



William I. Mott

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

Bill Mott's record at Keeneland

Total wins: 240

Stakes wins: 34

- Youngest person to be voted into the Racing Hall of Fame, at age 45, in 1998.
- Received Eclipse Awards in 1995 and 1996 as outstanding trainer.
- Developed five champions—Cigar, Horse of the Year in 1995-'96; turf males Theatrical (IRE) in 1987 and Paradise Creek in 1994; 3-year-old filly Ajina in 1997; older female Escena in 1998.
- Won six Breeders' Cup races—the Classic (G1), 1995 with Cigar; the Turf (G1), 1987 with Theatrical (IRE) and 1992 with Fraise; and the Distaff/Ladies' Classic (G1), 1997 with Ajina, 1998 with Escena and 2010 with Unrivaled Belle.
- 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 his first classic race in 2010—the Belmont Stakes (G1) with Drosselmeyer.
- Won the Dubai World Cup with Cigar in 1996.
- Won the 4,000th race of his career on Aug. 7, 2010 at Saratoga with Mystic in the seventh race.
- 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 six times (spring of 1995, 2001 and 2009, fall of 1981, 1986 and 2007). Ranks second at Keeneland by career stakes wins (34) and victories (237).
- Set a record for winners on a single card at Keeneland with four on April 9, 1995.
- All-time leading trainer at Churchill Downs by number of wins and stakes wins. Nine times the leading trainer (spring 1982-1984, fall 1980-1981, 1983-1986).
- Leading trainer at Gulfstream Park (nine times), Saratoga (nine times) and Belmont Park (10 times).
- Won two Grade 1 races at Keeneland in 2009--the Maker's Mark Mile (Mr. Sidney) and the Juddmonte Spinster (Mushka).

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

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 trainer 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, improving the latter total to 75 with Indescribable's win in the Cardinal Handicap (G3) in November.

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 extraordinary streak of 16 straight wins began. Two Horse of the Year titles and record North American earnings resulted (since surpassed by Curlin).

Mott has topped the standings at Keeneland six times, including the spring of 2009, and ranks second to D. Wayne Lukas in stakes wins and overall 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, Mott 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.

Mott's stable ranked sixth by earnings in 2005 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.

The following year, the stable 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, Pommies Frites, My Typhoon, After Market, Quite a Bride, Go Between, Union Avenue, Ebony Breeze, Around the Cape, Taittinger Rose, Wend, Splendid Blended and Silver Whistle.

In 2007, Mott's stable ranked 12th by wins (156) and fifth by earnings (nearly \$9.5 million). The 45 stakes victories by his stable included the Hopeful (G1) with Majestic Warrior and the Diana (G1) with My Typhoon (IRE). Other graded winners were Silver Tree, High Again, Sweet Fervor, Sharp Susan, Marcavelly, Quite a Bride, Lattice, Istan, Classic Campaign, Court Vision, Go Between, Mushka and Z Humor.

The following year, his stable won Grade 1 races with Court Vision in the Hollywood Derby; Go Between in the Pacific Classic and Dynaforce in the Flower Bowl Invitational, as well as graded races with Indescribable, Adriano and Silver Tree. He also won three stakes on Sunshine Millions Day—the Filly & Mare Turf and the Classic at Santa Anita and the Turf Stakes at Gulfstream. His runners combined for 120 victories and earnings of \$10.3 million to rank fifth.

Mott saddled 116 winners in 2009 and the earners of \$7,957,370 to rank fourth nationally. In addition to the Grade 1 victories at Keeneland in the Maker's Mark Mile with Mr. Sidney and the Juddmonte Spinster with Mushka, he also won the Beverly D. (G1) with Dynaforce and graded stakes with Hold Me Back, Dress Rehearsal (IRE), Stormalory, Indescribable, Courageous Cat and Al Khali. Late in the year, Juddmonte Farms announced that Mott would begin training the majority of its U.S. runners.

He won his first classic race - the Belmont - in 2010 with Drosselmeyer and sixth Breeders' Cup race - the Ladies' Classic with Unrivaled Belle. He also won four Grade 1 races with Proviso (GB) - the Frank E. Kilroe Mile, the Just a Game, the Diana Handicap and the Abu Dhabi First Lady Stakes - plus graded stakes with Courageous Cat, Changing Skies (IRE), Treat Gently, Hold Me Back (in Canada), Al Khali and To Honor and Serve. The stable earned \$8.8 million to rank fifth. Another highlight for Mott was winning the 4,000th race of his career in August at Saratoga. By year-end, he ranked fourth all-time in North American earnings with \$188,980,231.