



**Irada Ortiz Jr.**

**Born:** Aug. 11, 1992 in Trujillo Alto, Puerto Rico

**Height:** 5'3" ... **Weight:** 112 lbs.

**Family:** Daughter Sarai

**Breeders' Cup Stats: 41-5-5-2 | \$6,450,345**

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- Ortiz Jr. had a memorable Breeders' Cup in 2018, riding two winners and nearly doubling his previous earnings with several top placings. He won the Juvenile Fillies Turf (G1) with Newspaperofrecord (IRE) and the Filly & Mare Sprint (G1) with Shamrock Rose. He also finished second in the Classic (G1) aboard Gunnevera, the Turf Sprint on World of Trouble, the Juvenile Turf (G1) on Uncle Benny and was third in the Mile (G1) with Analyze It. The performance earned him the 16<sup>th</sup> Bill Shoemaker Award for most outstanding jockey at the World Championships.
  - Put up his third victory in the Breeders' Cup World Championships when he hit the finish line first with Bar of Gold in the 2017 Filly & Mare Sprint. His other winners were Stephanie's Kitten in the 2015 Filly & Mare Turf (G1) and future champion Lady Eli in the 2014 Juvenile Fillies Turf (G1).
  - Ortiz made his Breeders' Cup debut in 2012 with three mounts. Belle of the Hall ran fourth in the Filly & Mare Sprint, Poseidon's Warrior was 14<sup>th</sup> in the Sprint, and Questing [who was later found to have suffered an eye injury] was eased in the Distaff (G1).
  - Earned his first Eclipse Award for Outstanding Jockey in 2018, one year after his younger brother Jose had received the honor. Is on pace to earn his second straight title as he currently leads all jockeys in North America in earnings through Oct. 19.
  - Regularly rides for top trainer Chad Brown and they have partnered in 2019 with leading Breeders' Cup Turf (G1) and Horse of the Year candidate Bricks and Mortar for five victories including the Pegasus World Cup Turf (G1), Arlington Million (G1), Manhattan Stakes and Old Forester Turf Classic (G1).
  - In his first time on Classic prospect Math Wizard, he won the \$1 million Pennsylvania Derby (G1).
  - Earned his first Triple Crown race victory in 2016 when he guided WinStar Farm's Creator to victory in the Belmont Stakes. Was mostly overlooked in the race, but closed from well back aboard the Arkansas Derby (G1) champion, returning \$34.80.

- Got off to a phenomenal start to his riding career, with nearly 500 winners and purse earnings of over \$23 million in his first 2 ½ years in the saddle. His first victory came with Wild Logic on Jan. 2, 2011 at Hipodromo Camarero in his native Puerto Rico. He won with 76 of 357 mounts there before coming to the United States in June 2011.
- Won 15 races and nearly \$1.8 million purses during the six-week Saratoga Race Course meet in 2012. Among them were his first three career Grade 1 victories, with 3-year-old filly Questing in the Coaching Club American Oaks and the Alabama, and 4-year-old sprinter Poseidon's Warrior in the A.G. Vanderbilt.
- Was the latest young rider to be "discovered" by trainer Kiaran McLaughlin, who has helped the careers of several young riders including Alan Garcia and Fernando Jara. Both those riders won their first Breeders' Cup races on horses trained by McLaughlin. McLaughlin trained Questing.
- Attended Escuela Vocacional Hipica, a Puerto Rican school for prospective jockeys, following in the footsteps of his grandfather, Irad, and uncle, Ivan, who also were riders. His younger brother Jose is also a top jockey on the New York circuit.
- Shortly after his arrival, he was noticed by Pito Rosa, a peace officer who works in the jockeys' room at New York Racing Association tracks, and who referred him to agent Tony Micallef.
- Ortiz notched his first win on U.S. soil very quickly, on June 24, 2011 with Millennium at Belmont Park. Finished the year ranked 11th among New York-based riders with 70 wins.
- Calls retired Hall of Fame jockey Angel Cordero Jr., a fellow Puerto Rico native, his idol. Cordero won 7,057 races in his career, and now works as the agent for countryman and 2012 Hall of Fame inductee John Velazquez