



Bethlehem Stable

Owner: Michael J. Caruso

Born: 1946, Newark, New Jersey

Residence: Lower Saucon Township, Pennsylvania

- Has two hopefuls for this year's Breeders' Cup, including Uni (GB), who clinched a "Win and You're In" spot for the Maker's Mark Filly & Mare Turf with a win in the First Lady Stakes (G1) Oct. 5 at Keeneland. However, the bulk of her success has come at a mile on the turf, which could lead to her to redirect to the Mile.
- Caruso bought into the British-bred More Than Ready mare Uni in 2017 when she was brought over from France. Uni's partnership group currently includes Michael Dubb, Sol Kumin's Head of Plains Partners and Robert LaPenta.
- Uni's 2019 campaign has also featured a victory in the listed Perfect Sting Stakes and a third in the Fourstardave Handicap (G1) again males. Trained by Chad Brown, she comes into the Breeders' Cup having won six of her last seven starts, reaching back to April 2018.
- Also clinched a Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies (G1) berth with British Idiom when the Flashback filly won the Alcibiades Stakes (G1) at Keeneland by 6 ½ lengths on Oct. 4. She is unbeaten in two starts, after breaking her maiden by 3 ½ lengths at Saratoga Race Course on Aug. 15.
- British Idiom is trained by Brad Cox for a partnership that also includes Michael Dubb, Stuart Grant's Elkstone Group, and Sol Kumin's Madaket Stables.
- Partners with Kumin's Monomoy Stables, Michael Dubb, and The Elkstone Group in Monomoy Girl, who won the Eclipse Award for champion 3-year-old filly in 2018 on a campaign that included wins in the Breeders' Cup Distaff (G1), the Kentucky Oaks (G1) and three other Grade 1 races. The daughter of Tapizar has missed the entirety of her 4-year-old campaign thus far due to a variety of ailments, including a colic scare, but she returned to the track in late summer, and is expected to race in 2020.
- Also partnered with Dubb and Madaket Stables in German-bred A Raving Beauty, who finished third in the Breeders' Cup Filly & Mare Turf in 2018. Her campaign also featured wins in the First Lady Stakes (G1), Just a Game Stakes (G1) and Beaugay Stakes (G3).

- Along with Dubb, David Simon, and Head of Plains Partners, Caruso won the 2015 Filly & Mare Sprint with Wavell Avenue, who tried for a repeat in 2016, but finished second.
- With Long Island, New York, resident Dubb and Delaware-based The Elkstone Group, campaigned Grace Hall, named for the wrestling facility at Lehigh University, the Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, school from which Caruso graduated in 1967 with a B.A. in international relations. The filly won the 2011 Spinaway Stakes for 2-year-old fillies while providing Caruso first Grade 1 win.
- Grace Hall – the facility – was built specifically for wrestling in 1939 by Eugene Grace, who was president of Bethlehem Steel Corp. Lehigh's state of the art wrestling practice facility was named the Caruso Wrestling Complex in 2013.
- While at Lehigh, Caruso won three consecutive NCAA wrestling titles, winning his final 50 matches and finishing his career with a collegiate record of 57-1. He was voted into the National Collegiate Wrestling Hall of Fame in 1991, is a member of the U.S. Amateur Wrestling Hall of Fame, and is a charter member of the Lehigh University Hall of Fame.
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- Used to accompany his dad on trips to Monmouth Park, and bought his first horse in 1978. His first winner was Mrs. Joe Who.
- Association with Dubb, a leading owner in New York and a New York Racing Association trustee, goes back about a decade.
- Caruso races in partnerships, primarily with Dubb, and has more than 80 horses in training under the care of trainers Bill Mott, Chad Brown, Brad Cox and Rudy Rodriguez.
- "I wouldn't have smelled manure around a Grade 1 horse until I met Mike Dubb. So I give him all the credit," Caruso told This Is Horseracing.
- Member of the Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders Association's board of trustees.
- After graduating from college, Caruso coached wrestling at both the University of Virginia and Lehigh. Subsequently founded his own company, Caruso Benefits Group Inc., in 1971 and stepped aside in 2011 from full-time duties as president and CEO while advising on strategic direction. The company was acquired by National Penn Bank in 2005. He is the chairman of National Penn Insurance, a subsidiary of National Penn Bank in Bethlehem.