



Steve Asmussen

Born: Nov. 18, 1965, Gettysburg, South Dakota.

Residence: Arlington, Texas

Family: wife, Julie; sons, Keith James, Darren Scott and Eric Mark

Breeders' Cup Record: 48-6-6-3 | \$12,262,180

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- **Eclipse Awards: Champion Trainer** (2008 and 2009); **Horse of the Year** (Curlin, 2007 and 2008, Rachel Alexandra, 2009 and Gun Runner, 2017); **Champion Older Male** (Curlin, 2008 and Gun Runner, 2017); **Champion 3-Year-Old Filly** (Rachel Alexandra, 2009 and Untapable, 2014); **Champion Sprinter** (Kodiak Kowboy, 2009); **Champion 2-Year-Old Filly** (My Miss Aurelia, 2011).
 - Asmussen earned his second Breeders' Cup Classic (G1) victory in 2017 with Gun Runner, who easily defeated a top field of horses en route to his fourth straight Grade 1 victory and the Horse of the Year title. Gun Runner retired to Three Chimneys Farm in 2018 after winning the \$16 million Pegasus World Cup Jan. 27 at Gulfstream Park. He is ranked second only to 2016 Breeders' Cup Classic winner Arrogate in career earnings with \$15,988,500.
 - Asmussen earned his fifth Breeders' Cup victory in 2014 when Kentucky Oaks (G1) winner Untapable ended her season with a dominate victory in the Distaff (G1). His other wins are the 2012 Dirt Mile (G1) with Tapizar; the 2011 Turf Sprint (G1) with Regally Ready; the 2011 Juvenile Fillies (G1) with My Miss Aurelia; and the 2007 Classic with Curlin.
 - Asmussen enters the 2019 Breeders' Cup with three horses that have earned automatic berths to their respective races – Midnight Bisou (Longines Breeders' Cup Distaff (G1)), Mitole (Big Ass Fans Breeders' Cup Dirt Mile (G1)) and Wicked Whisper (Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies (G1)). Midnight Bisou, who finished third in last year's Distaff, is undefeated in seven starts this year, including three Grade 1 wins. Mitole, who could also start in the Sprint (G1), has won five of six starts, including the Metropolitan Handicap (G1) and Forego Stakes (G1).
 - Was inducted into the National Museum of Racing Hall of Fame in August 2016. That same year he earned his second Triple Crown race win when Arkansas Derby (G1) winner Creator rebounded from a poor start in the Kentucky Derby to win the Belmont Stakes (G1).

- Asmussen was North America's leading trainer by wins in 2002, 2004, 2005, 2007 through 2011 and 2013. He won the Eclipse Award as outstanding trainer in 2008, when he set the record for number of wins in a year with 622, and won the award again in 2009 when he broke his own record with 650 wins. He also was the first trainer in history to win 500 races in one year, scoring 555 in 2004, crushing the record of 476 held by Jack Van Berg since 1976. Asmussen set a North American record on Feb. 7, 2004, when he won 10 races in one day, including three stakes, from 16 starters at five tracks.
- Asmussen won his 8,000th race May 5, 2018 when Lookin At Lee won the third race on the Kentucky Derby undercard. He is second among all North American trainers only to Dale Baird, whose win total stood at 9,445 when he was killed in an auto accident in 2007. Asmussen became just the second trainer in history to earn 7,000 career wins April 1, 2015 when Drama Coach won the second race at Oaklawn Park ... Saddling Basalt at Remington Park, Asmussen earned his 6,000th win on Nov. 18, 2011, the fifth trainer to reach that milestone.
- He holds multiple training titles including at Ellis Park, Fair Grounds, Keeneland, Lone Star Park, Monmouth, Oaklawn Park, Remington Park, Retama Park, Sunland Park and Churchill Downs.
- Asmussen currently divides his operations among New York, Kentucky, Louisiana, Arkansas, Texas and Oklahoma. His assistants are Scott Blasi, Darren Fleming and Toby Sheets.
- Among Asmussen's major clients is Winchell Thoroughbreds, who owned Gun Runner and Untapable ... The trainer's operation suffered a blow in 2011 with the death of leading client Jess Jackson of Stonestreet Stable. Two horses that Asmussen trained for Jackson left near-indelible marks on racing's history books, earning three straight Horse of the Year Eclipse awards between them: Curlin in 2007 and 2008 and Rachel Alexandra in 2009.
- Rachel Alexandra was purchased by Jackson and Harold McCormick after her 20-length win in the 2009 Kentucky Oaks. The filly was undefeated in eight starts as a 3-year-old, including historic wins over males in the 2009 Preakness Stakes (G1) and Haskell Invitational (G1) and over older males in the 2009 Woodward Stakes. Retired in 2010, she was bred to Curlin and delivered her first foal in January 2012. After complications from her second foaling, the champion was retired from broodmare duties, but continues to live out her days at Stonestreet Farm.
- Asmussen trained Curlin from his second start after Midnight Cry Stables sold majority interest in the colt to Stonestreet and partners George Bolton and Padua Stables; Stonestreet eventually owned the horse outright. Curlin won the Preakness Stakes and Breeders' Cup Classic in 2007 and followed with wins in the Dubai World Cup (G1), Stephen Foster Handicap (G1), and Jockey Club Gold Cup (G1) in 2008. The Gold Cup win pushed his career earnings over the \$10 million mark and past Cigar as the top American earner in history. After finishing fourth in the 2008 Breeders' Cup Classic, Curlin was retired to stand at Lane's End Farm, but currently stands at Hill 'n' Dale Farm.

- Asmussen learned the racing business from his parents, Keith and Marilyn Asmussen, who breed, own and train. He was helping to walk hots and mucking stalls by the age of 5. In a childhood accident, he lost part of one thumb while holding a horse through a chain link fence.
- Asmussen took out his jockey's license at age 16 and rode for three years in California, New Mexico, and New York before difficulty maintaining weight forced him to abandon race riding. His brother, Cash, now also a trainer, was the Eclipse Award top apprentice jockey in 1979 before becoming a champion rider in Europe. The Asmussen family operates Asmussen Horse Center, a breeding and sales operation, and El Primero Training Center, both in Laredo, Texas.
- Asmussen began training Thoroughbreds and Quarter Horses in New Mexico in 1986 and won his first Thoroughbred stakes in 1987, the Bessemer Stakes with Scout Command at Birmingham Race Course. His first graded win, the G3 Derby Trial in 1996, came with Valid Expectations, his first major contender and winner of seven stakes from 1995 through 1997. His first Grade 1 win came in 1999 with Mother Goose Stakes winner Dreams Galore.