



Roger Attfield

Born: Nov. 28, 1939 in Newbury, England.

Resident: Nobleton, Ontario, Canada.

Family: John (son).

Roger Attfield's record at Keeneland

Total wins: 45

Stakes Wins (11)

- Has won Canada's Sovereign Award as outstanding trainer a record six times—1986, 1987, 1989, 1990, 1993 and 2002.
- Trained three of Canada's six Triple Crown winners—With Approval, Izvestia and Peteski.
- Has trained six Canadian Horse of the Years and 39 champions overall, including Palladio (champion 3-year-old male in 2005).
- Has won Canada's premier event—the Queen's Plate—six times.
- Led Kinghaven Farms to North American earnings title among owners in 1990 with \$5 million.
- Won three Grade 3 races at Keeneland in 2006.
- Won the Maker's Mark Mile (G2) in 2004 with Perfect Soul (Ire).

British-born Roger Attfield has made a name for himself as a first-rate trainer of Thoroughbreds while making his case for inclusion in Racing's Hall of Fame.

Based at Woodbine in Toronto, he has won an unprecedented six Sovereign Awards as Canada's leading trainer, most recently in 2002. He's won Canada's Triple Crown three of the six times it's been accomplished. And he has trained six Canadian Horse of the Years—Norcliffe, 1976; Play the King, 1988; With Approval, 1989; Izvestia, 1990; Peteski, 1993; and Alywow, 1994. He's won Canada's most prestigious race, the Queen's Plate, six times.

In 1990, when Izvestia was winning the Triple Crown, the Kinghaven Farms horses trained by Attfield earned more than \$5 million, tops among all North American owners.

That was also the year Attfield won his first stakes races at Keeneland—the Forerunner and the Transylvania—both with Izvestia.

He has dominated racing in Canada. But his successes have not been confined to north of the border. He won the 1995 Wood Memorial and Gotham with Talkin Man, who started as the favorite in the Kentucky Derby that year. He won the 1993 Carter Handicap and Commonwealth Breeders' Cup with Alydeed; the 1987 Yellow Ribbon Invitational with Carotene; the 1990 Bowling Green and Tidal handicaps with With Approval, and the Ohio Derby (G2) in 2005 with Palladio, to name a few.

From Woodbine, his circuit consists of Gulfstream Park and/or Fair Grounds in the winter, Keeneland in the spring and back to Toronto. His main string is based at Woodbine, but he usually also has an East Coast string.

A popular horseman, Attfield was once described by jockey Willie Martinez this way: "He's one class act. He is a professional. He knows what he is doing. But he

doesn't brag about it. He still can be a friend. He is a gentleman."

Martinez rode the Attfield-trained Whiskey Wisdom to a 12-length victory in the 1997 Fayette Stakes at Keeneland.

Attfield was an accomplished international-level show jumper and amateur steeplechase rider in England. He moved to Canada in 1970 where he opened a national chain of clothing boutiques.

After a year away from horses, he slowly made his way back. He started out by galloping and exercising horses for several trainers. It wasn't long before he obtained a trainer's license and opened a public stable.

"I never really thought about training flat runners, actually," he told *Daily Racing Form* in 1993. "I was training jumpers and I ended up here galloping horses for extra money. I knew I couldn't keep riding all my life and after six months here, I realized that this business could be much more lucrative. So I decided to stick with the flat runners. The first horse I won with was a 5-year-old claimer named Cool Wonder."

In early 1975, he met Col. Charles Baker, then the chairman of the Ontario Jockey Club, who was trying to find just the right person to take over as trainer of his stable. One of the horses he owned was a Buckpasser colt he had purchased at Saratoga the previous summer.

Attfield turned out to be the right man to develop that colt, Norcliffe into a top performer, winning the Coronation at Woodbine at 2, and two legs of the Canadian Triple Crown the following season.

A few years later, he went back to training for other clients, including Kinghaven Farms' David Willmot, Earle Mack, Allan Dragone and Frank Stronach.

He was quoted as saying: "First you need the product. And the product must be

owned by individuals who understand that patience is important.... The odd owner pushes you to run a horse, and what happens is that you never really do see the best of that horse. Owners are very important. I can't stress that enough. Without owners, we don't have jobs. The percentage of horses in this business that actually turn out to be decent isn't that high, so when an owner puts up his money, he should be able to participate and enjoy the progress of his horse."

Between 1989 and 1993, Attfield not only won the coveted Canadian Triple Crown but did it three times. With Approval was the first, in 1989, followed by Izvestia the following year, and Peteski three years later.

Attfield lists With Approval's Triple Crown as the highlight of his stellar career. "It hadn't been done for a long time," he said. "When we won it the next year with Izvestia, that was also a thrill, but the first time was special."

As a goal, he said: "I'd like to win the Kentucky Derby one day."

His stable won 60 races and earned \$4.5 million in 2002. His stakes performers included Sovereign Award-winning older female Small Promises and Sweetest Thing, who won the Bewitch Stakes (G3).

Highlighting 2003 were the victories by Perfect Soul in the Shadwell Turf Mile and the King Edward Breeders' Cup Handicap, which resulted in a Sovereign Award for him as leading turf male. Attfield's stable earned nearly \$3 million.

In 2004, Attfield won the Maker's Mark Mile (G2) with Perfect Soul, the Coronation Futurity with Ablo and other stakes with South Bay Cove and Just in Case Jimmy. For the year, his stable won 35 races and earned \$2,777,942.

Palladio, winner of the 2005 Ohio Derby, became his 39th Canadian champion. Attfield also saddled three other stakes winners, and his stable earned more than \$2.5 million.

Of the six stakes Attfield's stable won in 2006, five were graded and three were at Keeneland—Pellegrino (Brz) the Fifth Third Elkhorn (G3), Noble Stella (Ger) the Bewitch (G3) and Eccentric (GB) the Fayette (G3). Noble Stella won two additional graded races and the stable earned \$1,858,811.

From 1976 through Jan. 9, 2007, Equine-line.com had Attfield with 1,444 wins and earnings of \$67,112,175. He was credited with 117 stakes winners during that time period.

Now 67, Attfield still enjoys the life of a trainer. "This is one thing you shouldn't be doing if you're not enjoying it. I intend to just keep going. This is what I do."