$2 million UAE Derby aboard Regal Ransom; **Eddie Maple, Randy Romero and Alex Solis** as finalists for induction into the National Museum of Racing's Hall of Fame. Results will be announced in April.

The Jockeys' Guild welcomes the following new members: **Enrigue Garcia, Joe Patrick Musarro, Cassie May Papineau, Florent Geroux, Pascacio Lopez, DeeDee Williams, Victor Santiago.**

Gulfstream Park's general manager, Bill Murphy, presented the Jockeys' Guild with a check for \$22,000 February 3. The donation was made possible in part by a state tax credit program that the Guild put together in conjunction with Gulfstream Park. "Riders risk life and limb every time they get into the saddle," said Mr. Murphy. "Gulfstream and MEC have a long-running, positive relationship with America's riders.



Jockeys' Guild members will be eligible for significant savings on nationally known products through NTRA Advantage. The program will be introduced April 17. Your Jockeys' Guild membership will entitle you to significant savings from John Deere, UPS, Sherwin Williams, Office Depot and more. Look for more information at your track in the next few weeks.

WinStar Takes The Dubai World Cup

Congratulations to Bill Casner and Kenny Troutt of WinStar Farms, jockey Aaron Gryder and trainer Eoin Harty on winning the \$6 million Dubai World Cup with their homebred, Well Armed. WinStar Farms is a major sponsor of events benefitting the Permanently Disabled Jockeys Fund such as the annual jockey basketball game during the Saratoga meet and last year's sponsorship in conjunction with NetJets of the Kentucky Derby jockeys. We appreciate their continued support.

2009 Jockeys' Guild Board of Directors

John Velazquez, Chairman	Robby Albarado
G.R. Carter, Vice Chairman	Joel Campbell
Jon Court, Secretary	Perry Compton
Jerry LaSala, Treasurer	Glen Murphy
Jon Court, Secretary	Rodney Prescott

2009 Jockeys' Guild Senate

<u>Eastern Region</u>	<u>Central Region</u>	<u>Western Region</u>
Joe Bravo	Robby Albarado	Jon Court
Javier Castellano	Jesse Campbell	David Flores
Ramon Dominguez	Joel Campbell	Garrett Gomez
Stewart Elliott	Perry Compton	Casey Lambert
Mike Luzzi	Jerry LaSala	Leslie Mawing
Mario Pino	Randy Meier	Mike Smith
Edgar Prado	Glen Murphy	G.R. Carter
John Velazquez	Rodney Prescott	Cody Jensen
Jose Velez, Jr.	Eddie Razo	Kent Desormeaux-Alt.
	Alex Birzer-Alt.	