



Christophe Clement

Born: Nov. 1, 1965 in Paris, France

Resident: Garden City, N.Y.

Family: Valerie (wife), Charlotte (daughter), Miguel (son).

Christophe Clement's record at Keeneland

Total wins: 31

Stakes wins (8)

- Has two seconds in Breeders' Cup races—Forbidden Apple, 2001 Mile, and Coretta, 1999 Filly & Mare Turf—and two thirds—Dynever in the 2003 Classic and Flag Down in the 1997 Turf.
- Has ranked in top 15 in earnings four times (eighth in 2001 with more than \$5.57 million; 11th in 2002 and 2003, with \$4.8 million and \$5.5 million, respectively; and 12th in 2005 with \$5 million).
- Won the 1994 Queen Elizabeth II Challenge Cup (G1) with Danish (Ire).
- Won the 2005 Canadian International Stakes with Relaxed Gesture.

Last year, 41-year-old Christophe Clement saddled the winners of 82 races and the earners of \$4.2 million to rank 21st by earnings. He won four stakes with Revved Up, including the Sycamore Breeders' Cup (G3), and three with Society Hostess, including the Buffalo Trace Franklin County Stakes. He also won the Valley View Stakes (G3) with Meribel, thus adding three stakes tallies at Keeneland to his earlier total of five. He also won graded races last year with Snowdrops (GB), Ozone Bere (Fr) and Saint Stephen.

Through Jan. 9, 2007, he had saddled the winners of 845 races and the earners of \$49,830,932. Through mid-January, he had developed 100 stakes winners.

In 2005, his stable ranked 12th by earnings with \$5,070,697 while winning 83 races. Highlights were provided by graded stakes winners Snowdrops, Revved Up, Naissance Royale (Ire) and Bright Abundance.

While Revved Up won five stakes during the year and Snowdrops won three, the stable's most lucrative victory came when Relaxed Gesture scored in the Canadian International and took home the winner's share of slightly more than \$1 million. In all, Clement's runners accounted for stakes wins at 11 different tracks.

The previous year his stable included graded stakes winners Dynever, Meridiana (Ger), Dedication (Fr), Where We Left Off (GB), Seducer's Song and Spotlight (GB).

Meridiana's two graded stakes victories included the Bewitch (G3), which gave Clement his fifth stakes win at Keeneland. His horses won stakes at eight other racetracks—Gulfstream Park, Tampa Bay Downs, Santa Anita, Aqueduct, Suffolk Downs, Monmouth Park, Saratoga and Delaware Park.

Clement winters at Payson Park in Florida and his main base is at Belmont Park in New York. He keeps an average of 50 horses in training year-round.

Well-known for his success as a trainer of turf horses, Clement explained it succinctly: "I receive more turf horses." It also reflects his clients. "I have mostly owners and breeders as clients. Therefore, I get more fillies."

Clement's father, Miguel, was a leading trainer in France and Christophe grew up in the business, exercising horses for his father. His brother, Nicolas, is also a successful trainer in France and conditioned 1990 Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe winner Saumarez.

He spent summers at Chantilly, working for Alec and Christiane Head. He came to the United States in 1986 and went through a six-month intern program at Taylor Made Farm. Then he worked for trainer Shug McGaughey for a year and a half.

"He had horses like Personal Ensign and Polish Navy," Clement told *The Blood-Horse* about his tenure with McGaughey, "and I was trying to immerse myself completely because no matter how much knowledge you have in Europe, you have to learn it all over in the U.S."

Returning to Europe, he worked for trainer Luca Cumani at Newmarket as his top assistant for four years. He credits Cumani with teaching him the level of discipline necessary to be a Thoroughbred trainer.

By 1991, he was ready to strike out on his own in the U.S. He won his first race that year with Spectaculaire on Oct. 20 at Belmont and his first stakes with Paul de Moussac's Passagere du Soir (GB) in 1992.

He told *The Blood-Horse*: "Winning (the Grade 2 Gulfstream Park Budweiser Breeders' Cup) with Passagere du Soir was by far the most important in my career. Since she was a filly who beat colts, it helped me greatly to get noticed. That was when I started to get more and better American owners."

His next stakes winner was The Aga Khan's Sardaniya (Ire), who won the La Prevoyante Stakes (G2).

"It's been much easier for me because of my father. I had the right connections," he said.

And his connections have continued to pay off with imported fillies.

"There is a very small program for older mares in Europe as compared to here," he told *The Blood-Horse*. "A horse that can't get black type in Europe can usually get it here with a little bit of improvement, while one that has already earned black type there can have a strong career here."

One of those imported fillies who did well in the U.S. was Danish, winner in 1994 of the Queen Elizabeth II Challenge Cup, Clement's first stakes victory at Keeneland.

Clement won 75 races in 2001, when the stable stockpiled \$5,557,669 to rank him eighth among all trainers. He won stakes at 13 different tracks, from the West Coast to the East and from Canada to Florida with many intermediate stops. In 2000, his stable won 62 races and earned \$4.2 million to rank 17th nationally.

Among the high-profile horses in his stable in 2001 were Forbidden Apple, England's Legend, Voodoo Dancer and Penny's Gold. Forbidden Apple started only four times, winning two graded stakes and finishing second to Val Royal in the Breeders' Cup Mile (G1). England's Legend won three of six starts, including the Beverly D. (G1). Voodoo Dancer won four of seven starts, all stakes victories, and Penny's Gold won three stakes, two of which were graded.

All in all, Clement expressed satisfaction at his stable's showing in 2001. "I'm very pleased," he said. "I just hope we can do as well in 2002."

In 2002, his stable also ranked 11th by money earned, with \$4.8 million, while winning 80 races. His horses won stakes at 11 tracks and highlights included victories by Voodoo Dancer in the Palomar Handicap (G2); Julie Jalouse in the Orchid Handicap (G2); Fast Decision in the Withers Stakes (G3); England's Legend (Fr) in the Modesty Handicap (G3); Veil of Avalon in the De La Rose Handicap (G3); and Moon Queen (Ire) in The Very One Handicap (G3).

In 2003, his stable won 75 races and earned \$5,558,742, ranking him 11th again. He equaled his 2001 victory total and just barely topped his earnings that year, his previous best year, by about \$1,000. His horses won stakes at 13 tracks in 2003 and graded stakes at nine tracks. Highlights were provided by Voodoo Dancer, winner of the Diana Handicap (G1); Mariensky, who won the Sheepshead Bay Handicap (G2); and Grade 3 winners Dynever (Lone Star Derby); Amonita (GB) (Suwannee River); Dress to Thrill (All Along Breeders' Cup); Madeira Mist (Ire) (Dance Smartly); Volga (Ire) (Matchmaker); Sixty Seconds (NZ) (Glens Falls); and Derrienne (Martha Washington Breeders' Cup).

Other noteworthy horses Clement has trained over the years include Cox Orange, Trampoli, Blu Tusmani, Adam Smith, Lisieux Rose, Statesmanship, Flag Down and Honor Glide.

With his excellent European connections and impressive American results, continued success seems inevitable.

Clement agrees with trainer Andre Fabre: "He always said let the horses do the talking," he told *Daily Racing Form*. And that is precisely what both Frenchmen are doing.