



Robby Albarado

Born: Sept. 11, 1973 in Lafayette, La.

Robby Albarado's record at Keeneland

Total wins: 414

Stakes wins: 44

- Won his first Triple Crown race and first Breeders' Cup race in 2007, both aboard Curlin.
- Ranked second nationally by earnings in 2007 with \$19,399,249.
- Eclipse Award finalist for leading jockey in 2007 and 2008.
- Won 2008 Dubai World Cup (G1) on Curlin.
- Won Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies Turf in 2009 aboard Tapitsfly.
- Voted the 2004 George Woolf Memorial Jockey Award.
- Won his 4,000th race on May 30, 2009, at Churchill Downs aboard Keertana.
- Won his 3,000th race on Dec. 9, 2004, at Fair Grounds on Isle of Silver, and his 2,000th at Keeneland on April 20, 2000.
- Won four Keeneland riding crowns—2002-'03 spring and 2008-'09 fall meets.
- Won seven riding crowns at Fair Grounds, most recently 2008-09.
- Won riding titles at Churchill Downs (spring of 2008), Arlington (1996) and Oaklawn (1996 and 1997); finished in the Top 5 at Fair Grounds, Keeneland and Churchill in 2010.
- Won his first Grade 1 race at Keeneland aboard Banshee Breeze in the 1998 Three Chimneys Spinster Stakes.
- Won four Grade 1 races with Horses of the Year Mineshaft in 2003 and Curlin in 2008.
- Ranks fourth by career stakes wins at Keeneland with 44 and third by total wins with 414.
- Became the eighth rider to reach 800 wins at Churchill Downs on April 30, 2009.

Robby Albarado had by far his most lucrative season in 2007, winning 253 races and ranking second in earnings with nearly \$19.4 million. He won his first classic, the Preakness (G1), and first Breeders' Cup race, the Classic (G1), both with Horse of the Year Curlin. And he was an Eclipse Award finalist for top jockey.

Among his 40 stakes victories were 21 graded events that also included the Jockey Club Gold Cup (G1), Arlington Million (G1), Stephen Foster (G1), and, at Keeneland, the Coolmore Lexington (G2) and Lexus Raven Run (G2).

He continued as the regular partner of the brilliant Curlin in 2008, as they won four additional Grade 1 races—the Dubai World Cup, Stephen Foster, Woodward and Jockey Club Gold Cup—and Curlin repeated as Horse of the Year. Albarado won three other Grade 1 races during the year, the Darley Alcibiades on Dream Empress and Shadwell Turf Mile with Thorn Song, both at Keeneland, and the Woodford Reserve Turf Classic at Churchill aboard Einstein (BRZ). He won 250 races in North America, including 22 graded stakes, and his mounts earned almost \$14.2 million to rank eighth. Counting his two wins in Dubai aboard Curlin, his earnings reached \$17,840,917, behind only Garrett Gomez.

Albarado won the riding title at Churchill that spring and at Keeneland in the fall and was an Eclipse Award finalist for leading jockey for the second time.

He established a foundation bearing his name in 2008 (robbyalbaradofoundation.org), which has made donations to the Louisville-based Coalition for the Homeless, the Louisville Metro Parks and to Father Maloney's Boys' Haven. In 2010, the Breeders' Cupcake was created in conjunction with a Louisville bakery and the Breeders' Cup to benefit the foundation.

In 2009, he recorded his second Breeders' Cup victory, in the Juvenile Fillies Turf on Tapitsfly, and also won the Stephen Foster (G1) with Macho

Again, the Shadwell Turf Mile (G1) with Court Vision, the Joe Hirsch Turf Classic Invitational with Interpatation and the Spinaway on Hot Dixie Chick. He captured his seventh riding title at Fair Grounds and scored career win No. 4,000 on May 30 at Churchill Downs. For the year, he won 204 races and his mounts earned \$11.5 million to rank ninth.

Last season, Albarado won 176 races and ranked eighth with earnings of \$10.27 million. His stakes successes included the Gulfstream Park Turf Handicap (G1) and the Woodbine Mile (Can-G1) aboard Court Vision. Other graded wins included the Fair Grounds Oaks (G2) with Quiet Temper, the Coolmore Lexington Stakes (G2) on Exhi and the Chilukki Stakes (G2) on Distinctive Dixie. He had the unusual distinction during the year of having his mounts in both the Kentucky Derby (Endorsement) and Preakness (Hurricane Ike) scratched in the week leading up to the two races.

Several years ago, he told *Daily Racing Form*: "I was raised on the farm of a neighbor of ours, S.J. LeBlanc, who started a lot of boys out riding. I was nine years old then, and for the first few years, Mr. LeBlanc had me hot walking, mucking stalls and then galloping horses."

In another *Racing Form* interview, he said: "When I was 10 years old, I was small. It was always my goal to ride. Shelton LeBlanc (was) a powerful trainer in south Louisiana. He started to put me on horses when I was 10. He helped me with all the basics, and really got me started."

At 12, he began riding in match races at Abbeville, La., and by 16, he was riding at Evangeline Downs where such well-known riders as Eddie Delahoussaye, Calvin Borel, Larry Melancon and Kent Desormeaux started out. His father also had been a race-rider at the bush tracks.

Albarado rode his first winner in 1990 at Evangeline Downs aboard One Little Point. "I'd been riding for three or four years prior to that at

the bush tracks. I got the basics down. I thought I knew everything, but I'm still learning."

He continued riding at Evangeline and Delta Downs before moving to Louisiana Downs and Fair Grounds in 1993. He finished third in the 1993-'94 Fair Grounds standings and second in the 1994-'95 Fair Grounds meet as his mounts earned more than \$1 million. He was on his way.

His first stakes win came in 1993 aboard Tuck's Honey Bear in the Grady Madden Memorial; first graded win with Snake Eyes in the 1995 Stars and Stripes and first Grade 1 win in 1998 on Joyeux Danseur in the Early Times Turf Classic.

"I can't say that I modeled my style after other riders," he said, "but I learned a lot by watching guys like Curt Bourque and Calvin Borel. I like the way they sat on horses, how they used a long cross on the reins and sat still, getting their horses to relax before finishing strong."

When several of the top Louisiana trainers began venturing to Kentucky, Albarado decided he needed to do likewise.

After relocating to Louisville, he finished second in the standings at the 1998 Keeneland spring meet. His four stakes wins included the Coolmore Lexington (G2) with Classic Cat. In the fall, he finished second again, adding three more stakes victories to his record, including the Spinster (G1) with Banshee Breeze.

In 1999, he ranked eighth nationally in purses won with nearly \$10.8 million, and the following year, though he missed more than two months because of serious injuries, his mounts still earned more than \$8.3 million to rank him among the top 15 riders. His first child, son Kaden, also arrived in 2000, brightening his spirits.

In 2001, he finished ninth nationally in purses won and 14th in races won, with \$10,631,669 and 272, respectively. In 2002, Albarado won his first riding title in Kentucky, at Keeneland's spring meet. By year-end, he ranked 12th by money won (\$10.1 million) and 11th by races won (270).

The following year, he was the regular rider of multiple Grade 1 winner Mineshaft, owned by former British Ambassador Will Farish and partners. "He was absolutely the best horse I've ever ridden," Albarado said of Mineshaft at the time.

Not only did he have the good fortune of riding the nation's Horse of the Year that year, but he and his wife Kimber added a second son to their family, Kash, who was born on Nov. 16, 2003.

"Little ones are the most important things of all," the proud father said. (A daughter, Larkin, arrived in 2007.)

Albarado was voted the 2004 George Woolf Memorial Jockey Award. That year, he ranked 13th by earnings with \$10.37 million. Grade 1 wins came aboard Stellar Jayne (Mother Goose and Gazelle) and Nothing to Lose (Shadwell Turf Mile). Other highlights included a fifth riding crown at Fair Grounds and graded wins in the Pennsylvania Derby and Ben Ali Handicap.

In 2005, he scored Grade 1 victories aboard America Alive in the Woodford Reserve Turf Classic and Shadow Cast in the Personal Ensign. He won 14 other graded races during the year, including three at Keeneland, and earned his sixth riding title at Fair Grounds. At year-end he ranked 11th by earnings with \$10.7 million.

In 2006, Albarado won 11 graded races, including the Super Derby (G2) aboard Strong Contender and the Jefferson Cup (G2) on Brilliant. He ranked 13th by earnings for the year with \$9,858,290.