



Robert LaPenta

Born: Aug. 20, 1945, in Yonkers, New York

Residence: Westport, Connecticut

Family: Wife, Laurie. Son: Robert Jr.

Education: Iona College

Breeders' Cup Record (includes partnerships): 10-1-1-1 | \$1,750,500

- Represented by 10 Breeders' Cup starters to date, including War Pass, who clinched an Eclipse Award as champion 2-year-old male with a victory in the 2007 Juvenile (G1). He also sent out Whitmore, owned in a partnership with trainer Ron Moquett and Head of Plains Partners LLC, to finish second in the 2018 Breeders' Cup Sprint (G1) after finishing eighth the year before. Jackson Bend was third for LaPenta in the 2011 Sprint.
- His 2019 candidates include Whitmore, who is making this third Sprint start, and Coal Front, who is being pointed to the Big Ass Fans Dirt Mile (G1). Coal Front, owned in a partnership with Head of Plains Partners, won the Godolphin Mile (G2) on this year's Dubai World Cup undercard. His 2019 wins also include the Razorback Handicap (G3), the Mr. Prospector (G3) and the Parx Dirt Mile.
- LaPenta, who grew up attending the races in New York with his mother, achieved one of his "bucket list" wishes in racing when he won the 2018 Travers Stakes (G1) with Catholic Boy. "I've been coming to Saratoga since I was 18," LaPenta said. "This race has always been my dream. Even more than the Kentucky Derby. Some people might not understand that, but the Mid-Summer Derby has always been my dream."
- As a 3-year-old, Catholic Boy was equally formidable on turf and dirt, winning the \$1.2 million Belmont Oaks (G1) and Pennine Ridge (G2) on turf prior to his win in the Travers ... That versatility made Catholic Boy the first 3-year-old male to win Grade 1 stakes at 1 ¼ miles or more on both turf and dirt since Secretariat in 1973.
- At 4, Catholic Boy, owned by LaPenta in a partnership with Madaket Stables, Siena Farm and Twin Creeks Racing Stable, continued to flash his talent and versatility by finishing second in the Suburban Stakes (G2) on dirt and winning the Dixie Stakes (G2) on turf ... He was retired after finishing fourth in the Knickerbocker Stakes (G2) and sent

to Claiborne Farm where he will stand stud starting in 2020. In 13 starts, Catholic Boy has won seven times with earnings of \$2,134,000.

- LaPenta won two Grade 1 stakes on the 2018 Travers Day card as Whitmore captured the Forego Stakes (G1).
- LaPenta owns two wins in the Belmont Stakes (G1). His most recent victory in the final leg of the Triple Crown came in 2017 with Tapwrit, who he owned in partnership.
- His other Belmont winner is Da'Tara, who spoiled Big Brown's bid for a Triple Crown sweep in 2008.
- Other top runners for LaPenta include The Cliff's Edge, winner of the 2004 Blue Grass Stakes (G1); Ice Box, winner of the 2010 Florida Derby (G1) and second in the Kentucky Derby; and Dialed In, winner of the 2011 Florida Derby (G1) and now one of the country's top young stallions.
- LaPenta had a long association with Hall of Fame trainer Nick Zito, who conditioned War Pass, The Cliff's Edge, Da'Tara, Ice Box and Dialed In.
- LaPenta first became an owner in the 1990s as a partner with former University of Louisville men's basketball coach Rick Pitino. LaPenta started his own stable in 2001 (Whitehorse Stable).
- Chairman, CEO and president of Revolution Lighting Technologies, Inc., a leader in the design, manufacture, marketing and sale of LED lighting solutions focusing on the industrial, commercial and government markets in the United States, Canada and internationally.
- LaPenta is a graduate of Iona College and still holds the school dear to his heart. His racing colors are Iona's gold and maroon. Through his philanthropy, Iona built the Robert V. LaPenta Student Union on its campus ... The college also renamed its Business School after LaPenta ... A member of Iona's Board of Trustees, LaPenta donated \$17.5 million toward the construction of a new \$37 million building to house the program.
- LaPenta is a founding partner of Aston Capital Partners, a Stamford, Conn, firm that invests in companies that specialize in military intelligence, homeland security and green technology. He is also the chairman and CEO of Revolution Lighting Technologies and The Radiant Group.
- He founded L-1 Identity Solutions and co-founded L-3 Communications and has held positions with Banc of America Securities, Credit Suisse First Boston, PaineWebber, Salomon Smith Barney, and Coopers & Lybrand.
- LaPenta became seriously ill in March 2018 and was feared to be near death until Dr. Peter Saikali, a doctor at Norwalk Hospital, diagnosed him with Legionnaires' disease and administered the proper medications that brought him back to good health. The thankful LaPenta vowed to name a horse after Saikali. "When I think about what happened to me," he said about the work of Dr. Saikali in making a life-saving diagnosis, "I'll never complain about bad luck again."