



Joe Bravo

Born: Sept. 10, 1971, Long Branch, New Jersey

Resides: Eatontown, N.J.; Aventura, Florida

Breeders' Cup Record: 20-0-0-1 | \$771,000

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- Bravo enjoyed his best Breeders' Cup finish in 2015 when Big Blue Kitten finished third in the Turf (G1). Also finished fourth that year in the Distaff (G1) aboard Sheer Drama. Is set to return to the Longines Distaff with Blue Prize (ARG), after the mare earned her way in the race for the second straight year with a repeat win in the Spinster Stakes (G1) at Keeneland Oct. 6. The race is part of the "Win and You're In" Challenge Series.
 - Has had at least one Breeders' Cup mount every year since 2012 with the exception of 2014. In 2012, he rode Turbo Compressor to a 12th place finish in the Turf, marking his return to the event for the first time since 2007. That year, when the Breeders' Cup was held at his home track of Monmouth Park, he rode in the Sprint (G1) (Commentator, 7th), Dirt Mile (G1) (Park Avenue Ball, seventh), and Distaff (Prop Me Up, 12th).
 - Prior to 2015, Bravo's best finish in a Breeders' Cup race was Mystic Rhythm's fourth place finish in the 1995 Juvenile Fillies (G1). He rode Miss Legality in the same race in 1991, finishing 10th.
 - In addition to the Spinster Stakes, also won the Pin Oak Valley View Stakes (G3) with Lady Prancealot (IRE) during the recent Keeneland Fall Meet.
 - This past winter, temporarily rode at the Fair Grounds and Oaklawn Park before returning to Gulfstream Park.
 - Known affectionately as "Jersey Joe" and is especially renowned for his abilities riding on Monmouth's turf course.
 - "Jersey Joe" has dominated the New Jersey racing circuit since the early 1990s, earning a record 13 riding titles at Monmouth and nine at The Meadowlands.

- In 1991, he became the first rider in New Jersey history to win the meets at Garden State, Meadowlands and Monmouth in one year.
- Bravo topped the Monmouth jockey standings for five straight years, from 2003 to 2007. He also won the riding title every year from 1991 to 1996.
- In 1991, became the first rider in New Jersey history to win titles at Garden State, Monmouth and the Meadowlands in a single year.
- Earned his 5,000th race on May 23, 2015 aboard Boss Man at Monmouth Park, a fitting location as more than half of his career victories have been at the Jersey Shore track. That made him the 31st rider, and 15th still active, to achieve that mark. He came back for win 5,001 later on the card when he piloted Red Vine to victory in the \$75,000 Majestic Light Stakes.
- He got his 4,000th win on July 4, 2007 at Monmouth Park and rode 12 stakes winners that meet. He also captured a record 13th riding title at the track that season.
- Won Monmouth's premier race, the Haskell Invitational (G1) with Lion Heart in 2004 and has had 16 mounts in the Haskell through 2018.
- Finished third in the 2014 Kentucky Derby aboard Danza, with whom he won the Arkansas Derby (G1). He previously hadn't hit the board in two earlier Derby tries, and Black Onyx was scratched the day before.
- He started to ride mainly in New York in 2014 with agent Matt Muzicar when Monmouth didn't have enough days of racing, but returned to New Jersey in 2015 with new agent Cory Moran.
- Despite breaking his back in a January 2006 spill at Gulfstream Park, he continued his dominance of New Jersey racing. He returned to riding in May and won his 12th riding title at Monmouth.
- Regarding his injury-plagued career, Bravo said, "I'm just thankful every time I can come back. When I come back, I'm always thinking the worst in terms of getting my business back, but then I hope for the best and it works out."
- His first Grade 1 winner was Formal Gold in the 1997 Donn Handicap. Other top mounts have included Valid Video, Lion Heart and Wynn Dot Comma.
- Bravo's grandfather Bartolo and father George were also jockeys.
- At 13, Bravo was riding Quarter Horses in Texas, having lived there from ages 10-16. He took out his jockey's license in 1987 and started riding Thoroughbreds in late 1988 at Calder Race Course and won his first race aboard Daffy Doc.
- He splits his winters between New York and Florida.

- He enjoys playing poker, vacationing at Atlantis in the Bahamas and watching the Philadelphia Eagles play.
- He tweets as @bravoace.