



Ian Wilkes

Born: May 25, 1965
in Muswellbrook, Australia

Record at Keeneland

Total wins: 26
Stakes wins: 0

First Grade 1 Win:

2009 NetJets King's Bishop at Saratoga
with Capt. Candyman Can.

First Graded Stakes Win/ First Stakes Win:

2006 Amsterdam (G2) at Saratoga
with Court Folly.

First Career Win:

2006.

- Stable won 46 races and earned a career-best \$5,718,576 in 2012.
- **Breeders' Cup win:** 2012 Classic (G1) with Fort Larned.
- In addition to the Breeders' Cup Classic, other highlights from 2012 include wins in the Whitney Invitational Handicap (G1) with Fort Larned, the Indiana Derby (G2) with Neck 'n Neck, the Prairie Meadows Cornhusker Handicap (G3) and Skip Away (G3), both with Fort Larned, the Winning Colors (G3) with Island Bound, and the Matt Winn (G3) and Ack Ack Handicap (G3), both with Neck n' Neck.
- Stable won 51 races in 2011 and earned \$1,607,003; highlights included Motor City's win in the Iroquois (G3) at Churchill Downs.
- Leading trainer at Kentucky Downs in 2011 and runner-up in the Ellis Park standings; tied for sixth at the 2012 Ellis Park meeting.
- Won 2010 Carter Handicap (G1) with Warrior's Reward.
- Won seven stakes with Capt. Candyman Can (through 2011), four of which have been graded races.
- Finished in the Top 5 at Keeneland's spring and Churchill's fall meets in 2009 and at Ellis Park in 2010.
- Won two graded stakes at the Churchill fall meet in 2008 – Falls City (G2) with Miss Isella and Iroquois (G3) with Capt. Candyman Can.
- In 2008, finished tied for fifth at Keeneland's fall meet, tied for sixth at Churchill's fall meet and tied for fourth at Turfway's fall meet.
- Won three races on the card at Gulfstream Park on Jan. 25, 2006 – with Atlas Valley, Candy Ma'am and Bucharest, who set a track for seven furlongs in his race.
- His first stakes winner was also his first graded winner – Court Folly in the 2006 Amsterdam (G2).
- Longtime assistant to Hall of Fame trainer Carl Nafzger.
- Graded stakes winners include Warrior's Reward, Motor City, Miss Isella, Capt. Candyman Can, Bearpath and Court Folly.

Background:

Wilkes grew up on a dairy farm in New South Wales in Australia. He began working with racehorses as a groom and exercise rider in his native country at the age of 16. He worked in the stables of Paul Sutherland, Vic Thompson Jr. and Colin Hayes. "We did it all," Wilkes said. During his two years with Hayes, he arranged through a mutual friend to come to the United States and work for Hall of Fame trainer Carl Nafzger.

He arrived in 1989 and galloped horses for a year and half. One of his regular mounts was Unbridled, who won the 1990 Kentucky Derby (G1) and Breeders' Cup Classic (G1) en route to earning an Eclipse Award as leading 3-year-old colt.

He returned home for three years to train racehorses but rejoined Nafzger in 1993, serving as the stable's top assistant until early 2006.

The transfer of horses from Nafzger to Wilkes began in the fall of 2005 with the official date for complete transfer being Jan. 1, 2006. Most of Nafzger's clients made the switch to Wilkes.