

NEW MEXICO SPORTS HALL OF FAME HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE



MIKE SMITH

PROFESSIONAL RACE HORSE JOCKEY



Mike Smith, was born August 10, 1965 in Roswell and raised in Dexter. Mike has been one of the leading jockeys in U.S. thoroughbred racing since the early 1990's. He has built a reputation as a big money rider, with his greatest success coming in the Breeders' Cup, including three wins in the \$5 million Classic. He has the most victories in the event's history with 17. Smith has won the Kentucky Derby, Preakness Stakes and Belmont Stakes.

The son of a jockey, Smith began riding in his native New Mexico at the age of 11, and took out a jockey's license at age 16 in 1982. He left New Mexico the following year, riding mostly in the Midwest where he earned his apprenticeship at Canterbury Downs Minnesota before moving to New York in 1989.

In 1991, he became one of the few American jockeys to win a European classic by claiming victory in the Irish 2000 Guineas aboard Fourstars Allstar. Also, that year he got his break by leading jockey in New York from 1991-1993, with 330, 297, and 313 wins, respectively. The following year, he rode his first Breeders' Cup winner, Lure, in the Breeders' Cup Mile.

The year after that, 1993, he truly arrived as a top jockey, setting a North American record for stakes wins in a year with 62. Two years later, he broke his won record with 68 stakes wins. Among his highlights were a win in the Preakness aboard Prairie Bayou. That year, he won his first Eclipse Award for Outstanding Jockey, and also won an ESPY Award as top jockey. In 1994, Smith was honored with the Mike Venezia Memorial Award. He was again honored in 2000 with the George Woolf Memorial Award and has won two Eclipse Awards (1993 and 1994). Smith was also one of the jockeys featured on Animal Planet's popular reality documentary series "Jockey". In the December 1999, Sports Illustrated named Smith as one of the top 10 New Mexico sports figures of the 20th century. He was inducted to National Museum of Racing's Hall of Fame in 2003.

He earned the 5000th victory when he teamed with 2011 sprint champion Amazombie to capture the \$150000 Potrero Grande Stakes at Santa Anita Park on April 7, 2012. This past November, he won his second straight Bill Shoemaker award as the top jockey of the Breeders' Cup. He won the Marathon and Juvenile Turf on November 1st and the Turf Sprint on November 2nd, extending his record for most Cup wins by a jockey to 20. Smith also had second-third-fourth place finishes in the two day world championships at Santa Anita. The 48 year old rider won with 37 points, four more than 50 year old, Gary Stevens, based on a scoring system that awards points for first through fourth place finishes in the 14 Cup races. As of February 9th, he had career earnings of \$248,662,988, ranking him 6th all time. He has 5,148 career wins. He was 7th in earnings in 2013 with \$13,797,517.

