



### Kieran McLaughlin

**Born:** Nov. 16, 1960 in Lexington, Ky.

#### Kieran McLaughlin's record at Keeneland

**Total wins: 34**  
**Stakes wins: 9**

- Trainer of 2006 Horse of the Year and champion older male Invasor (ARG), who gave him his first Breeders' Cup victory that year in the Classic (G1).
- Won 2007 Emirates Airline Dubai World Cup (G1) with Invasor.
- Won 2007 Emirates Airline Breeders' Cup Filly & Mare Turf (G1) with Lahudood (GB).
- Trained Eclipse Award winner Lahudood (female turf) and finalist Invasor in 2007.
- Won 2006 Belmont Stakes (G1) with Jazil.
- Leading trainer at Saratoga in 2008.
- Won two Grade 1 races at Keeneland in 2008 - the Queen Elizabeth II Challenge Cup with Alwajeaha and the Ashland with Little Belle.
- Won 2007 Hill 'n' Dale Cigar Mile (G1) with Daaher.
- Won 2007 Stephen Foster Handicap (G1) with Flashy Bull.
- Eclipse finalist for leading trainer in 2006 and '07.
- Leading trainer at Nad Al Sheba in Dubai three times - 1994-95, 1995-96 and 2002-03.
- Shipped Dumaani to Japan in 1995 and won the \$1.5 million Keio Hai Spring Cup at odds of 56-1.

Counting the \$3.6 million winner's purse from Invasor's 2007 Dubai World Cup victory, Kieran McLaughlin finished third by earnings, with \$12,905,403. Excluding it, he still ranked eighth with \$9.3 million, either figure a career-best.

Invasor won the Donn Handicap (G1) in February and the World Cup in late March but unfortunately was retired in June after fracturing a sesamoid bone. Even having made just two starts, he was still a finalist for another Eclipse Award, having been Horse of the Year in 2006.

"I'm always one to look at the glass as half full," McLaughlin said the morning after the injury. "I have to be thankful and feel privileged for being the trainer of record of Invasor. He meant a great deal to my life and my family's life."

After Invasor's win in the Dubai World Cup, McLaughlin said: "That was a fabulous day; it was like having a great year in one day. After spending 10 years in Dubai with the Maktoum family, it doesn't get much better than to win the World Cup."

Other stars in his '07 stable were Eclipse Award champion Lahudood, winner of the Flower Bowl Invitational (G1) in addition to the Breeders' Cup Filly & Mare Turf; Flashy Bull, who won the Stephen Foster; Lear's Princess, who won the Gazelle (G1); Daaher, who won the Cigar Mile; and Shakespeare, who won the Woodbine Mile.

In addition to an Eclipse winner and a finalist in his shedrow, he himself was a finalist for top trainer for the second year in a row. Sheikh Hamdan's Shadwell Farm, owner of Invasor and Lahudood, won the Eclipse Award for top owner.

McLaughlin won his first North American training title at Saratoga in the summer of 2008. He won Grade 1 races with Little Belle (the Ashland), Alwajeaha (Queen Elizabeth II Challenge Cup) and

Divine Park (Metropolitan Handicap). Other graded victories were provided by Golden Velvet, Lucky Island (ARG), Cowgirls Don't Cry, Genuine Devotion (IRE), Habaya, Stream of Gold (IRE), Carolyn's Cat, Albraaj, the ill-fated Shakis (IRE), Charitable Man and Wow Me Free. His stable ranked eighth again nationally, with earnings of \$8.1 million.

Albertus Maximus, winner of the '08 Breeders' Cup Dirt Mile, joined his stable and captured the 2009 Donn (G1) while Seventh Street won the Apple Blossom (G1). In all, the stable won 113 races and collected \$6,983,433 to rank sixth. Other graded winners were Justwhistledixie, Dream Play, Mr. Fantasy, Charitable Man, Carolyn's Cat, Florentino (JPN), Justenuffhumor, Etched, Brave Tin Soldier and Eye of Taurus. (Bluegrass Princess and Eye of Taurus won divisions of the Pin Oak Valley View (G3) in the fall, but Bluegrass Princess was later disqualified due to a medication positive.)

During 2010, his stable won 104 races at a 24 percent clip and earned \$5,863,788 to rank 11th. Leading the way were Redding Colliery, winner of three stakes including the Hawthorne Gold Cup (G2); Etched, winner of the Monmouth Cup (G2); and Grade 3 winners Taqarub, Krypton, Soldat, Lethal Combination, Eye of Taurus and Yankee Fortune.

Born in Lexington, Ky., McLaughlin's career with Thoroughbreds began as a youngster. Although his family had no connection with racing, his best friend, Greg Burchell, was the son of trainer James Burchell, and his first job was as a hotwalker. He attended the University of Kentucky before deciding he was more interested in the racetrack. Moving up to groom, foreman and assistant trainer for Burchell, Mark Casse, John Hennig (later to become his father-in-law), Dave Kassen and Tim

Muckler, he received his first big break when he joined the staff of Hall of Fame trainer D. Wayne Lukas as an assistant trainer in January 1985.

"Working for Wayne was my biggest break," he explains. "His whole philosophy, his work ethic, his organizational skills are second to none."

After spending a short stint (1992 to '93) as a jockey agent for the late Chris Antley, he was approached about becoming a trainer for the Maktoum family in 1993.

"Nowadays, you Google 'Dubai' and you get millions of hits," he said. "But back then, I actually had to go to the Garden City (N.Y.) public library to physically look it up. That's how unknown it was. When I went out there to interview, even with hardly anything built and no roads or buildings, I had an understanding of where they were going and what they were doing."

He spent the next 10 years, shuttling back and forth between Dubai and New York, working for Sheikh Mohammed and Sheikh Hamdan and winning three training titles at Nad Al Sheba.

Like his association with Lukas, his relationship with the Maktoums served as another step in boosting McLaughlin into the upper echelon of trainers.

In April 1995, he won his first major race when he shipped Dumaani to win the Keio Hai Spring Cup in Japan. Dumaani also won the 1995 and '96 Keeneland Breeders' Cup, giving McLaughlin his first two stakes victories at Keeneland.

Diagnosed with multiple sclerosis in 1998, he takes daily medication to combat it and is an active advocate for the disease. He was honored as the MS Champion by the National Multiple Sclerosis Society's Kentucky-Southeast Indiana chapter at its 2006 Dinner of Champions fundraiser.

His only obvious symptom is a roll in his walk. "I wouldn't buy me as a yearling," he jokes.

With his children, Erin and Ryan, getting older, he decided in 2003 that it was time to return to the United States with the blessing of the Maktoum family. He set up a public stable and won his first Grade 1 race in the U.S. that year when Lunar Sovereign won the Man o' War (G1). In 2005, he nearly pulled off a huge upset in the Kentucky Derby (G1), as 71-1 shot Closing Argument finished a half-length behind Giacomo.

Working with his brother, Neal, and assistant Art Magnuson, McLaughlin's horses have been making their presence felt. In 2003, the stable earned nearly \$3.16 million; in 2004, \$5.5 million to rank 15th; in 2005, nearly \$3.9 million to rank 20th, and in 2006, he ranked fifth with earnings of \$8,499,166.

In 2006, his graded stakes winners, in addition to Invasor and Jazil, were Dynamite Lass (The Very One Handicap), Like Now (Gotham), Henny Hughes (Jersey Shore Breeders' Cup) and Day Pass (Nashua).

He was voted the C.V. Whitney Award by the New York Turf Writers Association in 2006 and was co-recipient of the Red Smith "Good Guy" Award. He was also selected to be the first recipient of the "BEST Horseman of the Year" award by the Backstretch Employee Service Team, which provides health and other services to workers at Aqueduct, Belmont and Saratoga.