

Saez, Sebastian: Born: From: Darien Province, Panama.

Older brother, Luis Saez, riding in New York. His other older brother, Juan Saez (between Luis and Sebastian), died in October, 2014 in a racing accident. The Saez brothers are from Darien Province at the eastern end of Panama, bordering the Pacific Ocean and Colombia. The sparsely populated province encompasses a rugged mix of mountains, rivers, jungles, forests, swamplands and some spectacular beaches.

Given the poor conditions of the roads, horses are the transportation of choice, the Saez boys riding from the time they could walk. "We were always competing, the three of us, when I was little," Sebastian said. "We were riding ponies like we were in a race. My two bigger brothers always tried to beat up on me, so I had to be tough." ... "It was really, really difficult on my mother," Sebastian said of leaving Panama to become a jockey. "But my father told me, 'Anything in life is dangerous. You can get hurt in a car accident, get hurt anywhere. So if that's what you want to do, go ahead with it.'"

Like his brother, Luis, Sebastian is a graduate of the prestigious Laffit Pincay Jr. Jockey School in Panama.