



### William I. Mott

**Born:** July 29, 1953 in Mobridge, S.D.

**Resident:** Garden City, N.Y.; Hollywood, Fla.

**Family:** Tina Marie (wife), Brady and Riley (sons) and Olivia (daughter).

**Bill Mott's record at Keeneland**

**Total wins: 187**

**Stakes Wins (25)**

- Youngest person to be voted into the Racing Hall of Fame, at age 45, in 1998.
- Voted Eclipse Awards in 1995 and 1996 as outstanding trainer.
- Has developed five champions—Cigar, Horse of the Year in 1995 and 1996; champion turf males Theatrical (1987) and Paradise Creek (1994), champion 3-year-old filly Ajina (1997), and champion older female Escena (1998).
- Has won five Breeders' Cup races—the Classic, 1995, with Cigar; Turf, 1987 with Theatrical and 1992 with Fraise; and the Distaff, 1997 with Ajina and 1998 with Escena.
- Trained Cigar throughout his 16-race win streak and to single-season record earnings of \$4,910,000 in 1996 and a record-equaling eight Grade 1 victories in 1995.
- Won the Dubai World Cup with Cigar in 1996.
- Was the country's second-leading trainer by earnings from 1994-1996 and in 1998.
- Saddled four stakes winners at Pimlico on Preakness Day 1998—Richter Scale, Ajina, Acceptable and Yagli.
- Leading trainer at Keeneland four times (spring of 1995 and 2001 and the fall of 1981 and 1986). Saddled the winners of four races on April 9, 1995.
- Leading trainer at Churchill Downs nine times (spring 1982-1984, fall 1980-1981, 1983-1986).
- All-time leading trainer at Churchill Downs by number of wins and stakes wins.
- Has won nine training titles at Gulfstream Park, eight at Saratoga and 10 at Belmont Park.
- Ranks second at Keeneland by career stakes wins (25) and third in victories (187).
- Set a record for winners on a single card at Keeneland with four on April 9, 1995.

Being inducted into Racing's Hall of Fame at the youthful age of 45 in 1998 speaks volumes about the training skills and the achievements of Bill Mott.

His father, a veterinarian with whom he often made calls, introduced him to Thoroughbreds. "After watching him treat a variety of ailments, I knew that I wanted to spend my life working with horses," Mott recalled.

While still a high school student, he trained horses with money earned from the sale of cattle and pigs he raised. His first win was with My Assets, a \$320 mare whom he raced at unrecognized meetings in South Dakota. Maryjean Wall wrote in the *Lexington Herald-Leader* that Mott trained her "over the snowbanks in the morning hours before he went to school. The first spring weekend that there was racing, at a backcountry track named Ft. Pierre, Mott trailered her to the track himself and put her into a race. The times at Ft. Pierre and other South Dakota country tracks were part of a life Mott will never forget. 'I remember one time when My Assets won at Park Jefferson. The track was so deep that when she passed the finish line, she was so tired she laid down in the mud.'"

With purse earnings and savings, Mott bought Kosmic Tour for \$2,000 and won the South Dakota Futurity with his new acquisition. At 19, he went to work for trainer Bob

Irwin after losing his only horse in a claiming race. "That's really when I knew I had a lot to learn. He showed me an awful lot."

After three years, he joined Hall of Famer Jack Van Berg's operation, staying with him for several years until he went out on his own. He saddled his first stakes winner on Sept. 3, 1977 at Monmouth Park when Playin' Footsie won the Red Bank Handicap.

In the fall of 1980, Mott won the first of his nine trainers' titles at Churchill and went on to dominate the Louisville track throughout the 1980s. He is still the track's all-time leading trainer by races won and stakes victories.

In the fall of 1986, he began training for Bertram and Diana Firestone privately. In his first full year for them, the stable earned more than \$4 million. "Financially, it was the biggest break in my career," he said. "I had been doing well around the Midwest. It got me to New York on a regular basis. And, of course, we had Theatrical, who was a champion. I think that got me rolling. After that, when I needed to go back to the public stable, I already had five years of exposure in New York. So that helped an awful lot."

In 1992, the Firestones sold many of their horses and Mott assembled a powerful stable for clients such as Allen and Madeleine Paulson, who owned Cigar.

After a mediocre career on grass, Mott switched Cigar to the dirt and his extraordi-

nary streak of 16 straight wins began. Two Horse of the Year titles and record North American earnings resulted.

"I can't tell you how many times I remind the people who work for me just how special this is," he said. "It's like we've been chosen for some reason to be around this horse for this moment in time and we should never forget how fortunate we are."

Mott has topped the standings at Keeneland four times, including the spring of 2001, and ranks second to D. Wayne Lukas in stakes wins.

In 2002, he snagged his ninth title at the prestigious Gulfstream Park meet and finished second at Saratoga, where he had topped the standings for eight of the previous 10 years. His stable won 149 races and earned more than \$7.5 million, to rank sixth in the national standings. His graded stakes performers were Del Mar Show, People's Princess, Orchard Park, Ground Storm, Stylish, Miesque's Approval, Listen Here and Startac.

In 2003, he ranked seventh by earnings with \$6,866,320 and graded stakes winners were Stylish, Stroll, Delta Princess and Ebony Breeze.

His stable won 116 races in 2004 and ranked 13th by earnings with \$5,730,530. Highlights came with Stroll's victory in the Woodford Reserve Stakes (G1) and other graded victories by Silver Tree, Delmonico Cat, Ebony Breeze and Cool Conductor.

In 2005, his stable ranked sixth by earnings with \$9.3. Grade 1 winners were Sand Springs (Diana), Gun Salute (Secretariat), Sweet Symphony (Alabama) and Shakespeare (Joe Hirsch Turf Classic Invitational), while Delta Princess, Beacon Shine, Seeking Slew, Wend, Noisette, Miss Fortunate, Silver Tree and My Typhoon (Ire) also won graded stakes.

Last year, he ranked eighth with \$7,831,106 in earnings. Angara provided the only Grade 1 win in the Diana, but there were plenty of other graded winners in his barn—Got the Last Laugh, Old Forester, Pommes Frites, My Typhoon (Ire), After Market, Quite a Bride, Go Between, Union Avenue, Ebony Breeze, Around the Cape, Taittinger Rose, Wend, Splendid Blended and Silver Whistle.

Equineline.com credited him with 241 stakes winners, 3,525 victories and earnings of \$154,990,513 through Jan. 9, 2007.

At Mott's induction into the Hall of Fame, Jack Van Berg said: "I wouldn't have missed this if I had to walk all the way from California. When I watch what Billy's doing, I bloom everyday. He's a superior horseman, and like I keep telling everybody, if you're raising a child, you'd want him to grow up and be just like Billy."