



William I. Mott

Born: July 29, 1953 in Mobridge, SD

Record at Keeneland

Total wins: 249

Stakes wins: 35

First Grade 1 Win:

1984 Apple Blossom Handicap with Heatherthen.

First Graded Stakes Win:

1984 Louisiana Derby (G2) with Taylor's Special.

First Stakes Win:

1977 Red Bank Handicap at Monmouth Park with Playin' Footsie.

First Career Win:

"My Assets at the bush tracks when I was 15. She dead-heated for first." According to Equineline, the first official win was in 1976.

- Ranks third at Keeneland by career stakes wins (35) and second by victories (249).
- Stable won 102 races and earned \$10,919,367 in 2012 to rank sixth.
- Youngest person to be voted into the Racing Hall of Fame, at age 45, in 1998.
- Ranks fourth on the all-time North American earnings list, and seventh in wins.
- Three-time Eclipse Award-winning trainer -- in 1995, 1996 and 2011.
- **Triple Crown win:** 2010 Belmont (G1) with Drosselmeyer.
- Developed six champions – Cigar, Horse of the Year in 1995-'96; turf males Theatrical (IRE) in 1987 and Paradise Creek in 1994; 3-year-old fillies Ajina in 1997 and Royal Delta in 2011; and older females Escena in 1998 and Royal Delta in 2012.
- **Breeders' Cup wins:** Classic (G1), 1995 with Cigar and 2011 with Drosselmeyer; Turf (G1), 1987 with Theatrical (IRE) and 1992 with Fraise; and Distaff/Ladies' Classic (G1), 1997 with Ajina, 1998 with Escena, 2010 with Unrivaled Belle and 2011 and 2012 with Royal Delta.
- In addition to winning the Breeders' Cup Ladies Classic with Royal Delta, other highlights from 2012 include Grade 1 wins by Ron the Greek (Santa Anita) and Stephen Foster handicaps), To Honor and Serve (Woodward), Flat Out (Jockey Club Gold Cup) and Royal Delta (Beldame Invitational).
- Stable won 101 races in 2011 and ranked fourth in earnings with \$10,731,249; highlights included Grade 1 wins in the Breeders' Cup Classic (Drosselmeyer), Breeders' Cup Ladies Classic (champion Royal Delta), Shoemaker Mile (Courageous Cat), TVG Alabama (Royal Delta) and Cigar Mile Handicap (To Honor and Serve).
- 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 Dubai World Cup (G1) with Cigar in 1996.
- Won 4,000th race of his career on Aug. 7, 2010, at Saratoga with Mystic in the seventh race.
- Leading trainer at Keeneland six times (spring of 1995, 2001 and 2009, fall of 1981, 1986 and 2007).
- Won two Grade 1 races at Keeneland in 2009 – Maker's Mark Mile (Mr. Sidney) and Juddmonte Spinster (Mushka).
- 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.
- 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).
- In the fall of 1986, he began training privately for Bert and Diana Firestone. In 1992, when the Firestones sold many of their horses, Mott assembled a powerful stable of clients, including Allen and Madeleine Paulson, owners of Cigar.
- Won 1984 Blue Grass (G1) with Taylor's Special and 12 other stakes between 1983 and 1987.
- Won nine stakes in 1984 with Heatherthen, including four Grade 1s.
- Other graded stakes winners include Derby Wish, Gaily Gaily (IRE), Richman, Chief Honcho, Fraise, Missed the Storm, Dahlia's Dreamer, Link River, Duda, Bail Out Becky, Wekiva Springs, Yagli, Dream Supreme, Snow Polina, Gun Salute, Shakespeare, Sweet Symphony and Proviso (GB).

Background:

His father, who was a veterinarian, 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.