



Dale Romans

Born: Aug. 14, 1966 in Louisville, Ky.

Dale Romans' record at Keeneland

Total wins: 95

Stakes wins: 5

- Won his first Breeders' Cup race in 2009, the Juvenile Fillies Turf with Tapitsfly.
- Won his 1,000th race on June 14, 2006, at Churchill Downs with C F O Lite.
- Trained 2004 champion turf male Kitten's Joy.
- Won 2011 Preakness (G1) with Shackleford.
- Won the 2005 Dubai World Cup (G1) with Roses in May.
- Finished in the Top 10 in earnings in 2004 with a career-best \$7 million.
- Won the 2006 spring and 2005 spring and fall meet titles at Churchill. Previously won the 2003 spring and fall titles, and tied with Bernie Flint (2001 spring), D. Wayne Lukas (2000 spring) and Tom Amoss (1992 spring).
- Two-time leading trainer at Keeneland—fall of 2001 and 2002.
- Won his 450th race at Churchill Downs in the fall of 2008 to surpass D. Wayne Lukas for second in all-time victories at the track.
- Won 2005 Lane's End Breeders' Futurity (G1) with Dawn of War and 2008 Shadwell Turf Mile (G1) with Thorn Song.
- Leading trainer at Turfway Park (1988 winter-spring meet and 2003 holiday meet in a tie).
- Won three consecutive races on Turfway Park's card of Dec. 10, 2003.
- Current vice president of the Kentucky Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association.

Veteran trainer Dale Romans celebrated his first Triple Crown win in 2011 when Shackleford won the Preakness.

"I've won some big races, but none as exciting as that one," Romans said.

Romans also experienced a big year in 2004 with Eclipse Award-winning Kitten's Joy and Eclipse Award finalist Roses in May.

The stars of his stable of some 60 horses that year were Kitten's Joy, who won six stakes including the Joe Hirsch Turf Classic Invitational (G1) and the Secretariat (G1), and Roses in May, winner of the Whitney (G1) and two other stakes. Kitten's Joy then finished second in the Breeders' Cup Turf (G1) and Roses in May finished second in the Classic (G1). They were his first Breeders' Cup starters.

In addition, Romans also won a pair of Grade 2 races with Halory Leigh (the Churchill Downs Distaff and Falls City) and the Gardenia Handicap (G3) with Angela's Love. Also winning stakes were Strike Rate, Red's Honor, Added Edge and On the Bus. His stable won 109 races and earned \$7,081,653. (The victory total was his second-highest after the 113 races his stable won in 2003.)

In 2005, Roses in May won the Dubai World Cup and Kitten's Joy the Firecracker Breeders' Cup (G2) before both were retired. Dawn of War surfaced to win the Lane's End Breeders' Futurity and Added Edge the Razorback Breeders' Cup (G3). Other stakes winners were Angela's Love, My Ro, M B Sea, On the Bus, Sharp Humor, Wiggins, Spotless Mind and Everything to Gain. He swept both titles at Churchill Downs and his horses combined to earn \$4.4 million to rank 16th (including the World Cup purse, which would have moved him up to ninth with \$8 million in purses won.)

Romans saddled the 1,000th winner of his career on June 14, 2006, at Churchill when C F O Lite won the third race. He also won graded races with Sharp Humor (the Swale), Bright One (West Virginia Derby) and Joint Effort (the La Troienne and Dogwood Breeders' Cup) and other stakes with On the Bus, Half Heaven and Wiggins. The stable won 134 races and earned \$5,282,714 to rank 15th.

He and the Ramsey family split during the year and he told *Daily Racing Form* he would be rebuilding his stable in Florida over the winter.

In 2007, his runners won 13 stakes, including the True North (G2) with Will He Shine and the Palm Beach (G3) and Crown Royal American Turf (G3) with Duveen. The stable won 84 races and earned nearly \$4.5 million. During 2008, his stable accounted for 10 stakes races, including Thorn Song's tally in the Shadwell Turf Mile and Eaton's Gift's win in the Swale Stakes (G2). Other graded winners were Bayou's Lassie, Swift Temper, C. S. Silk and Sara Louise. He also won his 450th race at Churchill Downs during the fall meet to become the second-winningest trainer in track history, and for the year, his stable won 79 races and earned close to \$4.1 million, to rank 29th.

In addition to his first Breeders' Cup score in 2009, the Juvenile Fillies Turf with Tapitsfly, he also had Grade 1 winners Swift Temper (Ruffian Handicap) and Thorn Song (Shoemaker Mile) in his stable along with other graded winners Hull, Eaton's Gift, Sassy Image and Quiet Temper. In all, his runners won 84 races and collectively earned \$5.18 million. During 2010, his trainees won 83 races, six of which were graded, and earned \$5.37 million to rank 15th. Leading the way was Paddy O'Prado, who won four stakes culminating with a victory in the Secretariat Stakes (G1) and ran third in the Kentucky Derby (G1). Other stakes winners were Quiet Temper, who won the Fair Grounds Oaks (G2), Just Louise, winner of the Debutante (G3), and Sassy Image, Quiet All American, Vow to Wager, Z Appeal and C. S. Silk. First Dude, who finished second in the Preakness (G1) and third in the Belmont (G1) for Romans, remains in training for 2011 with Bob Baffert.

Romans worked for his father, the late trainer Jerry Romans, "from the time I could walk," he said. "I did everything and was his assistant the last couple of years I worked for him."

The Louisville native took out his first trainer's license at age 18. "From the time I was eight, this

was about all I ever wanted to do. My Dad thought it would be a good career for me."

Jerry Romans lived long enough to see his son become a success. A trainer on the Kentucky circuit for nearly 35 years, he was the leading trainer at Ellis Park twice and at Turfway Park once. He died in November of 2000.

"I am the result of my dad," Romans told Jerry Izenberg of nj.com last year. "I remember he would leave Kentucky and go to Green Mountain, which since has folded, and Burlington up in New England, and I wanted to be just like him — a lifer."

But Dale's father was not his only teacher. During the winter of 1986, the young Romans went to Florida with the intention of working for Hall of Fame trainer Woody Stephens. He did just that for four months at Hialeah while observing how things were done.

Romans won his first race on Feb. 15, 1987, at Turfway Park with a horse named Miss Mindy, whom he had purchased for \$1,500. He proceeded to win three in a row with the filly before she was claimed from him.

The following year, his father decided to take a little time off and allowed Dale to put the horses in his own name. He responded by winning his first trainers' title.

Four years later, he saddled his first stakes winner, Morning Punch, to win the Florence Stakes at Turfway Park.

Romans won his first stakes at Keeneland in 1993 when Little Shocker scored in the Indian Summer. In the fall of 2001, he added a second—Handsome Hunk in the Fort Springs—while earning his first training title.

At Churchill, Romans saddled his first stakes winner in 1997 with B.A. Valentine in the Providian Mile and added two stakes with her the following year—in the Mint Julep and Cardinal handicaps.

In 2001, Romans saddled the filly Open Story for a dead-heat victory in the Three Chimneys Juvenile Stakes. He had purchased her for \$60,000 at the Ocala Breeders' February sale on behalf of Ron McKee.

Another stakes winner Romans trained for McKee was Roza Robata, winner of the Pimlico Distaff Handicap (G3) in 2000. Romans advised McKee to purchase her at the 1998 Keeneland November Breeding Stock Sale for \$150,000. The mare won four stakes and earned more than \$730,000 during her racing career.

One of the earlier highlights of his career was being tied with Lukas for the 2000 Churchill spring meet title "when my Dad was really sick," he said.

In 2002, Romans won his second straight Keeneland fall meet title, with eight wins and earnings of \$306,639, and his second consecutive title at Churchill's spring meeting.

Based at Churchill, Romans sends strings to Gulfstream Park in the winter and to Saratoga in the summer.

In 2003, he won the Appleton (G2) with Point Prince, the Fayette (G3) with M B Sea, the Don Bernhardt Memorial with Dubai Sheikh and the Holiday Inaugural with Halory Leigh. He had claimed Halory Leigh for \$75,000 at Churchill.

Additionally, Romans swept both Churchill titles in the spring and fall of 2003, becoming the first trainer since D. Wayne Lukas in 1996 to accomplish that feat.

Romans, who is married to former jockey Tammy Fox, also has trained stakes winners Golden Oriental, Human Missile, Sudden Death, Victor Avenue, Repletion and Sweeping Story.