



Cherokee Run

Inducted in 1998

The champion sprinter of 1994, Cherokee Run began his career at Calder Race Course under the tutelage of legendary Florida trainer Frank Gomez. The son of Runaway Groom raced seven times at Calder as a two-year-old in 1992, winning five events ranging from five furlongs to a mile and a sixteenth, before Gomez sent Cherokee Run on to his good friend trainer Frank Alexander for a national campaign.

Gomez was no stranger to developing very good racehorses at Calder and then turning them over to other trainers to race in different parts of the country. He previously had Princess Rooney and Smile, both eventual champions, under his shedrow early in their careers. The lifelong trainer knew Cherokee Run was special and he wanted the horse and his owner, Jill E. Robinson, to have every opportunity to run in the country's top races.

At age three, Cherokee Run would go on to win the Lafayette Stakes (gr. III), the Derby Trial (gr. III), and the Dwyer Stakes (gr. II). Although Cherokee Run was very fast and a top sprinter, his class helped him carry his speed, as evidenced in the 1993 Preakness Stakes where he finished second to Prairie Bayou.

During his championship year, Cherokee Run was second to Holy Bull in the Metropolitan Handicap (gr. I), won the Frank J. De Francis Memorial Dash (gr. II) and the Breeders' Cup Sprint (gr. I), carrying co-highweight. Still owned by Jill Robinson, Cherokee Run now serves as a stallion and stands at Jonabell Farm in Lexington, Kentucky.



CALDER RACE COURSE

A Churchill Downs Company



Frances A. Genter Stable, Inc.

Inducted in 1998

Mrs. Frances A. Genter will always be remembered for being the owner of the 1990 Kentucky Derby and Breeders' Cup Classic winner, Unbridled, but her stable's contributions to racing - especially in Florida - go much beyond that.

Married to Harold Genter in 1919, Mrs. Genter first entered racing in 1940 when she and her husband bought their first yearling at Saratoga. The couple lived in Minneapolis but wintered in Florida and eventually became well-known breeders in the Sunshine State.

Some of the best horses to have come out of the Frances A. Genter Stable include Rough 'n Tumble, My Dear Girl, Superbity, In Reality and Smile, and these horses would also go on to become greatly influential in the Florida breeding program.

In the Florida Stallion Stakes at Calder alone, the Frances A. Genter Stable bred and owned four horses to win seven divisions of the series. One of them was Smile, a son of In Reality who was the first to make a sweep of the FSS and would go on to become a champion sprinter.

Mrs. Genter, at age 92, was awarded the 1990 Eclipse Award for outstanding breeder. A short two years later, she passed away. The stable, as part of her estate, continues to operate and is managed by Mrs. Genter's son-in-law.

The Frances A. Genter Stable, along with a decades-long association with Ocala Stud and Tartan Farms, helped to strengthen the Florida Thoroughbred breeding industry so much so that its influence is still felt today.



CALDER RACE COURSE

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Emanuel "Manny" Tortora

Inducted in 1998

A native Floridian, Emanuel "Manny" Tortora was first introduced to racing as a youngster in the 1940s when he rode quarter horses in West Palm Beach. He worked at several farms in central Florida, including Rosemere, Dickey Stables, and famed Bonnie Heath, where he served as general manager for over five years. Tortora first acquired his trainer's license in 1970 and hit the South Florida training scene soon thereafter.

When it comes to the Florida Stallion Stakes program at Calder, two trainers immediately come to mind and Manny Tortora is one of them. His nine victories to date in the series is second only to Frank Gomez's 12 FSS victories.

Tortora wasted no time in establishing himself as a serious horseman in South Florida when he took the inaugural In Reality Division with Luv A Libra in 1982. The ones to come after include multiple stakes winners Oh My Jessica Pie, Boots 'n Jackie, Sea Emperor, and - the most famous - Mecke. Tortora put Mecke on a spectacular national campaign that featured scores in the Early Times Turf Classic, Super Derby (on the dirt), and Arlington Million, just to name a few.

The trainer has saddled approximately 50 stakes winners here at home, a feat in itself. But Tortora has also had success on the road with his charges throughout the years. Oh My Jessica Pie won the 1990 Budweiser Breeders' Cup and Boots 'n Jackie won the 1992 Golden Rod Stakes, both at Churchill Downs. He took Hollywood Wildcat to Monmouth Park to win the '92 Sorority and Always Silver to win the Alabama Derby in the same year.

The second all-time winningest trainer at Calder and Tropical at Calder, Tortora is a perennial standout here. Also among his accomplishments are leading trainer titles in 1990/91, 1992, and 1996/97. It is certain that he has many more achievements yet to come.

Through 2005, Tortora has started more 2-year-olds in the Florida Stallion Stakes than any other trainer in history and he is the all-time leading trainer (races won) at Calder and Tropical.



CALDER RACE COURSE

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Walter Guerra

Inducted in 1998

Born in Panama, Walter Guerra travelled to this country only to find that he was too young to begin his career as a jockey. He was fifteen.

A year later, Calder trainer Merritt Buxton, a former rider himself, gave the young apprentice his start and, well, the rest is in the history books. The year was 1979 and Guerra won more races at Calder that season than anyone else had before or anyone else has since. His 193 wins that meet is a record that still stands today. He finished the calendar year as the third leading jockey in the country.

Although his efforts the following year did not duplicate those of 1979, he still led the Calder jockey standings in 1980 with 96 victories. He would then tie with big-name riders Jacinto Vasquez and Jerry Bailey in the Tropical standings of 1980/81.

It was then that four-time Eclipse Award winning trainer Laz Barrera called upon Guerra to go to California. He spent three fruitful years there before going on to New York. The mid-'80s proved to be good for Guerra as he would win two Breeders' Cup races: the 1984 Juvenile Fillies with Outstandingly and the '85 Mile aboard Cozzene.

Naturally light and known for his excellent ability of getting horses out of the gate and a great sense of pace, Guerra later returned to Calder to win the 1989 Affirmed and In Reality Divisions of the Florida Stallion Stakes with Shot Gun Scott and the 1990 In Reality on Pro Flight.

Guerra's last meet at Calder was in 1996 when he won 27 races, but he will always be remembered for the way he burst onto the U.S. racing scene when he was sweet sixteen.



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