



Mark Frostad

Born: Jan. 19, 1949 in Brantford, Ontario, Canada.

Resident: Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

Family: Pam (wife), Kate and Justine (daughters), Peter (son).

Mark Frostad's record at Keeneland

Total wins: 44

Stakes wins: (7)

- Has won three Sovereign Awards as the leading trainer in Canada—1997, 1999 and 2000.
- Had nine Sovereign Award winners in his barn from 2001-2006—Catch the Thrill (2006 champion 2-year-old filly); Soaring Free (Horse of the Year and male turf horse) and Eye of the Sphynx (3-year-old filly), both 2004; Soaring Free (2003 sprinter); Portcullus (2002 male turf horse); Dancethruthedawn (3-year-old filly) and Mountain Angel (older female), both 2001; and Quiet Resolve (Horse of the Year and turf male) and Catch the Ring (3-year-old filly), both 2000.
- Trained two-time Canadian Horse of the Year Chief Bearhart, who also won the 1997 Eclipse Award as Champion Turf Male.
- Won the 1997 Breeders' Cup Turf (G1) with Chief Bearhart.
- Other Sovereign Award winners: 3-year-old colts Victor Cooley, Cryptocloser and Bruce's Mill; 2-year-old fillies Silken Cat and Hello Seattle; and turf filly Colorful Vices.
- Won Queen's Plate in 2001 with Dancethruthedawn, in 2000 with Scatter the Gold and in 1997 with Victor Cooley.
- Served as president of the Canadian Thoroughbred Horse Society four times.

Mark Frostad worked around horses while he was growing up on his family's Bo-Teek Farms. When he headed off to Princeton to college and later earned his M.B.A. at the University of Western Ontario, not many people expected that he'd make training Thoroughbreds his profession.

Initially he pursued a business career before opening his own bloodstock agency. It appeared his life's work had been charted, but in 1990, he took out his first trainer's license.

In 1994, just a year after he began training full time, Frostad was given a young horse, Bruce's Mill, to train who became his first stakes winner. With him, he won the second leg of Canada's Triple Crown, the Prince of Wales Stakes, and two other stakes. Bruce's Mill also finished second in the Molson Export Million, and was voted Canada's champion 3-year-old male.

Frostad, who has served as president of the Canadian Thoroughbred Horse Society four times, attracted the attention of a powerful force in Canadian racing—Ernie Samuel. Frostad replaced Jim Day as trainer of Samuel's highly successful Sam-Son Farm operation.

In 1995, his first year with Sam-Son, Frostad directed Silken Cat to an undefeated season which earned her a Sovereign Award as Canada's leading 2-year-old filly. She was Samuel's fourth juvenile filly to be named a champion.

The following year, Chief Bearhart and Smart Strike made headlines for Frostad. Chief Bearhart won the Breeders' Stakes and Smart Strike the Philip H. Iselin Handicap (G1). Other performers included Desert Waves, winner of the Niagara Breeders' Cup, and Sealunch, who won the Seattle Slew Stakes at Keeneland, Frostad's first stakes victory here. Chief Bearhart earned another Sovereign Award for Frostad and Samuel.

In 1997, Frostad saddled Cryptocloser to a victory in the Prince of Wales Stakes, as well as Victor Cooley to win the Vosburgh Handicap (G1) and Always a Classic to win the Early Times Turf Classic (G1).

But the star of the stable that year was Chief Bearhart, who won the Elkhorn Stakes (G3), the King Edward Breeders' Cup Handicap, the Sky Classic Handicap, and the Canadian International Handicap (G1). The exclamation point for the year was provided when Chief Bearhart roared to victory in the Breeders' Cup Turf.

Chief Bearhart had given Frostad a huge scare prior to the Turf. As he attempted to saddle the colt, he reared, kicked and threw a fit before slamming into the tunnel wall that leads to the track at Hollywood Park.

"I thought for a second that if this horse hurts himself here, I may never get another job," he said. "I thought everybody in the world would be saying: 'Does this guy know what he's doing?'"

Chief Bearhart received three Sovereign Awards for his terrific season, including Horse of the Year, but he also earned an Eclipse Award as champion turf male.

"It wasn't all about racing and winning for Ernie," Frostad said in the *Breeders' Cup 2000 Souvenir Magazine*. "It was about the horses. He always wanted what was best for them. He loved the animals. He would visit with them for hours on the farm. He was also very competitive, but also very patient and that contributed to his success. And it was a family affair for him. It was always a lot of fun. He was a terrific guy."

After Samuel passed away in 2000, his daughter, Tammy Samuel-Balaz, took over management of Sam-Son's racing and breeding operation. The plan calls for 30 to 40 mares to be bred each year, then foal at the farm in

Ontario and the foals would be sent to Sam-Son's training facility in Florida as weanlings.

In 2000, Frostad won the Canadian Oaks with Catch the Ring; the Queen's Plate and Prince of Wales Stakes with Scatter the Gold; and the Dixie Stakes (G2) with Quiet Resolve. For his accomplishments, he earned his third Sovereign Award as outstanding trainer, while Quiet Resolve was voted Horse of the Year and champion turf male honors and Catch the Ring champion 3-year-old filly.

Frostad trained two more champions in 2001. They were Dancethruthedawn, a daughter of Dance Smartly (Samuel's first Breeders' Cup winner), who earned 3-year-old filly honors after winning the Queen's Plate and the Labatt Woodbine Oaks, and Mountain Angel, winner of the Ontario Matron Handicap, who was voted champion older female.

In 2002, Portcullus won the Toronto Cup and the Breeders' Stakes on his way to earning champion male turf honors. Frostad also saddled Dancethruthedawn to win the Go For Wand Stakes (G1), Strut the Stage to win the Dixie Stakes, and Full of Wonder to win the Niagara Breeders' Cup Handicap.

The following year, he trained Sovereign Award-winning sprinter Soaring Free, who won three stakes; Saranac Handicap (G3) winner Shoal Water; and dual stakes winner Strut the Stage.

During 2004, Soaring Free earned Horse of the Year and champion turf male honors after winning five stakes, including the Atto Mile, while Eye of the Sphynx became 3-year-old filly champion after winning the Labatt Woodbine Oaks and two other stakes. Frostad's stable earned \$4.9 million during the year to rank 16th.

His stable won 28 races in 2005 and earned more than \$1.8 million. Stakes-winning performers included Soaring Free, who won the Shakertown (G3) at Keeneland. Last year, Catch the Thrill won the Princess Elizabeth Stakes and earned champion 2-year-old filly honors. Other stakes winners were Strike Softly, High Button Shoes, Count to Three, French Beret, See the Wind and Moon Path.

He won 32 races and the stable earned \$2.3 million last year. Through Jan. 9, 2007, EquineLine.com had him with 543 races won, cumulative earnings of \$40,574,693 and 54 stakes winners.

From Woodbine, where Frostad is based, he goes to the Sam-Son training facility in Florida. He typically sends strings to Keeneland and Fair Grounds and then returns to Woodbine.

"It's a good circuit," Frostad remarks. "It's sure a great life."

After winning the Breeders' Cup Turf with Chief Bearhart, Frostad said: "I'm just very fortunate to have had the opportunity to work with him and be around him. He has a way of making everybody around him look good."

It surely works both ways.

