



Michael Matz

Born: Jan. 23, 1951 in Redding, PA

Record at Keeneland

Total wins: 27
Stakes wins: 3

First Grade 1 Win:

2003 Secretariat won by Kicken Kris.

First Graded Stakes Win:

2000 Pebbles Handicap (G3)
at Belmont Park with Lady Dora.

First Stakes Win:

1998 Silver Spoon Stakes
at Delaware Park with Camella.

First Career Win:

1997.

- Stable won 34 races in 2012 and earned \$2,855,070; highlights included wins in the Belmont (G1) by Union Rags, the Dwyer (G2) by Teeth of the Dog, the Fountain of Youth (G2) by Union Rags and the Ontario Colleen (G3-Can) by Colonial Flag.
- **Triple Crown wins:** 2012 Belmont (G1) with Union Rags; 2006 Kentucky Derby (G1) with Barbaro.
- **Breeders' Cup Win:** 2006 Breeders' Cup Distaff (G1) with Round Pond.
- Won his first Keeneland stakes in 2007 when Street Sounds won the Stonerside Beaumont (G2).
- Awarded the Mr. Fitz Award, along with "Team Barbaro," by the National Turf Writers Association in 2006.
- Inducted into the Show Jumping Hall of Fame in 2005.
- Member of the U.S. Olympic Equestrian Team in 1976, 1992 and 1996, earning a team silver medal in show jumping in '96.
- Chosen to carry the American flag into Atlanta's Centennial Olympic Stadium during the closing ceremonies in 1996.
- Survived the crash of United Flight 232 in 1989 and helped rescue other survivors.
- Retired from show jumping as the leading money-winning rider in the sport's American history, with more than \$1.7 million.
- Other graded stakes winners include Batique, Saint Marden, Political Attack, Sangrita, Aunt Henny, Street Sounds, Chelokee, Visionaire, Ready Set, Herboriste (GB), Princess Haya and Somali Lemonade.

Background:

Matz turned to training racehorses after an exceptional career in show jumping on the national and international stage. Chosen for the U.S. Olympic equestrian team three times, he won a team silver medal in 1996 along with Peter Leone, Leslie Burr-Howard and Anne Kursinski. For the 1996 games, he also received the particular honor of carrying the American flag into the Centennial Olympic Stadium in Atlanta.

He competed in three World Championships, winning two bronze medals in 1978 for individual and team show jumping, and in 1986, he won a team gold medal. At the Pan-American games, he won eight medals, including team gold and individual bronze in 1975, team and individual gold in 1979, team gold and individual bronze in 1983 and individual gold and team bronze in 1995.

Six times, he won the U.S. National Show Jumping Championship and for 20 years, he won at least one major competition each year. He retired as the leading money-winning U.S. show jumper in history with more than \$1.7 million and he was inducted into the Show Jumping Hall of Fame in 2005. The induction ceremony the following April coincided with the Florida Derby (G1) that Barbaro won, forcing Matz to miss the event.

He was chosen to carry the American flag on account of his stellar equestrian career and the role he played on July 19, 1989. He and his then-fiance, now wife, D.D. Alexander, were returning from judging a horse show in Hawaii when they missed their connection from Denver to Philadelphia. Given the choice of two flights 20 minutes apart, they decided to take United Flight 232. The plane crashed in Sioux City, Iowa, after the engines failed, killing 112 passengers. Matz and Alexander survived the crash. Matz led three siblings to safety from the wreckage and re-entered the burning plane to find an 11-month-old girl and bring her out too. He has kept in touch with the siblings who were in attendance at Churchill Downs for Barbaro's Derby victory.

Matz began laying the groundwork for a new career in 1996 when Equibase credits him with starting one racehorse.

His wife, D.D., is the daughter of breeder Helen Kleberg Groves and granddaughter of Robert Kleberg, who owned King Ranch and race Triple Crown winner Assault.