



Claude R. "Shug" McGaughey III

Born: Jan. 6, 1951 in Lexington, KY

Record at Keeneland

Total wins: 134

Stakes wins: 23

First Grade 1 Win:

1983 Spinster with Try Something New.

First Stakes Win/ Graded Stakes Win:

1978 Apple Blossom Handicap (G2) with Northernette.

First Career Win:

1976 at Rockingham Park.

- Ranks fourth by career stakes wins at Keeneland with 23 and 15th by wins with 134.
- Stable won 49 races in 2012 and earned \$6,275,649; highlights included Grade 1 wins by Data Link (Maker's Mark at Keeneland), Point of Entry (Man o' War, Sword Dancer Invitational and the Joe Hirsch Classic Invitational) and Hymn Book (Donn Handicap).
- Inducted into the Racing Hall of Fame in 2004.
- Received the 1988 Eclipse Award as the country's outstanding trainer.
- Trainer of nine Eclipse Award champions – Easy Goer, Heavenly Prize, Inside Information, Personal Ensign, Queena, Rhythm, Smuggler, Storm Flag Flying and Vanlandingham.
- **Breeders' Cup wins:** 1988 Breeders' Cup Distaff (G1) with Personal Ensign; the win culminated an unbeaten career of 13 races; 1989 Sprint (G1) with Dancing Spree and Juvenile (G1) with Rhythm; 1992 and 1993 Mile (G1) with Lure; 1995 Juvenile Fillies (G1) with My Flag and Distaff (G1) with Inside Information; 2002 Juvenile Fillies (G1) with Storm Flag Flying; and 2005 Distaff (G1) with Pleasant Home.
- **Triple Crown win:** 1989 Belmont Stakes (G1) with Hall of Fame member Easy Goer.
- Ranks 10th by all-time North American earnings with more than \$115 million.
- Stable won 50 races in 2011 and earned \$3,047,366; highlights included Grade 2 wins by Boisterous (Red Smith Handicap), Hungry Island (Woodford Reserve Lake Placid) and Air Support (Virginia Derby).
- Four-time winner of the Spinster (G1) – Try Something New, 1983; Dispute, 1994; Inside Information, 1995; and Carriage Trail, 2008.
- Three-time winner of the Ashland (G1) – Inside Information, 1994; My Flag, 1995; and Glitter Woman, 1997.
- Leading trainer at Keeneland six times (1984, 1993 and 1996 spring and 1983-1985 fall).
- Leading trainer at Churchill Downs in the spring of 1985.
- On Kentucky Derby Eve in 1993, he won the Kentucky Oaks (G1) with Dispute, the Early Times Turf Classic (G1) with Lure and the Louisville Budweiser Breeders' Cup (G2) with Quilma (CHI).
- On Breeders' Cup Preview Day in 1993 at Belmont, he won six of the day's 10 races, five of six stakes and three of four Grade 1 events (Miner's Mark in the Jockey Club Gold Cup, Heavenly Prize in the Frizette and Dispute in the Beldame).
- Leading trainer at Saratoga (in 1994) and Belmont Park (three times).
- Other graded stakes winners include Awe Inspiring, Classy Cathy, Coronado's Quest, Duty Dance, Educated Risk, Gone Astray, Miner's Mark, Persistently, Seeking the Gold, Serra Lake and Versailles Treaty.

Background:

Grew up in Lexington. His father, a real estate agent, would signal to the betting clerks (at Keeneland) that it was OK to let Shug place a bet. "We usually managed to get him a ticket that would win, like a \$2 show, and let him cash it," his father said. "He seemed to like all that, and he liked the crowds and the excitement."

He attended the University of Mississippi for a while before he began walking hots for his friend David Carr and later became his assistant. He started working for Hall of Fame trainer Frank Whiteley in 1974 as a groom and later became an assistant for Whiteley's son, David, for five years. "I think about all the things I learned from Mr. Whiteley and David I use today," he said.

He was selected to train for the Phipps Family stable on Nov. 11, 1985, and won his first race for them with Erin Bright in the Display (G3) on Dec. 31, 1985.