

Maragh, Rajiv: Born: July 9, 1985. From: Jamaica.

Originally from Jamaica, his family moved to Florida when Rajiv was 13. His father, Collin, was a jockey in Jamaica and later became a trainer in Florida. Wife: Angelina (Angie).

Out with a broken arm (from a spill) from Sept. 27, 2014 to mid-January, 2015 (nearly 3 months).

He returned to riding briefly and then suffered compressed and broken vertebra, broken ribs and a punctured and collapsed lung in a racing accident on July 10, 2015 at Belmont Park. He was away from racing again, this time for nearly 16 months. He returned to racing on Oct. 30, 2016 at Belmont Park. Maragh, "I was immobile and in excruciating pain every day. I couldn't do anything, really. I couldn't bend, lift, twist. It took me about four months to be able to put my own socks on. I was walking with a cane. I couldn't drive myself anywhere. It wasn't about riding at that point. I was just trying to get to a state of well-being and that took a long, long time."

"It's really exciting to be back," said Maragh, who is again represented by his longtime agent, Tony Micallef. "I got over a big hump, it was a long process to get healthy. I'm very fortunate to get to ride again. I went through a tough stint with the injury and rehabilitation and everything; it's been a long journey. I don't know if it's exactly struck me yet that I'm really going to be riding. It's still kind of unreal."

"It's been a roller coaster the last few years, lots of ups and downs," he said. "I would say this would be the lowest point in my career, to be so severely injured and it was such a tough task to get back to riding again. And now that I'm back to riding, it feels like I'm starting from scratch, business-wise. All the horses I was riding are pretty much retired. So I have to start over and I'm competing with the best jockeys in the world. Obviously, I'm kind of at a disadvantage because I don't have any horses I've been riding. I've got to hit the reset button and start back over."

Rajiv Maragh's triumph on IRISH WAR CRY in the Wood Memorial signaled that he is all the way back after an arduous journey following severe injuries in an accident on July 10, 2015. Maragh's mount clipped heels with another and landed on him. Three years earlier, Maragh had suffered a compression fracture in his T3 vertebrae, the result of another spill; this time, he'd fractured his T4, 5, 6, and 8 vertebrae, and, while he wasn't paralyzed, he was unable to walk, or even move much, for the first three days. He feared for his life as he gasped for air, requiring two tanks of oxygen during the ambulance ride to New York's North Shore Hospital. The combination of four compressed vertebrae, a broken rib and a collapsed lung forced the jockey to be sidelined for 16 months. He wore an upper body brace for nine of those. He decided to remain at Aqueduct this past winter to rebuild his business, knowing that might cost him top mounts. Yet it turned out he was in the right place at the right time when Motion needed a rider for Irish War Cry. "When I was down and out," said Maragh, 31, "these are the days I dreamed about."

Maragh shifted his tack to the west coast and Santa Anita Park for the 2017/18 winter meet.

Family: Wife: Angela

