

Ortiz, Jose: Born: Oct. 2, 1993. From: Trujillo Alto, Puerto Rico.

Grandfather, uncle and brother were and/or are all jockeys. Attended Escuela Vocacional Hipica, a Puerto Rican school for prospective jockeys, following in the footsteps of his grandfather, Irad, and uncle, Ivan, who also were riders and his older brother, Irad.

Jose began his career riding in Puerto Rico and then went to Parx Racecourse in Philadelphia to gain experience. At the urging of his brother he shifted his tack to New York and, like Irad, lived with Pito (Efraim "Pito" Rosa, a peace officer who works in the jockeys' room at New York Racing Association tracks. Pito knew the Ortiz brothers' grandfather, Irad Ortiz, from Puerto Rico.) and was mentored by Angel Cordero.

Jose secured his first leading rider title at the prestigious Saratoga meet in 2016. Irad was second in the standings. He and his brother, Irad, have earned the majority of the New York leading rider honors since shifting their tack to New York and in nearly every case the brothers finished 1-2 in the meet's standings.

In 2017 Ortiz won the **Eclipse Award** for Outstanding Jockey.

Family: He and Irad moved their parents to New York in 2016 (I believe they are now back in Puerto Rico). This is also to same year that Jose and Taylor (Rice) were married (Dec. 2016). Taylor is a former jockey who gave up that aspect of the game to be a mother. Jose and Taylor have 2 children.