



Todd Pletcher

Born: June 26, 1967 in Dallas, Texas

Todd Pletcher's record at Keeneland

Total wins: 93

Stakes Wins (21)

- Won his fourth straight Eclipse Award for outstanding trainer in 2007.
- Leading trainer by earnings for the fourth consecutive year in 2007, when he set a record for earnings of \$28.1 million.
- Set records for graded stakes wins (57) and stakes wins in a year (100) in 2006.
- Won his first Triple Crown race in 2007—the Belmont (G1)—with the filly Rags to Riches.
- Has won three Breeders' Cup races—2007 Turf (G1) with English Channel, and the 2004 Distaff (G1) with Ashado and Sprint (G1) with Speightstown.
- Trainer of Canadian champion Archer's Bay (1998), and Eclipse winners Left Bank (2002), Ashado (2004-2005), Speightstown (2004), Fleet Indian and Wait a While (2006) and Rags to Riches, English Channel (2007) and Lawyer Ron.
- Suspended from Dec. 27, 2006 to Feb. 10, 2007 for a medication violation in 2004 in New York.
- Won his 2,000th race on Jan. 13, 2008, at Santa Anita.
- Has been leading trainer at Saratoga (6 times), Belmont Park (nine times), Aqueduct (twice), Keeneland (spring 2005), Monmouth (2007) and Gulfstream (three times, including 2007).
- Ranks fourth at Keeneland in career stakes wins with 21.

The Todd Pletcher juggernaut continues unabated. For the last four years, he has won the Eclipse Award for outstanding trainer and led all trainers by earnings for the last four. In 2007, he broke his own record for earnings with \$28,111,697, even though he served a suspension until Feb. 10. He also ranked third by number of wins with.

Highlights of 2007 were clearly his first classic victory with Rags to Riches in the Belmont as she became the first filly to win the race in 102 years. And he added a third Breeders' Cup triumph with English Channel in the Turf. With 54 individual stakes winners, his runners won 91 stakes, of which 55 were graded and 16 were Grade 1s. Other noteworthy victories included the Coaching Club American Oaks (Octave), Whitney and Woodward (Lawyer Ron), Juddmonte Spinster (Panty Raid), Kentucky Oaks (Rags to Riches), Florida Derby (Scat Daddy) and Haskell Invitational (Any Given Saturday). His three champions in one year—Lawyer Ron, Rags to Riches and English Channel—equaled the record set by D. Wayne Lukas in 1995.

The previous year, Pletcher broke Lukas' longstanding records for numbers of stakes wins (92) and graded stakes wins (53) in a single season. His stable won 294 races and set an earnings record of \$26.8 million. Of these victories, 100 came in stakes with 57 different horses, including Eclipse Award winners Fleet Indian and Wait a While. Of the 100 stakes wins, 57 came in graded events, 17 of which were Grade 1 races. Among the highlights were the Grade 1 victories by Bluegrass Cat, Circular Quay, Honey Ryder, Magnificent Song, Go Deputy, Pool Land, Wait a While, English Channel, Scat Daddy, Spun Sugar, Bishop Court Hill and Fleet Indian.

He told Leslie Deckard of *The Blood-Horse*: "No matter how good you are doing, there is always room for improvement. We have a

simple philosophy around our barn and that is to try to do the best with each horse that we get. If the horse turns out to be a graded stakes winner, that is great or if he or she finds their forte at a lesser level, that is great, too."

He says breaking the record of his former boss, Lukas, for stakes wins in a year was the accomplishment he was most proud of in 2006.

A year earlier, he became the first trainer to earn more than \$20 million in a year and captured Grade 1 races with Forest Danger, Bandini, champion Ashado, Flower Alley, Host (CHI), Adieu and Purge.

Pletcher won his first training title at Keeneland in the spring of 2005 spring and repeated at Saratoga, Gulfstream Park and Belmont (in the fall). He had 47 individual stakes winners in 2005.

The previous year his trainees earned \$17.5 million and he won his first two Breeders' Cup races with horses who both earned championships in their divisions—Ashado and Speightstown. Ashado's five stakes wins included the Distaff (G1) and Kentucky Oaks (G1). Also winning at the Grade 1 level were Proud Accolade and Lion Tamer.

In 2003, his stable won 199 races and earned \$12,356,924, second only to Bobby Frankel. He conditioned Grade 1 winners Balto Star, Marylebone, Ashado, Harmony Lodge and Harlan's Holiday. A year earlier, his stable won 147 races and earned \$8.7 million to rank fourth. He won the Whitney Handicap (G1) with Left Bank.

In 2001, his stable earned \$7,731,203, for a sixth-place ranking. He won Grade 1 races with Left Bank and Tweedside.

His stable cracked the top 5 for the first time in 2000 with earnings of more than \$6.8 million and he saddled four Kentucky Derby (G1) starters—More Than Ready, Trippi, Graeme Hall and Impeachment.

Cot Campbell, president of Dogwood Stable that campaigned Trippi and Impeachment, said: "I like him because one, he's a good guy. Two, he's a marvelous horseman. Three, he is a straight shooter with information. ... And he's a terrific detail man. He's a star."

In '98, he won two legs of the Canadian Triple Crown with Sovereign Award winner Archer's Bay, and Jersey Girl was runner-up in balloting for the Eclipse Award for champion 3-year-old filly.

He grew up around racing as his father, J.J. Pletcher, trained Quarter Horses and Thoroughbreds throughout the West, Southwest and Midwest. He credits his father with taking him along to look at horses at sales while teaching him how to look at a horse. He spent summers working for his father, who encouraged him to become a trainer.

Between his junior and senior years of high school, he worked for Henry Moreno in Southern California. And while attending the University of Arizona, he worked for D. Wayne Lukas between his sophomore and junior years and for Charlie Whittingham the following summer. He kept in touch with Lukas and after graduating with an animal science degree in 1989, he went to work for him in New York under Lukas' son, Jeff. By 1991, he was promoted to assistant trainer, splitting his time between Florida and New York.

"He's smart and innovative and he's going to make adjustments," Lukas told Jennie Rees of *The Courier-Journal* about Pletcher. "He's creative enough to know that he can take a little from me, a little from his father, a little from other people he's come in contact with—and he becomes his own person."

Pletcher went out on his own in December 1995 after six and a half years with Lukas and saddled his first winner two months later at Gulfstream Park with Majestic Number. He admitted he was nervous about starting out on his own with a small string of horses. He told Maryjean Wall in the *Lexington Herald-Leader*: "I had no idea what to expect. I had seven horses and none had past performances to speak of. You really throw yourself out there and just hope with your reputation and people knowing you'll work hard, that will be enough."

Pletcher's father runs a training center in Ocala named Payton Training Center. "Most of my lay-ups and yearlings are prepared there," Todd said.

The first year, from an organizational standpoint, Pletcher said: "We wanted the horses to earn over \$1 million and we wanted to double that the next year. We were able to do that the first three years and then we leveled off. But we were in the Top 10 by then. We want to maintain that position and to develop and maintain Grade 1-type horses. This is a difficult game to set goals, because we're dealing with living animals. You can't program them. You have to let nature take its course."

Through Jan. 9, 2007, Equineline.com had Pletcher with 178 stakes winners, 1,699 races won and earnings of \$116,690,279.

