

**Cruz, Angel:** Born: March 29, 1995. From: San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Began riding in 2014 and was an Eclipse Award finalist for leading U.S. apprentice that year. Said that when he first started riding no one believed in him except for his grandmother and stepfather.

Cruz's uncle, Joel Hiraldo, and grandfather, Jose Hiraldo, were both jockeys (now retired).

Won his first race in April 2014 at Charles Town in West Virginia. Has also ridden at Laurel Park in Maryland and is now based in New York