



## Dallas Stewart

**Born:** Sept. 15, 1959 in McComb, Miss.  
**Resident:** Louisville, Ky.  
**Family:** Yvette (wife), Wesley and Cole (sons).

**Dallas Stewart's record at Keeneland**  
**Total wins: 69**  
**Stakes Wins (5)**

- Won Breeders' Cup Distaff (G1) in 2001 with Unbridled Elaine.
- Won 2006 Kentucky Oaks (G1) with Lemons Forever.
- Leading trainer at the 2000 Keeneland spring meet.
- Tied for second with Bernie Flint during the Keeneland fall 2001 meet.
- Saddled three winners at Keeneland on April 9, 2000.

"I had one of the best jobs that anybody could ask for," he said of his assistant trainer's position with Lukas. "It really is something to be around horses like the ones we had. It was a lot of hard work, for sure. But it sure was a whole lot of fun, too."

There was just one thing wrong with having one of the best jobs in racing. It had been Stewart's dream to erase the word assistant from the job title. In the fall of 1997, after 11 years with Team Lukas, he set out on his own.

"When you leave a stable like Lukas', you give up a lot," he said not long after starting out on his own. "You don't have the number of great horses. You don't have a lot of the extras. But I wouldn't change one thing. The reason I worked so hard every single day for the past 11 years, was to prepare myself for this. I tried to learn every day so that I would be ready for my chance when it came. It was on-the-job training and I wanted to get better and better.

"I don't know if I was truly ready or not. But I was ready to give it a shot. I was ready to work as hard as it took for as long as it took to make it."

When Stewart was just a kid, growing up in New Orleans, he fell in love with horses almost by accident.

His family wasn't in the Thoroughbred business. But his grandfather had some horses and kept a small stable. One day, his grandfather put him on a horse's back and gave him some pointers on riding.

"I developed an interest in horses when I was about 12," he said.

"I fell in love with riding. I wanted to go out there and ride all the time. It was the greatest thing in the world to me."

His grandfather gave him a horse to train and he prepared it to run in match races in Mississippi.

While still in high school, Stewart started galloping racehorses. His first job, he said, was with Connie Tassistro, for whom he galloped horses and worked as a groom.

"As soon as I got out of high school, I went to the racetrack in New Orleans and got a job galloping horses. It was what I liked. I loved being around the horses."

Stewart held a variety of jobs at the racetrack, including working as a valet in the jockeys' room.

"I love the game," he said. "I like training by far the best of the various jobs I've had."

In 1986, after galloping horses one morning, Stewart approached Randy Bradshaw, who headed Lukas' barn in Louisiana.

"I introduced myself to Randy Bradshaw and asked him about the possibility of a job. It was perfect timing. They were looking for somebody and I got my chance. I can't tell you how valuable the experience was. Once you get involved and prove that you will work hard, there are opportunities to learn. And I wanted to learn."

In 1992, Stewart was named Lukas' top assistant in Kentucky. Three years later, the responsibilities of running the stables in Florida and Saratoga were added.

Team Lukas had a fabulous run from 1994-1996 with its six straight wins in Triple Crown races.

"You get to be around some of the top horses in the world," Stewart said of working for Lukas. "You get a true understanding of how to treat horses and the business part of it. And, you get to learn how to deal with the owners. There's a lot of pressure involved, but it was a great experience working for Wayne."

After Stewart's departure, Lukas found out he was looking for a lead pony. He called Stewart and told him he had forgotten something—the lead pony he had ridden while with Lukas.

"Working with Wayne is parallel to working with a (Vince) Lombardi," he was quoted as saying in *The Courier-Journal*. "He's a living legend. I've picked up a lot of great things from working with Wayne Lukas. They can only help me in the future."

Before long, Willis Horton, owner of Horton Stables, Cot Campbell, president of Dogwood Stables, John Gunther, and others contacted Stewart to train for them and his string of horses quickly rose from the original 12.

From Churchill, he typically goes to Fair Grounds for the winter, then on to Keeneland, Churchill, Saratoga and through Kentucky on his way back to New Orleans.

"Hard work is the key to my success," he said. "I want to have a successful operation. I'd like to win the Kentucky Derby."

Stewart's wife, Yvette, does the book-keeping for the stable, in addition to caring for their two sons.

He saddled his first stakes winner in 1997 when Rod and Staff won the Prairie Bayou Stakes at Turfway Park. The following year, he won eight stakes, including the Fort Springs at Keeneland with Color of Smoke and the Turfway Prevue with Kimberlite Pipe. In 1999, Kimberlite Pipe won the Louisiana Derby (G2) and finished sixth in the Kentucky Derby.

Stewart won his first training title in 2000, at the Keeneland spring meet. His stakes performers during the year included Dollar Bill, who won the Brown & Williamson Kentucky Jockey Club Stakes (G2) at Churchill.

In 2001, his stabled earned more than \$3.8 million, topped by Unbridled Elaine's big payday for winning the Breeders' Cup Distaff. He also won two graded events with Nasty Storm—the Churchill Downs Distaff Handicap (G2) and Dogwood Stakes (G3). He co-owned Nasty Storm with former University of Louisville basketball coach Denny Crum and bloodstock agent Reiley McDonald.

In 2002, Stewart won the Gallant Bloom Handicap (G2) at Belmont Park with Nasty Storm and other stakes with Sweet Nanette, Kazoo and Sainly Look. The following year, Sainly Look won the Lecomte Stakes (G3) and Stewart also won the Mardi Gras Handicap at Fair Grounds with Even the Score and the Perryville Stakes at Keeneland with Clock Stopper.

In 2004, he saddled Silverfoot to win the Louisville Handicap (G3); Molto Vita to win two stakes, including the Thoroughbred Club of America (G3); Storm Surge for a pair of stakes, including the Sugar Bowl Stakes; and Crimson Stag to win the Louisiana Champions Day Juvenile. Clock Stopper, despite not winning a stakes, placed in four graded events. His stable won 49 races and earned \$2,170,555.

Stewart won graded races in 2005 with Clock Stopper (Commonwealth Breeders' Cup), Silverfoot (Kentucky Cup Turf and Louisville handicaps), Storm Surge (Lecomte) and Cape Hope (Herecomesthebride). Other stakes winners in the barn were Crimson Stag, Hot Storm and Molto Vita. His runners earned nearly \$3 million.

Last year's 57 victories were highlighted by Lemons Forever winning the Kentucky Oaks. Hot Storm added four stakes victories and Silverfoot won the Louisville Handicap (G3). His stable earned \$3,085,353. Lemons Forever and Silverfoot will remain in training for 2007 and Clock Stopper returned to racing in November after 19 months away due to a bowed tendon.

Through Jan. 9, 2007, he had trained 25 stakes winners, won 509 races and the earners of \$24,939,487, according to EquineLine.com.