

Castellano, Javier (HOF 2017): Born: Oct. 23, 1977. From: Maracaibo, Venezuela.

Born and raised in Venezuela, Javier's father, Abel Castellano (deceased), was a jockey. Neither Javier's mother or father wanted him to follow in his father's footsteps. Multiple injuries, the hard life of a jockey, etc...his family wanted him to have a proper education and go into another line of work. Javier didn't really grow up idealizing about becoming a jockey, instead, his first love was baseball and he grew up wanting to be a professional baseball player. That is until all of his friends kept growing and he stayed small.

At age 16 Javier told his parents about his new goal—to become a jockey—and that's when he began to train for that. No jockey school in Venezuela so he went to the track and learned to ride...He calls his father, a former jockey who died in 2000, the biggest influence on his career. His uncle also was a jockey, as is his brother Abel (Abel hasn't ridden since 2015).

Started riding in Venezuela in 1996 and moved to the United States in June 1997, riding on the South Florida circuit. Castellano moved to New York in 2001 and was immediately successful, finishing sixth in the New York jockey standings. Agent Matt Muzikar picked up his book in the spring of 2009.

Castellano won on his first Breeders 'Cup mount, Ghostzapper, in the Breeders 'Cup Classic in 2004 at Lone Star Park.

His lone Triple Crown wins have come in the Preakness Stakes: 2006, Bernardini (a race marred by the breakdown of Barbaro, winner of that year's G1 Kentucky Derby) and 2017 on Cloud Computing.

Castellano earned back-to-back-to-back-to back **Eclipse Awards** as Champion Jockey in 2013, '14, '15 and '16 after leading all riders in North America in wins and earnings.

Inducted into the National Horse Racing **Hall of Fame in 2017**.

Oct. 20, 2018 won 5,000th race.

Family: wife Abby; daughters Kayla Marie and Sienna Grace; son Brady Ryan.