



Ricardo Santana Jr.

Born: Nov. 19, 1992

Birthplace: Panama City, Panama

Residence: Louisville, Kentucky

Breeders' Cup Record: 13-0-1-0 | \$670,000

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- Santana Jr. has had a least one mount in every Breeders' Cup since 2014 and enjoyed his biggest success last year when he guided Whitmore to a second in the Sprint (G1).
 - Has a career high six Grade 1 wins in 2019 thanks in part to three with likely Breeders' Cup Sprint favorite Mitole – the Churchill Downs Sprint, Metropolitan Handicap and Forego Stakes. Had a banner Kentucky Oaks and Derby weekend in which in addition to the Churchill Downs Sprint, he also won the Humana Distaff (G1) with Mia Mischief and La Troienne Stakes (G1) with She's a Julie. His sixth Grade 1 was aboard Got Stormy in the Fourstardave Handicap.
 - Recorded his 1,000th career North American victory April 12, 2018 at Oaklawn Park, where he won six consecutive riding titles (2013-2018). Santana's milestone victory came aboard Westfest for Hall of Fame trainer Steve Asmussen, the jockey's major client. Finished third aboard the Asmussen-trained Tenfold in the 2018 Preakness Stakes (G1).
 - Earned his first career Grade 1 victory aboard the Asmussen-trained Creator in the 2016 Arkansas Derby at Oaklawn. Santana's first stakes victory also came at Oaklawn in the 2011 Spring Fever aboard Salty Wave.
 - Santana earned his first career riding title in 2012 at Delaware Park. He tied for the riding title at the 2014 Churchill Downs September meeting and topped the Keeneland standings for the first time at the 2017 fall meet. Recorded his first Keeneland stakes victory in the Buffalo Trace Franklin County (G3) Oct. 12, 2018 aboard the Asmussen-trained Chanteline.

- Santana hails from Panama, which is also the birthplace of Hall of Fame jockeys Laffit Pincay Jr. and Braulio Baeza. Santana grew up in the poor Panama City neighborhood of El Chorrillo before graduating from the Laffit Pincay Jr. school for aspiring jockeys in December 2008.
- Santana was brought to the United States in 2009 by agent Ruben Munoz, who still represents the jockey. Santana recorded his first victory in the United States Sept. 21, 2009, at Delaware Park.
- Santana's father, Ricardo Santana Sr., was a jockey in Panama who, after retirement, was paralyzed from the waist down following an accident galloping a horse in April 2007.