



Wesley Ward

Born: March 3, 1968 in Selah, WA

Record at Keeneland

Total wins: 60
Stakes wins: 5

First Graded Stakes Win/ First Stakes Win:

1994 Will Rogers Handicap (G3)
at Hollywood Park
with Unfinished Symph.

First Career Win:

1991.

- Stable won 86 races and earned \$3,759,897 during 2012; highlights included wins in the Lexus Raven Run (G2) and Beaumont (G2), both with Gypsy Robin, the Coolmore Lexington (G3) with All Squared Away, all at Keeneland, and the Twin Spires Turf Sprint (G3) with Great Attack.
- Won first leading trainer titles at Keeneland during the spring and fall 2012 race meetings. Won three races at Keeneland on Oct. 27, 2012.
- Eclipse Award-winning apprentice jockey in 1984.
- Trainer of Sovereign Award-winning 2-year-old colt Madman Diaries in 2010.
- Stable won 92 races and earned \$3,209,558 in 2011; highlights included the victory by Holiday for Kitten in the Thoroughbred Club of America (G2) at Keeneland.
- Won 1,000th race on Sept. 17, 2011, at Kentucky Downs with Cozy Kitten.
- Finished second in Keeneland's 2011 spring meet, tied for third at the 2010 spring meet and tied for second at the 2009 Keeneland spring meet. Posted Top 10 finishes at 2010 Keeneland fall and 2010-2011 Gulfstream Park meets.
- Won 2010 Ohio Derby (G3) with Pleasant Prince.
- Tied for leading trainer in 2010 at Kentucky Downs with three wins, three seconds and one third from eight starters.
- Saddled two winners during the 2009 Royal Ascot meet – Jealous Again in the Queen Mary (G2) and Strike the Tiger in the Windsor Castle. Another trainee, Cannonball, finished second in the Golden Jubilee (G1).
- Shipped three horses to Dubai for the Golden Shaheen (G1) with Men's Exclusive running second in 2001 and fourth in 2002, and Bear Fan running fifth in 2005.
- Saddled One Hot Wish to set a world record of :48.87 for four and a half furlongs at Keeneland in the spring of 2007.
- Won three Grade 2 stakes with Bear Fan in 2004, including the Vagrancy Handicap at Belmont Park.
- Won six stakes with Men's Exclusive in 1997 and 2000-01, including the Vernon O. Underwood (G3) twice.
- Owns Ward Ranch near Ocala, FL.
- Other graded stakes winners include Men's Exclusive, Omega Code, Bear Fan, Aegean, Madman Diaries, Pleasant Prince, Final Mesa and Flashpoint.
- Won 749 races in six years of riding and his mounts earned \$11,233,180. His biggest win was the 1988 Longacres Derby (G3).
- Leading rider at Aqueduct, Belmont (fall) and the Meadowlands in 1984.
- Won the 1984 Eric Beitia Memorial Award, given to the leading apprentice at the New York Racing Association tracks.

Background:

Wesley Ward was born into a racing family; his father, Dennis Ward, a former jockey is now a trainer, and his grandfather, Jim Dailey, was a steeplechase rider and then a popular outrider in New York for 29 years.

Dennis Ward began his jockey career in 1962, winning his first race at Playfair. He gave up riding the week after Wesley was born, due to weight battles, and started training horses.

"My father taught me to ride," Wesley told *Sports Illustrated*. "In the winter, when I was 11, my dad started breaking horses and he'd let me ride them around the track."

Wesley began his racetrack career as a rider at the age of age 12, competing at fairs in Washington, Alberta, British Columbia and Montana, gaining valuable experience with the basics. According to the SI article, he won 158 of 300 races.

On the day he turned 16, the braces-wearing junior in high school began riding at Aqueduct with Lenny Goodman as his agent. Goodman, a friend of Jim Dailey's, had previously handled the books of Steve Cauthen and Declan Murphy. Though he didn't win any races that day, Wesley won five in the next three days.

For the year, Ward won 335 races and broke the record set in 1981 by Richard Migliore for earnings with \$5,203,810. He was voted the Eclipse Award for leading apprentice rider, having won riding titles at Belmont in the fall, at Aqueduct and at the Meadowlands. He also later rode in Italy, Singapore and Malaysia before retiring in 1989, tired of the weight battle.

By 1991, he began training.