

Maragh, Romero: Born: April 14, 2000 From: Hollywood, FL

Maragh comes from a racing family. Cousins Tony and Rajiv are jockeys and he has uncles that are successful trainers.

Started riding as soon as he was in old enough (in FL you have to be 18 to ride). Had a mount on his 18th birthday but it flipped in the paddock and was scratched. He had his first ride the next day and then broke his maiden on his 4th mount—a horse for Chuck Simon. Maragh's first stakes win came on a Patrick Biancone trained horse and Romero credits Biancone.

Jan. 31, 2019 Maragh went down in a racing accident (clipped heels), fracturing two vertebrae and was knocked unconscious for 30 minutes. Underwent an emergency 6 hour procedure to fuse 4 vertebrae, had a titanium rod inserted to stabilize his spine, and was fitted with an upper-body brace that he had to wear for months. He did not get back to riding until early in 2020.

Maragh grew up with the dream of becoming a jockey but was getting too big. He took up soccer at age 16 to get exercise—but he was good. He was playing at a high level and getting scouted by some top college and even some professional teams were looking at him. He was fitter now but he still weighed 150-155 lbs.

He joined an elite soccer team called Next Level Soccer academy, they trained very hard, and within 2-3 months he was in the best shape he had ever been in and weighed 120-125 lbs. That's when she started going to the track and learning to ride thoroughbreds (Jan. 2018).

Education was important to him though. He had a 4.4 GPA as a junior and more credits than necessary to go another full year so he took some college level AP courses and then was able to not have to go to classes that spring. He graduated with his class in June 2018.