

Talamo, Joe: Born: Jan. 12, 1990. From: Marrero, LA., just across the Mississippi River from New Orleans.

Began going to the Fair Grounds at age seven with his father, Joseph Jr., who worked as an assistant to trainer Connie Tassistro. At 11, first got on Thoroughbreds for Terry Gabriel at Folsom Training Center. A year later, began working with horses at a half-mile track in Waggaman, La., operated by Zeke Zeringue. There he was mucking stalls, walking horses, and eventually jogging horses. First racing experience came at a bush track in Duson, La., called the Quarter Pole, where several other Louisiana riding stars also started ... From there, he exercised horses at Folsom Training Center and then Evangeline Downs. Left Archbishop Shaw High School (Marrero) in his junior year (2006) to pursue his career as a jockey. Started riding at Louisiana Downs in June of 2006 ... First win came there on July 9.

At the 2006-2007 Fair Grounds meet he became the first apprentice on record to win a Fair Grounds riding title with 119 wins, 25 more than Robby Albarado, the perennial leading rider at the New Orleans track. Shifted his tack to Southern California after the Fair Grounds meet. Earned more than \$6-million as an apprentice in 2007. On his first day as a journeyman, July 22 at Del Mar, won three races. In 2007 earned the Eclipse Award for outstanding apprentice jockey.

Was the regular rider for 2009 Kentucky Derby morning-line favorite I Want Revenge, who scratched the morning of the race due to an ankle injury. Carla Gaines was one of his earliest and most ardent supporters, but now he has expanded the number of trainers for whom he ride regularly to include Neil Drysdale, Mike Mitchell, John Shirreffs, Mike Machowski, Art Sherman, Ron Ellis and Bob Baffert.

Rode in his first Breeders' Cup in 2007 at the age of 17. In 2009 earned his first B. Cup victory aboard California Flag in the 2009 Turf Sprint.

Family: Married longtime girlfriend Elizabeth Ellis, daughter of trainer Ron Ellis, in November 2015. They have a son born in November 2016 and are expecting a second child in April 2018.