



Dale Romans

Born: Aug. 14, 1966 in Louisville, Ky.

Resident: Louisville, Ky.

Family: Tammy Fox (wife); Bailey (daughter) and Jacob (son).

Dale Roman's record at Keeneland

Total wins: 80

Stakes Wins (4)

- Won his 1,000th race on June 14, 2006 at Churchill Downs with C F O Lite.
- Trained 2004 champion turf male Kitten's Joy.
- Won the 2005 Dubai World Cup with Roses in May.
- Finished in the Top 10 in earnings in 2004 with a career-best \$7 million.
- Won the 2006 spring and 2005 spring and fall meet titles at Churchill. Previously won the 2003 spring and fall titles, and tied with Bernie Flint (spring of 2001); D. Wayne Lukas (spring of 2000); and Tom Amoss (1992 spring).
- Two-time leading trainer at Keeneland—fall of 2001 and 2002.
- Won 2005 Lane's End Breeders' Futurity (G1) with Dawn of War.
- Leading trainer at Turfway Park (1988 winter-spring meet) and (2003 holiday meet in a tie).
- Won three consecutive races on Turfway Park's card of Dec. 10, 2003.

Veteran trainer Dale Romans experienced his best year ever in 2004 with Eclipse Award-winning Kitten's Joy and Eclipse finalist Roses in May in his barn plus his highest earnings to date.

"I think it was a great year," he said in January of 2005. "Things just came together. Hopefully, we can build on it this year."

The stars of his stable of some 60 horses that year were Kitten's Joy, who won six stakes including the Joe Hirsch Turf Classic Invitational (G1) and the Secretariat (G1), and Roses in May, winner of the Whitney (G1) and two other stakes. Kitten's Joy then finished second in the Breeders' Cup Turf (G1) and Roses in May finished second in the Classic (G1). They were his first Breeders' Cup starters.

In addition, Romans also won a pair of Grade 2 races with Halory Leigh (the Churchill Downs Distaff and Falls City) and the Gardenia Handicap (G3) with Angela's Love. Also winning stakes were Strike Rate, Red's Honor, Added Edge and On the Bus. His stable won 109 races and earned \$7,081,653. (The victory total was his second-highest after the 113 races his stable won in 2003.)

In 2005, Roses in May won the Dubai World Cup and Kitten's Joy the Firecracker Breeders' Cup Handicap (G2) before both were retired. Dawn of War surfaced to win the Breeders' Futurity and Added Edge the Razorback Breeders' Cup Handicap (G3). Other stakes winners were Angela's Love, My Ro, M B Sea, On the Bus, Sharp Humor, Wiggins, Spotless Mind and Everything to Gain. He swept both titles at Churchill Downs and his horses combined to earn \$4.4 million to rank 16th.

Last year, Romans saddled the 1,000th winner of his career on June 14 at Churchill when C F O Lite won the third race. He won graded races with Sharp Humor (the Swale), Bright One (West Virginia Derby) and Joint Effort (the La Troienne and Dogwood

Breeders' Cup) and other stakes with On the Bus, Half Heaven and Wiggins. The stable won 134 races and earned \$5,282,714 to rank 15th. He and the Ramsey family split during the year and he told Daily Racing Form he would be rebuilding his stable in Florida over the winter.

Romans worked for his father, the late trainer Jerry Romans, "from the time I could walk," he said. "I did everything and was his assistant the last couple of years I worked for him."

The Louisville native took out his first trainer's license at age 18. "From the time I was eight, this was about all I ever wanted to do. My Dad thought it would be a good career for me."

Jerry Romans lived long enough to see his son become a success. A trainer on the Kentucky circuit for nearly 35 years, he was the leading trainer at Ellis Park twice and at Turfway Park once. He died in November of 2000.

But Dale's father was not his only teacher. During the winter of 1986, the young Romans went to Florida with the intention of working for Hall of Fame trainer Woody Stephens. He did just that for four months at Hialeah while observing how things were done.

He told *Daily Racing Form*: "It was a very useful experience. He does things in a general way that people do here. The greatest difference, though, is the attention to detail he gave everything. Nothing was taken for granted, and it's helped me immensely."

Romans won his first race on Feb. 15, 1987, at Turfway Park with a horse named Miss Mindy, whom he had purchased for \$1,500. He proceeded to win three in a row with the filly before she was claimed from him.

A year later, his father decided to take a little time off and allowed Dale to put the horses in his own name. He responded by winning his first trainers' title.

Four years later, he saddled his first stakes winner, Morning Punch, to win the Florence Stakes at Turfway Park.

"That was an exciting day," he said. "I thought he'd be the best horse I'd ever have. I'm glad there have been better ones since."

In 1994, he won three stakes during Turfway's winter-spring meet, two with Cold Execution and one with Nowi'veseenitall.

Romans won his first stakes at Keeneland in 1993 when Little Shocker scored in the Indian Summer. In the fall of 2001, he added a second—Handsome Hunk in the Fort Springs—while earning his first training title.

At Churchill, Romans saddled his first stakes winner in 1997 with B.A. Valentine in the Providian Mile and added two stakes with her the following year—in the Mint Julep and Cardinal handicaps.

In 2001, Romans saddled the filly Open Story for a dead-heat victory in the Three Chimneys Juvenile Stakes. He had purchased her for \$60,000 at the Ocala Breeders' February sale on behalf of Ron McKee.

Another stakes winner Romans trained for McKee was Roza Robata, winner of the Pimlico Distaff Handicap (G3) in 2000. Romans advised McKee to purchase her at the 1998 Keeneland November sale for \$150,000. The mare won four stakes and earned more than \$730,000 during her racing career.

Romans also won three stakes at Hoosier Park in 2001 with McKee's Red's Honor and he won the Holiday Cheer with Dancing Missile, the Awad with Monsieur Cat, and The Very One with My Sweet Westly.

One of the earlier highlights of his career was being tied with Lukas during the 2000 Churchill spring meet "when my Dad was really sick," he said.

In 2002, Romans won his second straight Keeneland fall meet title, with eight wins and earnings of \$306,639, and his second consecutive title at Churchill's spring meeting.

Based at Churchill, Romans sends strings to Gulfstream Park in the winter and to Saratoga in the summer.

In 2003, he won the Appleton (G2) with Point Prince, the Fayette (G3) with M B Sea, the Don Bernhardt Memorial with Dubai Sheikh and the Holiday Inaugural with Halory Leigh. He had claimed Halory Leigh for \$75,000 at Churchill.

Additionally, Romans swept both Churchill titles in the spring and fall of 2003, becoming the first trainer since D. Wayne Lukas in 1996 to accomplish that feat.

Romans, who is married to jockey Tammy Fox, also has trained stakes winners Golden Oriental, Human Missile, Sudden Death, Victor Avenue, Repletion and Sweeping Story.

At Churchill, he occupies Barn 4, which his father had for many years, as well as Barn 5. "Dad lived long enough to see the stable come around. I'm sitting in his office right now," he said proudly in the fall of 2003.

Through Jan. 9, 2007, Equineline.com had him with 49 stakes winners, 1,062 wins and earnings of \$42,122,381.

