



Calvin Borel

Born: Nov. 7, 1966 in St. Martin, La.

Resident: Louisville, Ky.

Family: Engaged to Lisa Funk.

Calvin Borel's record at Keeneland

Total wins: 103

Stakes Wins (10)

- Won his first Breeders' Cup race in 2006 with Eclipse Award-winning Street Sense in the Juvenile.
- Won the 4,000th race of his career at Oaklawn Park on Feb. 16, 2005.
- Tied with Shaun Bridgmohan for the 2006 Churchill fall riding crown. Previously won the title at Churchill's 1999 fall meet.
- Piloted 91-1 shot Seek Gold to victory in the Stephen Foster Handicap (G1) last year.
- Leading rider at Oaklawn Park (1995 and 2001), Turfway Park (fall 2000), Ellis Park (1996), Louisiana Downs (1991-1992 and 1995), Delta Downs (1983-1984) and Evangeline Downs (1983).
- Won the 1991 Super Derby (G1) with Free Spirit's Joy.
- Won the 1993 Arkansas Derby (G2) aboard Rockamundo.
- Won the Apple Blossom (G1) in 1997 with Halo America and in 2001 with Gourmet Girl.
- Finalist for the Mike Venezia Award last year.

Calvin Borel's name belongs on any list of Louisiana natives who have become successful jockeys. Now 40, he has a host of riding titles to his credit, most recently the 2006 fall meet at Churchill in a tie.

He also won his first Breeders' Cup race last year aboard Street Sense in the Juvenile. At odds of 15.20-1, they won by 10 lengths. Other highlights included the shocker aboard Seek Gold in the Stephen Foster and graded stakes victories aboard Suave (Washington Park Handicap) and Court Folly (Amsterdam Stakes). He finished 28th in the national rankings with \$6.4 million to his credit.

Just two days before he planned to end his '06 season and vacation until Oaklawn, he suffered multiple fractures in his right wrist in a fall at Churchill. His longtime agent Jerry Hissam reported that he won three races on opening day at Oaklawn in 2007 and was ready whenever trainer Carl Nafzger wanted him to work Street Sense.

Hissam said the Breeders' Cup win got Borel "more live mounts and eventually would help a lot."

Borel previously captured riding crowns at Oaklawn Park in 2001 and the 2000 Turfway fall meet after recuperating from a broken shoulder suffered at Ellis Park that summer. "My first meet back was at Turfway," he said. "It was wonderful coming back and making leading rider."

Like so many riders before him in Louisiana, Borel started early. He was first put up on a horse at age six and started riding in match races at the bush tracks at eight.

His brother, Cecil, was a race-rider before he became a trainer and a third brother, Carroll, was once a trainer.

"We had all kinds of horses and they needed somebody to ride," he said. "I was the logical choice. My brother (Cecil) taught me everything I know. He put me up. He taught

me how to sit. He taught me how to hold my hands.

"I always loved it. I wasn't afraid or scared or anything. I just wanted to do it. I remember the first thing my brother told me was to ride the fence all the way, if I could. He kept telling me that was the shortest distance around the track. So I did. I got used to taking a horse right to the rail. I remember him telling me about pace, too. That pace makes the race. He told me that I should learn how to rate horses, not to use them up real quickly. He told me that I should learn to gallop with a clock ticking in my head and to save my horse until the end when the race could be won."

He learned the lesson about hugging the rail so well that some racing fans call him Calvin "Bo-rail."

"All I ever wanted to be was a jockey," he has said. "A lot of kids make plans to be firemen, cowboys, or astronauts, but I knew by age eight that I wanted to ride races."

Calvin and Cecil team up as often as possible. "It's wonderful riding for him, I'll tell you that. Winning a race for him means a lot more to me."

By age 16, Borel was a veteran race-rider. He won titles at Evangeline Downs in 1983 and at Delta Downs in 1983 and 1984. "I went to Delta and Evangeline with my brother," he recalled. "I did good when I first started. Then we decided to go to Shreveport after that, eight or nine years later. And it's been nothing but success ever since."

He topped the standings at Louisiana Downs three times, 1991, 1992 and 1995 and twice won six races in a day there. In 1991, he won the Super Derby aboard Free Spirit's Joy for trainer Clarence Picou.

He also started riding at Oaklawn Park in the early 1990s and won the '93 Arkansas Derby with Rockamundo, at odds of 108-1.

He topped the riders' standings there for the first time in 1995.

Rockamundo was his first Derby mount. He told Daily Racing Form afterward: "It was a big thrill. I got chills up my back and did everything but cry. I'll always remember it."

His only remaining goal, he said, is to win the Kentucky Derby "by five or six lengths at odds of 5-1 or 6-1."

Borel came to Kentucky in 1996 and was the leading rider at Ellis Park that summer. "I really had to come to Kentucky," he said. "I had so many people up there and my brother was going, too. I just decided that it was time for me to give it a try.

"My brother put me on some good horses and that kind of got me started. There were a lot of guys from Louisiana up here, too. Like Bobby (Barnett) and Tom (Amoss) and Jeff (Jacobs). I have to thank God that everything worked out so great."

In 2000, Borel won the Oaklawn Handicap (G1) with K One King, and two Grade 2 races at Churchill Downs—the Bashford Manor with Duality and the Brown & Williamson Kentucky Jockey Club Stakes with Dollar Bill—and ended the year with more than \$5 million in earnings.

The high point of 2001 was his victory aboard Gourmet Girl in the Apple Blossom Handicap, but he also won the Aristides (G3) and Phoenix Breeders' Cup (G3) with Bet On Sunshine. For the year, he won 211 races and his mounts earned nearly \$6 million.

In 2002, he won three graded stakes the Golden Rod (My Boston Gal), the Debutante (Awesome Humor), and the Azalea Breeders' Cup Stakes (Bold World). For the year, Borel won 180 races and his mounts earned \$5.8 million.

The next year, he won graded races with Belle of Perintown and Lead Story while his mounts earned \$5.1 million. His 2004 victories included Lead Story in the Louisville Breeders' Cup Handicap (G2), Midway Road in the Fayette Handicap (G3) and Sir Cherokee in the Ack Ack Handicap (G3). His mounts won 115 races and earned \$4 million.

After taking the winter off, he resumed riding at Oaklawn Park and on opening day in 2005 said: "I'm ready to roll now." He proceeded to win the 4,000th race of his career there aboard Jet Angel on Feb. 16, becoming the 25th rider to accomplish that feat.

He considered winning the Fayette on Alumni Hall and "getting my 4,000th win at Hot Springs" as his highlights of the year. "Those were big." He also won stakes at Oaklawn, Ellis Park, Horsemen's Park, Kentucky Downs and Fair Grounds last year and finished second in the riders' standings at Oaklawn, just one win behind Jeremy Rose. He won 129 races and earned \$3,565,053.

He is engaged to Lisa Funk. She rides and shows jumpers and keeps horses in Florida and in Louisville.