

**Van Dyke, Drayden:** Born: Sept. 10, 1994. From: Louisville, Ky.

Lived his early years in Hot Springs, Ark., near Oaklawn Park with his mother, Jennifer. Has an older brother, Keeghan, an exercise rider at Midwest tracks, and a sister, Alexandria. Tried out for his high school basketball team at age 13 but didn't make it. Decided then that the way to go was to be a rider.

Father, Seth, who died (suicide) at age 43 on August 11, 2014 in Florida, was a jockey for a short time, riding in the Midwest. That inspired Drayden to try to be a jockey and his father supported him in his work. Losing his father was hard on him and in some ways trainer, Tom Proctor, became sort of a surrogate father for him. Hall of Fame jockeys Gary Stevens and Mike Smith have both taken Drayden under their wing. He lived with Smith during the 2014 Del Mar meet.

Began riding professionally at the Hollywood Park fall meet in 2013, where he won his first race on only his second mount. In 2014 he won the Eclipse Award as top apprentice. Van Dyke rode 192 winners on the year for earnings of more than \$6 million.

Missed the first half of 2017 with compound fractures to his right arm suffered in a racing accident at Santa Anita in January. Naturally light, carrying a feathery 106 pounds on his 5-foot frame.