

Ortiz, Jose: Born: Oct. 2, 1993. From: Trujillo Alto, Puerto Rico.

Grandfather, uncle and brother were and/or are all jockeys. Attended Escuela Vocacional Hipica, a Puerto Rican school for prospective jockeys, following in the footsteps of his grandfather, Irad, and uncle, Ivan, who also were riders and his older brother, Irad.

Jose began his career riding in Puerto Rico and then went to Parx Racecourse in Philadelphia to gain experience. At the urging of his brother he shifted his tack to New York and, like Irad, lived with Pito and was mentored by Angel Cordero.

Jose secured his first leading rider title at the prestigious Saratoga meet in 2016. Irad was second in the standings.

He and Irad moved their parents to New York in 2016. This is also to same year that Jose and Taylor (Rice) were married (Dec. 2016) and Taylor gave birth to their baby, Leilani, in June 2017. Taylor is a former jockey who gave up that aspect of the game to be a mother.