

Rosario, Joel: Born: Jan. 14, 1985. From: Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.

Grew up on a farm near Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, that had horses and donkeys. He used horses for transportation but his early dreams were of being a professional baseball player. Attended the races with an older brother, and when he was 13, he asked his family if he could be a jockey. He attended the jockey school for six months, and by age 14, was a licensed professional.

First race was at Galapagos Hippodromo V Centenario in Dominican Republic and first win was there in July of 2000. Went on to be leading rider in Dominican Republic four times and was second once. Won the Angel Cordero Jr. Jockey Challenge at El Commandante in Puerto Rico in 2005. Leading rider in the Dominican Republic before moving to the U.S. in 2006. Dominican bloodstock agent and former trainer Herbert Soto arranged for Rosario to come to the U.S. in 2006, where he rode first at Fairplex Park before heading north to Golden Gate Fields.

First U.S. win was on Slew Fly at Fresno Oct. 5, 2006. Rode in Northern California for much of 2007, finishing second in the standings to perennial leader Russell Baze at both Golden Gate Fields and Bay Meadows. Won his first stakes on March 18, 2007 at Bay Meadows aboard Dealer Choice in the \$50,000 Luck of the Irish Handicap. Headed to Southern California later in 2007 and it didn't take long for him to establish himself as a top rider. Scored his first win in Southern California aboard Only One Way on June 21, 2007 for trainer John Sadler, who became one of his strongest supporters.

Won the 2013 Kentucky Derby on Orb becoming the first jockey to win both the \$10 million Dubai World Cup (on Animal Kingdom) and the Kentucky Derby in the same year. 2014 was a banner year for him as he took the Belmont Stakes-G1 and the Jockey Club Gold Cup-G1 on Tonalist and captured nine more Grade 1 races. They include three Grade 1 wins on eventual 2014 champion Older Female Close Hatches.

Broke his wrist in a riding accident on Feb. 20. Just made it back to racing the last week of April.

March 6, 2018 became a U.S. citizen.

Family: wife Briana, one daughter, one son.