

A special look at the top stories from [thoroughbredracing.com](https://thoroughbredracing.com). January 2020

# TRC



## Not up to standard

The damning verdict on 2019's crop of 3-year-olds

**Also inside: Breaking convention with Pinatubo / A dramatic fortnight in the life of a young jockey / #3 jockey on the world all-time list calls it a day / What They're Thinking: Barbara Livingston**

# | Expert Eye

2015 b h Acclamation - Exemplify (Dansili)

2020 Fee: £17,500 SLF



## FRANKEL

*To Stud 2013*

## KINGMAN

*To Stud 2015*

## EXPERT EYE

*To Stud 2019*

2YO 7f  
Group winner



3YO Gr.1  
winning miler



Gr.1 Sire



Leading First  
Season Sire



All eyes on the future...

Contact Shane Horan, Claire Curry or Henry Bletsoe

+44 (0)1638 731115

[nominations@juddmonte.co.uk](mailto:nominations@juddmonte.co.uk)

[www.juddmonte.com](http://www.juddmonte.com)



JUDDMONTE





# IT'S OFFICIAL: 2019's 3-year-olds were below average everywhere

Chris Smith | January 22, 2020

*It's always a difficult job to assess the relative merits of the international racehorse population, and, as is normal, many will argue that the 2019 Longines World's Best Racehorse Rankings, which were unveiled in London today, have got some things wrong. Much of what they tell us, however, is pretty close to the truth, and significantly that includes the inescapable judgement the figures deliver on the year's Classic crops around the globe: they were all well below par.*

Above: Maximum Security is first past the post in the Kentucky Derby ahead of Country House (yellow and black), who was later awarded the race, becoming the lowest-rated winner of the Run for the Roses of the last decade. Photo: kentuckyderby.com

Cover photo: Anthony Van Dyck (far side) triumphs in a blanket finish to the Epsom Derby last June. But the race received the lowest rating for any running in the last decade - as did the 2019 Kentucky Derby. Photo: Mark Cranham/focusonracing.com

For the first time since 2012, in fact, there was no 3-year-old rated in the world top ten. Indeed, only once in the last decade (in 2012) has there not been one in the top four. In 2019, however, the highest-placed was the Prix du Jockey Club winner Sottsass, whose mark of 123 puts him no higher than joint 16th.

There is surely no comfort in the knowledge that that rating is just five pounds behind the trio of joint world #1s - the European turf runners Crystal Ocean, Enable and Waldgeist. Whether they are the right table-toppers is up for debate - particularly from supporters of the Japanese mare Lys Gracieux, winner of three of the nine highest-ranked races of 2019 in the Longines list of the 100 best races, which was also unveiled today (based on the average rating of the first four finishers). That, though, is not a subject for discussion here.

Sottsass, of course, may well prove to be undervalued (which could be one of the reasons Coolmore have just bought a half-share in him from Peter Brant's White Birch Farm). That 123 was awarded for his 3½-length third in the ParisLongchamp mud behind Waldgeist and Enable in the Arc (which is once again hailed as the Longines World's Best Race). Like Coolmore's Japan, who was half a length behind in fourth, Sottsass did not enjoy the conditions that day. He could develop into some force in 2020.

Japan, another whose talents may go on to earn him a more substantial figure by this time next year, is 2019's joint second best 3-year-old, along with his stablemate, the July Cup winner Ten Sovereigns, and America's highest-rated, the Kentucky Derby first-past-the-post Maximum Security, whose status may rise should he triumph in the world's richest race, the \$20 million Saudi Cup, at the end of next month.

It was an ordinary year for the Japanese Classic crop too. A mark of just 120 is enough to put Saturnalia top of the heap. Australia's best, the Everest winner Yes Yes Yes, is on the same number, but high-level middle-distance 3-year-olds down under are once again nowhere to be found.

## World's highest-rated 3-year-olds

End-of-season WBRR figures of the last ten winners

Year	Winner	Rating
2010	<b>Makfi</b> (France)	128
	<b>Workforce</b> (GB)	128
2011	<b>Frankel</b> (GB)	136
2012	<b>I'll Have Another</b> (US)	125
2013	<b>Treve</b> (France)	130
2014	<b>Australia</b> (Ireland)	127
	<b>Kingman</b> (GB)	127
	<b>The Great Gatsby</b> (GB)	127
2015	<b>American Pharoah</b> (US)	134
2016	<b>Arrogate</b> (US)	134
2017	<b>Cracksman</b> (GB)	130
2018	<b>Roaring Lion</b> (GB)	127
2019	<b>Scottsass</b> (France)	123

Hopefully, the strength of 2019's sophomore generation, or rather the lack of it, will turn out to be a mere stutter in the historical narrative of the Thoroughbred. But the declining rank of what have always been universally espoused as the sport's two most important breed-shaping races is starkly laid bare by the Longines numbers.

In the chart of the top 100 races, the Epsom Derby languishes in 36th place. While that is pretty disappointing, it's a full ten places higher than the Kentucky Derby, which comes in at #46, a position it shares with, among others, two other previously more prominent contests whose 2019 renewals got a pretty clear thumbs down from the IFHA ratings panellists - the Dubai World Cup and the Japan Cup.

But the real tale of the ailing fortunes of the world's two most famous Derbys is shown in the figures allotted to their winners - in both cases a low for the decade. And, as you can see from the stats below, these are no isolated incidents.

One outstanding winner (and three reasonable ones) aside in those ten years, the Run for the Roses is struggling to maintain its place in the pantheon. The panel make it just the eighth best race run in North America last year, and bear in mind they will have been trying their damndest to get it as high as possible.

That applies at least as much to the fabled Epsom showpiece. True, there have been three fine Derby winners since 2010, but the trajectory since 2015 has been unhappily downwards, and all the signs are that it will remain so. A mile and a half is considered the arena of the stayer these days, and sadly very few breeders are interested in producing that kind of animal.

The Italian master breeder Federico Tesio famously said, "The Thoroughbred exists because its selection has depended, not on experts, technicians or zoologists, but on a piece of wood, the winning post of the Epsom Derby."

That piece of wood no longer seems to matter so much.

## Kentucky Derby

End-of-season WBRR figures of the last ten winners

Year	Winner	Rating
2010	<b>Super Saver</b>	120
2011	<b>Animal Kingdom</b>	121
2012	<b>I'll Have Another</b>	125
2013	<b>Orb</b>	120
2014	<b>California Chrome</b>	124
2015	<b>American Pharoah</b>	134
2016	<b>Nyquist</b>	123
2017	<b>Always Dreaming</b>	120
2018	<b>Justify</b>	125
2019	<b>Country House</b>	118

## Epsom Derby

End-of-season WBRR figures of the last ten winners

Year	Winner	Rating
2010	<b>Workforce</b>	128
2011	<b>Pour Moi</b>	122
2012	<b>Camelot</b>	124
2013	<b>Ruler Of The World</b>	122
2014	<b>Australia</b>	127
2015	<b>Golden Horn</b>	130
2016	<b>Harzand</b>	121
2017	<b>Wings Of Eagles</b>	119
2018	<b>Masar</b>	121
2019	<b>Anthony Van Dyck</b>	118

See you  
here...



The world's  
most valuable  
horserace



THE JOCKEY CLUB LOCAL HANDICAP | THE RIYADH DIRT SPRINT | THE 1351 TURF SPRINT | THE SAUDI DERBY  
THE NEOM TURF CUP | THE OBAIYA ARABIAN CLASSIC | THE RED SEA TURF HANDICAP | **THE SAUDI CUP**

For full details on Ticketing, Travel and more  
please visit our new website: [www.thesaudicup.com](http://www.thesaudicup.com)  
@thesaudicup   

King Abdulaziz Racetrack, Riyadh,  
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA)



# *He's the best juvenile in 25 years – so you'll see why they're breaking with convention with him this winter*

JA McGrath | January 24, 2020

Below: Pinatubo with jockey William Buick, Sheikh Mohammed and Charlie Appleby after winning the G1 Darley Dewhurst Stakes at Newmarket last October. Photo: Dan Abraham/focusonracing.com

*One of the benefits of being the world's biggest racehorse owner is that you can pretty much ship your horses anywhere, for races, training, or rest, at any time of the year. The enjoyment of visiting them on a daily basis comes as one of the associated luxuries.*





**4 ISSUES  
A YEAR**  
for  
**€25/£20/\$30**

# SUBSCRIBE TO GALLOP

**A GREAT GIFT FOR EQUINE LOVING  
FRIENDS, FAMILY OR EVEN YOURSELF**

**€25/£20/\$30 per year**

Subscribe at [www.thoroughbredracing.com/gallop/](http://www.thoroughbredracing.com/gallop/)

or e-mail [subscribe@gallop-magazine.com](mailto:subscribe@gallop-magazine.com) with any queries

When Masar won the 2018 Epsom Derby, he spent much of the preceding winter in Dubai, at Marmoom Stables, which is Godolphin trainer Charlie Appleby's training base there, 25 miles south of the city.

Sheikh Mohammed was a regular visitor in the weeks of the colt's preparation for the Classic season that lay ahead. For the ruler of Dubai and vice-president of the United Arab Emirates, spending quality time with the home-bred destined to become the first Derby winner sporting Godolphin's royal blue silks offered some respite from his responsibilities as Head of State.

Two years later, Sheikh Mohammed and Godolphin again have a 3-year-old with the attributes of a budding Classic winner, Pinatubo, who this week was officially rated the best juvenile to have raced in Europe in 25 years. The Shamardal colt, unbeaten in six starts, is short-priced favourite to win the 2000 Guineas at Newmarket on May 2.

But, unlike Masar, he will not have his owner popping in to check his progress on a regular basis. Instead, Pinatubo has remained at Moulton Paddocks, Newmarket, in a deliberate move by Appleby to maintain a routine that has proven successful.

"He has never been a work horse, That's why he never came to notice in his gallops before he went to the races. Even the lad, who rides him at home,

never felt anything out of the ordinary in the mornings. Yet, on raceday, he comes alive," Appleby reported.

"We take many horses to Dubai for the winter every year, but when we choose, it is on an individual basis. In Pinatubo's case, we felt it was the right thing to let him stay in Newmarket. I didn't want him going to a completely different environment, alien to what he has been seeing every day," he added.

Marmoom features a nine-furlong dirt track, as well as grass gallops, on an oval layout. It is completely flat; if it also had a grandstand, it could easily double as a decent track in the United States.

"The danger in going to Marmoom is that he could be set alight ... every day. We have discussed it and decided to stick to the same routine in Newmarket. We know it works. Sheikh Mohammed is not at all disappointed that he is not going to see the colt every day in Dubai this winter. He wants what is right for the horse.

"He has followed Pinatubo right from the start. He picked him out when we looked at the home-breds in Ireland [in October 2018]. He gave him a nice [inspection] score," he added.

At the unveiling of the European Two-Year-Old Classifications in London this week, Graeme Smith, the British Horseracing Authority's lead handicapper of juveniles, described Pinatubo's nine-length win in the

National Stakes at the Curragh in September as "breathtaking ... one of the great 2-year-old performances, and the best by any 2-year-old in the last 25 years."

But Smith then posed this question: 'Will he train on at three?'

When that was put to Appleby, the trainer replied, "We genuinely won't know the answer until he runs in the 2000 Guineas. [The plan is for him to go straight there.] The likelihood of seeing stunning pre-Classic gallops is very remote. This colt is straightforward. He has done very well over the winter, and he looks a picture. I couldn't be happier with his development. He has strengthened well.

"Is he a Derby colt? His pedigree [he is out of a Dalakhani mare] says there is a chance he could get a mile and a half, but on the other hand, there are not too many Shamardals who excel over that trip. In his favour, he is well-balanced and he has a lot of strength about him. His demeanour is good, and he is relaxed. And he switches off in his races."

With Pinatubo based in Britain, Appleby is spending less time than usual in Dubai, though keeping a strong string in training at Marmoom for the Dubai World Cup carnival. The excitement of a Classic contender is hard to contain, even in the biggest of training establishments.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE CONNECTIONS.  
IT WAS A HELLUVA YEAR.

## MITOLE

CHAMPION MALE SPRINTER

*Owner: Bill & Corinne Heiligbrodt*

## VINO ROSSO

CHAMPION OLDER DIRT MALE

*Owner: Repole Stable & St. Elias Stable*

## COVFEFE

*by Champion General Sire Into Mischief*

CHAMPION THREE-YEAR-OLD FILLY  
& CHAMPION FEMALE SPRINTER

*Owner: LNJ Foxwoods*

*Breeder: Alexander-Groves Thoroughbreds*





# A glorious high – and a shocking low: it's two weeks in the life of a young jockey

Patrick Gilligan | January 27, 2020

*Jack Gilligan has flourished since he joined the U.S. jockey ranks after moving from England five years ago. The now 23-year-old, who was the subject of an acclaimed book - *Around Kentucky with the Bug* - written by his father, former Newmarket trainer Patrick, about their first year in America, has been plying his trade at Fair Grounds in New Orleans this winter.*

*So mid-January seemed like a good time for his father, a regular TRC contributor from his home in Lexington, Kentucky, to hop on a plane and spend some time with his son. Here he tells of the enjoyable and rewarding few days they had together, albeit with a sting in the tale...*

At home at the Fair Grounds: Jack Gilligan and Silver Dust before a memorable victory in the Louisiana Stakes





Jack Gilligan, my son, has spent the past two winters racing at Fair Grounds in New Orleans, Louisiana. He spent his early years in Newmarket in England, where I trained a few horses. He started racing there, was apprenticed to Sir Mark Prescott. He was four from 25 in the UK, when he emigrated to the States, aged 17.

In one week, he went from early mornings mucking stables, tacking up, riding a few lots, sweeping the yard, to arriving at barns in Lexington, Kentucky, the horse tacked and pulled out for him. Up away, breeze back in, and onto the next one. He hasn't mucked a stall or handled a broom since he arrived in the States over five years ago – and that suits him just fine.

Most jockeys in the UK will tell you about the driving, the traffic. Two meetings a day often, the M25, snarling tailbacks, time pressure. Seven days a week.

It must be a relief sometimes to get banned for a few days. It is tough to ride seven days a week.

And it seems unnecessary to me, considering there is also jump racing running each day over there.

I didn't appreciate the pressure on a rider's shoulders when they are racing. It is intense - quick decisions, risk, getting it right. Time after time. No-one gets it right all the time, and that can weigh on the rider's mind.

A couple of days off gives the rider a chance to recharge, regroup. It is okay if a rider is winning all the time maybe, adrenaline is carrying them along, and nice paychecks. But most riders aren't winning all the time. I have seen the days off benefit Jack after a disappointing weekend.

Fair Grounds races four days a week through the winter, Thursday to Sunday, November through to the end of March. That is enough, he says. He likes the work-life balance here and the minimal driving. He lives a stone's throw from the track. Thirty-five minutes

Making the grade: Silver Dust and Jack Gilligan winning the G3 Louisiana Stakes at Fair Grounds on January 18. Photos: Patrick Gilligan

after his last race, he is showered and sat with his feet up at home.

Quite a difference from the UK - and to Jack here also when he races spring to autumn in Kentucky. Three-hour drives home after a disappointing day at the races is wearing. And they are mostly disappointing days, for everyone, everyone in the sport, loses more than they win.

We covered 72,000 miles the first year Jack rode in Kentucky. He doesn't do that anymore, but riders in the UK don't have a choice, and, even if they have a driver, that is a lot of hours spent in a car.

Monday is quiet at Fair Grounds, a few morning breezers, go see some trainers, touch base with his agent, Richie 'The Rat' Price.





Jockey agents are much more hands-on with the riders here. They may have one rider on their book, no more than two. They charge the rider 25 percent of their weekly paycheck, and they go around the barns, see the trainers, hustle for new business, try to maintain existing business, and work on getting the rider as many winners as possible.

Riding fees and minor place percentages are low here. It is that ten percent of the winner's purse that the riders all want. Maiden races and allowance races here are running for around \$46,000. Sixty percent of that goes to winning connections, and ten percent of that to the winning jockey, who then passes 25 percent to the agent and five percent to his valet.

Jockeys have to win here. A rider who has a dozen rides in a week without a winner in the UK is probably still making a living. Over here, a dozen rides and no win is McDonald's wages

Sunday and Monday is when Jack eats what he pleases. And in New

Orleans, there is good eating to be had.

Sunday is Mid-City Pizza straight after racing, feet up, relax at home - he introduces me to a Netflix series, the *Haunting Of Hill House* - whatever you do, don't watch it. I never had the hair on my legs stand up before.

Monday, it may be Santa Fe, a big racing hangout around the corner from the track, or maybe Adolfo's down in the quaint and historic French Quarter. But there are so many. Drago's for seafood, NOLA's for paella. Neo's for chargrilled oysters. And then there are the jazz bars and clubs dotted all over if you want to dance a few calories back off.

Almost every day, Jack takes a run in City Park or hits the gym. Weight is not easy for him here, even without so much temptation. He has to be able to ride, with his tack, at 118lb to stay competitive for mounts. That's 8 stone 6 pounds dressed, with his saddle. He is five feet nine inches, one of the three tallest riders in

Relaxing in City Park in New Orleans: Jack Gilligan enjoys a little time away from the racetrack

---

North America. So, after eating, well, comes the famine, literally. Tuesday and Wednesday, he doesn't eat really. A yoghurt and a protein bar and that is it both days.

I don't like it, but he says it's okay. It is the hardest part of his job, he says, but after two days he says he feels light and alert and good.

### Laid-back city

I flew down to see him, to spend a week with him. New Orleans is a great place to visit, a free spirited, laid-back city, mighty oaks draped with Spanish moss line the streets. You can happily spend an afternoon just wandering past the grand old homes, no cookie-cutter houses here. They are all shuttered windows and balconies and greens and pinks and blues, and it all works.



---

*I didn't appreciate the pressure on a rider's shoulders when they are racing. It is intense - quick decisions, risk, getting it right. Time after time. No-one gets it right all the time, and that can weigh on the rider's mind.*

---

He had 13 rides booked over the weekend, which included a rare Monday card as it was Martin Luther King Day, a holiday. Three rides on the Thursday resulted in a close second, caught close home in the mile-and-an-eighth turf race.

We picked up some fish from Canseco's, the local store, after racing, walked home, realized it was frozen, so put it to defrost in the fridge and headed to Santa Fe around the corner for some Mexican food. There was a time when second was something to be excited about. Now it just sucks.

Friday, Jack was at the track breezing from 5.30 onwards. Jockeys don't get paid to breeze horses here, but they do expect to get the ride in the afternoon. So, it is good to be busy in the morning.

Straight after training, he went for a quick jog around City Park, then a shower and back to Fair Grounds. He likes to get to the track around two hours before his first race, to study his rides, to warm up and stretch and to share some banter with the jockeys and valets.

Two rides, races one and four, nothing to shout about. Straight in the shower and, like clockwork, he is back in the car 30 minutes after his last ride. We would have fish tonight, with broccoli and French stick. We went to the movies after, saw 1917. It was good, but I find war movies tough, all the wasted lives. We are lucky. I try harder as I get older to remind myself of that.

Saturday brought more breezes, I went to the track after the break, grabbed a coffee at CC's on the way and got some pictures of Jack

breaking from the gate with Robby Albarado.

Home, shower, back to the races again. Three rides on the Saturday card, including Silver Dust in the Louisiana Stakes, a \$100,000 Grade 3. Silver Dust provided Jack with his first two Graded Stakes last year. A difficult horse, he was rank to gallop, tough to breeze, and prone to rearing in the gate. At Saratoga, before Jack was associated with him, he reared over in the gate and got himself in such a tangle underneath the starting stalls that they had to be moved before he could get back up.

Jack had built up a good relationship with him, though, and the horse had talent. He would be favorite today, but this was his first start back after a break.

### **Streak of gray**

His first mount of the day didn't do much, neither did his second. It was turning into a quiet weekend. He looked well in the paddock, Silver Dust. He walked around like a prize fighter, the pale gray son of Tapit. He looked ready.

The jockeys came out in their silks, greeted the owners, talked to the trainers, then they were up and led out under the stands to the sound of the bugler.

Silver Dust warmed up well, kept on his leash by the pony rider. He loaded good, stood good. He broke fine from the inside stall, but three broke with him. Jack didn't want to lead – the horse can take it easy when he hits the front – but he didn't want to be pinned in by the other riders

either. Silver Dust is tough, though, big and mean if he needs to be. Jack let him bully his way out as they came out of the first turn. Second now, just to the outside of the leader. Perfect. Now it was just a question of if he was good enough.

He was good enough. He joined the leader entering the stretch and drew away, they couldn't touch him today, a streak of gray, the rider's black and red silks laid along him, the stick flashed, keeping the old warrior to his task.

They came back to the winner's enclosure, the trainer relieved at a good job done, everyone smiling, laughing. Mission accomplished. It all went right, it all went good. It has to, to win. He might be better than ever this year, Dusty.

### **Big deal**

Margaritas at Santa Fe was the order of business after racing, dinner with Jack's friends. I drank too much, he was sensible. That is usually how it is in our family. We went down to Frenchmans Street afterwards, listened to some jazz bands in some dimly lit bars.

By the time I woke up the next day, Jack (now up to world #236 in the TRC Global Rankings thanks largely due to the win) was already at the track. He came back during the break, picked me up and we headed to Bret Calhoun's barn to feed Silver Dust his mints. He took them as his due, ears pinned back by way of thank you. He was born April first, the same day my best horse was born, Rushcutter Bay. He is a grouch too, even now at age 27.

## Leading to Success

Two-year international management and leadership programme for the global thoroughbred racing and breeding industry

Includes the graduate certificate in Management (Thoroughbred Industry) accredited by UCD Michael Smurfit Graduate Business School

[www.godolphinflyingstart.com](http://www.godolphinflyingstart.com)



UCD Michael Smurfit  
Graduate Business School

*Applications deadline*  
**Monday, February 10th 2020**





Sunday yielded a third, Monday was two unplaced runners followed by Mid-City Pizza again, Jack's treat to himself.

Stakes winners are a big deal to a young rider. Graded Stakes victories are not easy to come by. He has picked up three in the last 12 months, a sign of good progress for the rider, still only 23, already over 300 wins to his name.

He has worked hard since he left school, and indeed rode out every day before school since the age of 14. He is reaping some rewards now. He drives his big truck, has just bought a nice apartment here in New Orleans. The living is good down here in the Big Easy, for the kid from Newmarket in the UK. Who would have written that?

Just three days after leaving New Orleans, I was back - to visit Jack in hospital.

It was the last race on the Friday, problems on the last turn, a horse swung out, knocked Jack's mount off balance and it went down.

I was watching the race at home in Lexington. One second it was a normal race, the next everything had changed. It was faster than the human eye could see - he just disappeared from the screen, a horrible fast fall, fired into the ground. His collarbone instantly snapped.

A horse and rider from behind couldn't avoid them, the animal tried to jump the horse on the ground, half made it, but its foot struck Jack in the face as it galloped by. The rider returned devastated, scared. It broke Jack's eye sockets, his nose. They will have to operate to realign his jaw. Wires for six weeks, no solids.

You wouldn't normally consider that lucky, but no head injury, full

Battered, bruised - but itching to return: Jack Gilligan recovering in hospital after his horrible fall

---

movement except in that left arm. Not in extreme pain. Six weeks out though, possibly on the sidelines for Silver Dust's next race. That may be the worst pain of all.

I wonder if Shaun Bridgmohan, the other rider downed, when he was flying through the air a seeming good dozen feet off the ground at over 30 miles an hour with his horse no longer beneath him, had pause to reconsider his career choice. Probably not. Jack is already starting to grumble about missed mounts. It takes years off you, days like this.



# Tattersalls February Sale

January 30- 31

Breeding Stock, Fillies/Horses in Training, 2YO's, Yearlings  
Featuring consignments from European Sales Management,  
Godolphin, Juddmonte, Shadwell and the TBA Stallion Parade.



## MISSION BOY

*winner of Gran Criterium, Gr. 2, etc.  
sold at Tattersalls February Sale  
for 3,000 gns*



## MOTION LASS

dam of **A'Ali**

*winner of Norfolk Stakes, Gr. 2,  
Prix Robert Papin, Gr. 2,  
Flying Childers Stakes, Gr. 2  
sold at Tattersalls February Sale  
for 9,000 gns*



*Tattersalls*

T: +44 1638 665931 sales@tattersalls.com www.tattersalls.com







*Falero's colleagues welcomed him with a guard of honour at the entrance to the ornate Maronas grandstand ahead of the final ride of a career featuring nearly 50,000 rides and about 170 G1 winners*

Photo: El País/Marcelo Bonjour

# End of an era as the #3 jockey on the world all-time list calls it a day

Nicholas Godfrey | January 10, 2020

*A legendary riding career came to an end in South America on Monday when Pablo Falero, the jockey dubbed 'racing's Maradona' in Argentina, returned to his native Uruguay for his final ride after more than 9,500 winners and 38 years in the saddle.*

However, there was to be no fairytale ending for the 53-year-old – who stands at third on the all-time jockeys' list with 9,580 career victories – when his mount Olympic Harvard could finish only fourth in the Gran Premio Jose Pedro Ramirez at Maronas racecourse in Montevideo.

The G1 over 1m4f on dirt was won in brilliant fashion by the favourite Ajuste

Fiscal, who scored by seven lengths. But the main focus of attention on Uruguay's most prestigious raceday was the homecoming of Falero, who has been based across the River Plate in the more exalted racing arena of Buenos Aires for the last 28 years.

Falero's colleagues welcomed him with a guard of honour at the entrance to the ornate Maronas grandstand ahead of the

final ride of a career featuring nearly 50,000 rides and about 170 G1 winners, among them four victories in the Gran Premio Carlos Pellegrini, the 'South American Arc'. Falero's last ride in Argentina had come last month in the most recent edition of the same race, when he was unplaced on Fromm behind Brazilian winner Nao Da Mais.



## ALL-TIME JOCKEYS' TOP TEN

as at January 8, 2020

1. Jorge Ricardo	12,975
2. Russell Baze	12,844
3. Pablo Falero	9,580
4. Laffit Pincay	9,530
5. Bill Shoemaker	8,833
6. Pat Day	8,803
7. David Gall	7,396
8. Edgar Prado	7,342
9. Fumio Matoba	7,273
10. Takemi Sasaki	7,153

Palero, currently standing at 119 in the TRC Global Rankings, in which he is the fifth-highest ranked Argentina-based rider, retired with no fewer than 21 jockeys' titles to his name, five in Uruguay (1987-1991) and 16 more in Argentina, where he formed a formidable long-running partnership with trainer Juan Carlos Maldotti and the Lottero family's Haras Vacacion stable, for whom he is now set to take up training duties.

"The numbers are amazing – winning 9,500 races is a huge amount and I didn't keep count!" he said. "The time has passed very quickly and I must thank my family for all their support throughout my career."

"I do not regret the decision to stop riding," he went on. "It's true to say that I still feel great and I think I'm still riding well and my reflexes are as good as ever. But I said I would finish at the end of 2019, and here I am, keeping my word."

On the verge of tears as he addressed the crowd at Maronas, Falero expressed his gratitude for the warmth of the response he received. "I will never forget this tribute," said the rider. "I could not believe the ovation I received when I came on to the track with Olympic Harvard and I'm also astonished to find so many Argentinian horseracing people here for my farewell."

Born in Conchillas, Uruguay, in December 1966, Falero had his first ride aged 14 at the Real San Carlos in Colonia de Sacramento on the Uruguayan coast;

*...this hugely popular figure has won a multitude of G1s in South America, including the continent's biggest races, the Gran Premio Carlos Pellegrini (four times - Potrillon 1991, Potri Pe 1992, Guarachero 2000 and Storm Mayor 2005) and the GP Latinoamericano, which he won on Potrillon in 1992.*

*Pablo Falero, Pablo Falero  
before his arrival last year*

his first winner, named Unica, came on his third mount at the same venue when he was 15 in 1982.

Owing to the unreliable nature of records from that era, it is difficult to be entirely confident of his career figures, but sources in Uruguay put his overall tally at 9,580 – enough to place him third on the all-time list behind only Jorge Ricardo, Falero's colleague in Buenos Aires for nearly two decades, and the now-retired North American Russell Baze.

Other statistics published in Argentina suggesting a total of 8,347 completely ignore several seasons in Uruguay before he moved across the River Plate and are therefore clearly deficient.

What is unarguable is that this hugely popular figure has won a multitude of G1s in South America, including the continent's biggest races, the Gran Premio Carlos Pellegrini (four times - Potrillon 1991, Potri Pe 1992, Guarachero 2000 and Storm Mayor 2005) and the

GP Latinoamericano, which he won on Potrillon in 1992.

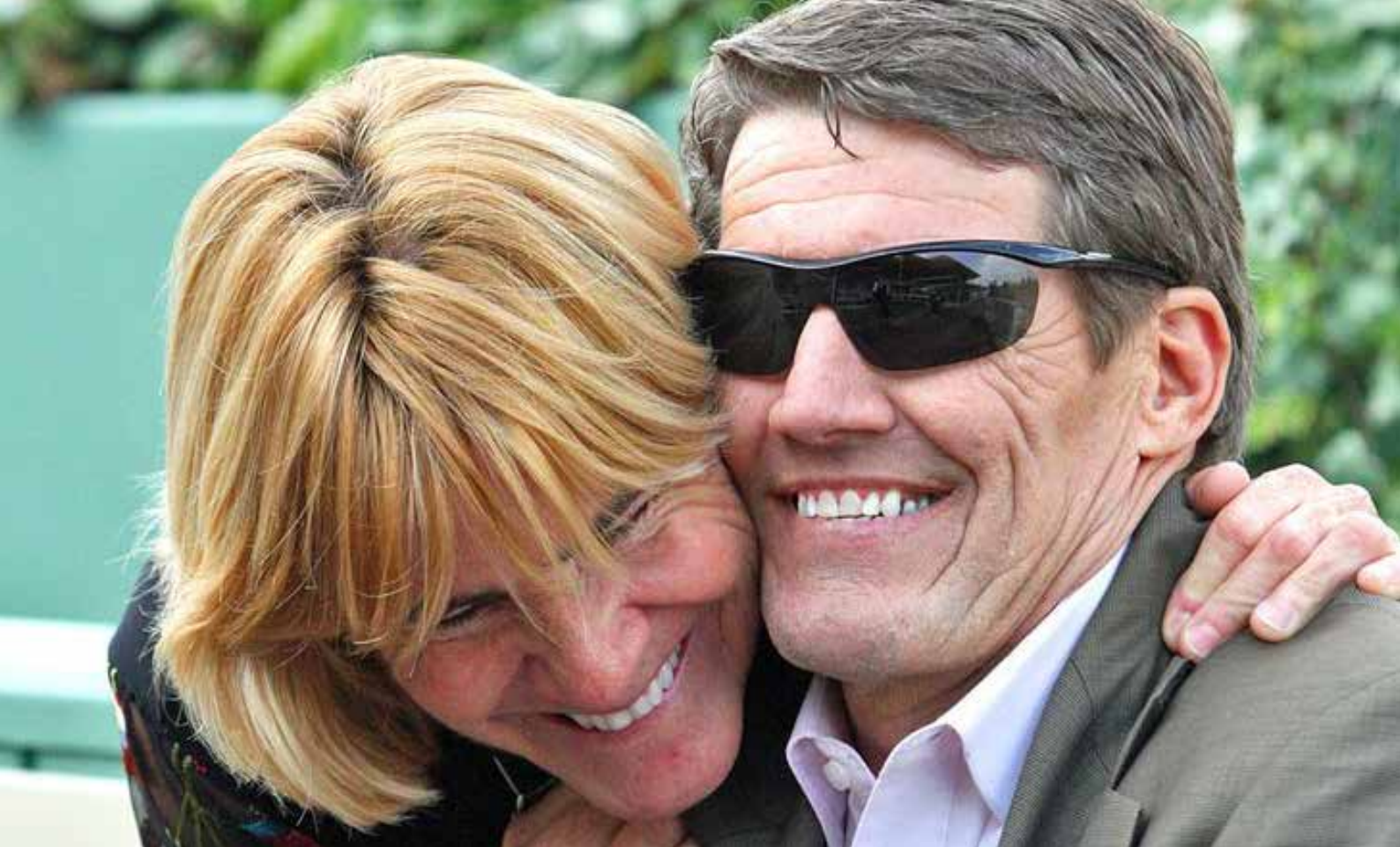
However, Falero identifies the victory of Delivery in the G1 Gran Premio Enrique Acebal at San Isidro in 1998 as his most important triumph as it came after nine months on the sidelines following a horrific injury in morning trackwork in which he fractured three cervical vertebrae. Doctors had warned he might never ride again.

Jorge Ricardo, still riding in Buenos Aires after serious illness and injury in recent seasons, heads the all-time jockeys' list with 12,975 winners. There is widespread rumour in Argentina that the Brazilian jockey known as 'Ricardinho' will retire when he reaches 13,000.

According to the Pagina de Turf website, the world leader among trainers in career victories is Peruvian-based Juan Suarez Villaroel, who had registered 9,535 winners as at January 5.

My thanks to Luis Costa Baleta for his assistance with this article.





# *What They're Thinking:* **Barbara Livingston: it's inexcusable that we continue to tolerate heavy whip use**

Emily Shields | January 07, 2020

*Six-time Eclipse Award winner Barbara Livingston is the chief photographer for the Daily Racing Form. She has been photographing horses since 1971, and has captured some of the game's greatest and most intimate moments. Through her photography and journalism, Livingston can be considered an historian of the sport.*

**Who do you think is the most important figure in world racing history?**

I'm not really versed in international things. I am also not a people person, I'm a horse person. I will go with a horse, and I realize he's an American horse, but I believe his international importance is off the charts.

I would say Lexington (1850-1875) because of his influence on the breed here and around the world – Japanese runners





and English runners - and his stranglehold in breeding all those years. I believe he was 16 times the leading sire in the country (14 consecutively).

He was a horse important enough that his bones are on display at the Kentucky Horse Park, on loan from the Smithsonian. They still make someone like me stare at them in wonder, to try to picture him in his lifetime, but I can't. I only picture him as an historic painting and as the ultimate example of importance to the breed.

His impact on the breed was incredible, he gave people things to dream about at the time. I just think the impact he had is something we can't even fathom. As important as I think he was, I bet he was even more important in reality.

### Which is your favorite venue and race?

My favorite venue is Hialeah Park, because it's so magnificent. It's like an artist's palette; every place you go looks like it was created for artists and lovers, and I love that.

My favorite race is any relaxing 2-year-old race at Saratoga on a week day, where the crowd isn't rabid but people are excited to see a fresh face and the possibility that comes with that.

### What is your fondest memory in racing?

For me a fondest memory would be being there to watch Om win the Grade 3 Thunder Road Stakes at Santa Anita (February 10, 2018). I was there with my beau, Dan Hendricks (then Om's trainer). The amount of work he put into getting the horse to that point, and the joy on his face afterwards ... he's not a person who shows joy easily, and he's not a person that usually accepts congratulations. To see him that happy made me measurably more happy, after all the screaming from the race was done. There are things more important, but that moment made me feel like, 'This is a good day.'

### What do you see as the biggest challenge racing faces today?

That's a no brainer: showing the outside world not only how much we love our horses, but that we take the responsibility seriously to keep them safe, loved, and healthy.

It's easy to say we love our horses, and we do love our horses, but we need to do better, showing that we don't consider them just animals participating for us to profit. We live for them, we live to do better by them, and I want the world to realize how much

Opposite: Barbara Livingston with Dan Hendricks, who has been paralysed from the waist down since a motocross accident in 2004. Above: Standout moment: Om wins the Thunder Road Stakes at Santa Anita in February 2018. Photos: Emily Shields

myriad thousands of us care, deeply and often quietly.

Often people don't know the things we do to protect horses, and keep up with them, and make sure they land in a good spot, and are healthy when they go to sleep at night ... I wish more people knew that. I want to show the steps we are taking to make it safer, and that we do love our equine athletes. We really are trying to do the right thing.

### If you could change one thing in racing, what would it be?

This is a flashpoint for people, but I personally am disgusted when I see heavy whip use. It horrifies me, let alone what I think horses feel. To me, it's inexcusable that we continue it as we do. Some tracks are taking steps to modify use. Countless accidents and disqualifications are caused by horses veering in and out from the stick, and they are things we don't need to see happen in the future.

# TRC GLOBAL RANKINGS

## The Thoroughbred Racing Industry's ranking system

**Available at [thoroughbredracing.com](http://thoroughbredracing.com)**

Thoroughbred racing has its rankings of the world's leading horses and the world's best races, but the sport is devoid of meaningful classifications of the humans involved, the jockeys, the trainers, the owners.

After two years in development, Thoroughbred Racing Commentary (TRC) filled that void with the creation of TRC Global Rankings. Updated weekly, this is the only system in the world that assesses the accomplishments of every jockey, trainer, owner and sire.

## Advertise in TRC Monthly Roundup

**[A look at the top stories from thoroughbredracing.com](http://thoroughbredracing.com)**



**Full page, half page and quarter page formats available.  
Contact: [george@thoroughbredracing.com](mailto:george@thoroughbredracing.com)**





© Michèle MacDonald



Thoroughbred Racing  
Commentary

---

## Sign up for our free newsletter

*Make sure you never miss the inside track on the international thoroughbred racing industry direct to your inbox three times a week.*

**And also receive  
TRC GLOBAL RANKINGS weekly updates**

Sign up at [www.thoroughbredracing.com](http://www.thoroughbredracing.com)

---

Join the conversation on social media...

 /ThoroughbredRacingCommentary

 @TRCommentary



19 January 2020

## Jockeys

Rank	Name	Modal Country	Points
1	Frankie Dettori	Great Britain	1091
2	Ryan Moore	Great Britain	1078
3	Christophe-Patrice Lemaire	Japan	1066
4	Mike E Smith	USA	1046
5	Joel Rosario	USA	1042
6	William Buick	Great Britain	1040
7	Zac Purton	Hong Kong	1038
8	Irad Ortiz Jr	USA	1035
9	Hugh Bowman	Australia	1033
10	Javier Castellano	USA	1025
11	Jose L Ortiz	USA	1024
12	Flavien Prat	USA	1023
13	James McDonald	Australia	1022
14	Mickael Barzalona	France	1020
15	Mirco Demuro	Japan	1018

## Owners

Rank	Name	Modal Country	Points
1	Godolphin	Australia	1079
2	Coolmore Partners	Ireland	1053
3	Sheikh Hamdan Al Maktoum	Great Britain	1045
4	Juddmonte Farms / Prince Khalid Abdulla	USA	1041
5	U Carrot Farm	Japan	1028
6	Silk Racing Co Ltd	Japan	1026
7	Madaket Stables Et Al	USA	1022
8	Magic Bloodstock Et Al	Australia	1019
9	White Birch Farm / Peter Brant Et Al	USA	1018
10	Sunday Racing Co Ltd	Japan	1017
11	Klaravich Stables Et Al	USA	1012
12	Peters Investments Et Al	Australia	1009
13	Danox Co Ltd	Japan	1007
14	Bernard Kantor Et Al	South Africa	1006
15	Michael Dubb Et Al	USA	1005

## Trainers

Rank	Name	Modal Country	Points
1	John Gosden	Great Britain	1079
2	Chad C Brown	USA	1074
3	Charlie Appleby	Great Britain	1073
4	Bob Baffert	USA	1049
5	Aidan O'Brien	Great Britain	1044
6	Andre Fabre	France	1022
7	James Cummings	Australia	1016
8	Saeed bin Suroor	UAE	1015
8	Steven Asmussen	USA	1015
10	Chris Waller	Australia	1014
10	Sir Michael Stoute	Great Britain	1014
12	John Size	Hong Kong	1011
13	Brad H Cox	USA	1005
14	John Moore	Hong Kong	1003
15	Jamie Richards	New Zealand	999

## Sires

Rank	Name	Modal Country	Points
1	Dubawi	Great Britain	1079
2	Galileo	Ireland	1058
3	Sea The Stars	Great Britain	1044
4	Shamardal	Great Britain	1042
5	Frankel	Great Britain	1040
6	Deep Impact	Japan	1038
7	Lord Kanaloa	Japan	1034
8	Scat Daddy	USA	1027
9	Pierro	Australia	1026
10	Curlin	USA	1022
10	I Am Invincible	Australia	1022
12	Lookin At Lucky	USA	1021
13	Zoustar	Australia	1020
14	Medaglia D'oro	Australia	1017
15	Lope De Vega	Australia	1016