

Rosario, Joel: Born: Jan. 14, 1985. From: Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.

Grew up on a farm near Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, that had horses and donkeys. He used horses for transportation but his early dreams were of being a professional baseball player. Attended the races with an older brother, and when he was 13, he asked his family if he could be a jockey. He attended the jockey school for six months, and by age 14, was a licensed professional, riding and winning races.

First race was at Galapagos Hippodromo V Centenario in Dominican Republic and first win was there in July of 2000. Went on to be leading rider in Dominican Republic four times. Leading rider in the Dominican Republic before moving to the U.S. in 2006. Dominican bloodstock agent and former trainer Herbert Soto arranged for Rosario to come to the U.S. in 2006, where he rode first at Fairplex Park before heading north to Golden Gate Fields.

First U.S. win was Oct. 5, 2006. Rode in Northern California for much of 2007. Won his first stakes on March 18, 2007 at Bay Meadows then headed to Southern California later in 2007 and it didn't take long for him to establish himself as a top rider. Scored his first win in Southern California on June 21, 2007.

Won the 2013 Kentucky Derby on Orb becoming the first jockey to win both the \$10 million Dubai World Cup (on Animal Kingdom) and the Kentucky Derby in the same year. 2014 was a banner year for him as he took the Belmont Stakes (G1) and the Jockey Club Gold Cup (G1) on Tonalist and captured nine more Grade 1 races.

The most successful jockey to come out of the Dominican Republic—ever. The President of the Dominican Republic called him to congratulate him after his Kentucky Derby win.

Says that the biggest role model in his life has been his mother: “She’s a very special person. She’s amazing. She’s the kind of person who likes to help people—she likes to care for everybody.”

March 6, 2018 became a U.S. citizen.

Family: wife Briana, one daughter, one son.