

Cedillo, Abel: Born: Feb. 5, 1989 (30 years old) From: Guatemala.

Grew up in Guatemala, very poor. The oldest of 6—has 3 brothers and 2 sisters. His father moved to the U.S. when Abel was 15 years old and was working as a groom at a farm (Adena Springs) in Ocala, FL when Abel came to join him when he was 17. Abel got a job at a nearby farm where his uncle was an exercise rider. Abel started out as a groom but within a few months started galloping horses.

Abel did not grow up around horses. It wasn't until he was 17 years old, when he started to work with them... and he had no fear of them. He liked them right away. Felt like they were easy and honest to work with. He didn't even **think** about becoming a jockey until he had been galloping horses for a few months but when he watched some races on TV he thought "I could do that. I want to do that."

He rode his first 9-10 races in Ocala, FL then moved to the San Francisco area because he had family there and he needed to get his work visa/green card and they could help him with that. Once he realized that there was a track nearby (Golden Gate) he started taking the 3:15AM bus to get to the track (left his house at 3:AM to walk to the bus, had to transfer in San Fran...) by 4:AM or so. Found a job straight away galloping horses and then a few months later (after getting his green card in order as well) started riding again as a jockey.

Cedillo eventually rose to the top of the jockey standings at Golden Gate but didn't really get "hot" until the year **after** his apprenticeship. He eventually won over 1,000 races there and, subsequently, caught the eye of jockey agent Tom Knust who brought him to Del Mar at the start of the 2019 summer meet.

In Southern CA Mike Smith has mentored Cedillo some and Abel really looks up to Smith.

Had a break-out hot streak that started on September 14 with a win in the G2 Pocahontas at Churchill Downs, then a win in the G2 John Henry Turf Championship (9-1 odds) **and** the G1 Awesome Again stakes on Mongolian Groom (25-1 odds) on Sept. 28, capped by Paradise Woods' win in the G2 Zenyatta Sept. 29.

Family: wife, Jasmin, and 3 year old son (born Dec. 30, 2016) Abel, Jr. Jasmin is Mexican/American, U.S. born. She's a nurse now but Abel met her when she was just 14 years old—he was friends with her brothers. Was only allowed to see her inside the confines of her parents' home (and only during the day, mostly) until she was 18 years old. They married when she was 19. Cedillo was 26 at that time.