

CAREER



Javier and his Father (1996)
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Preakness Stakes (2006)
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About Javier



Javier Castellano (born October 23, 1977 in Maracaibo, Zulia State, Venezuela) is a jockey in American Thoroughbred horse racing. The son of a former jockey, Castellano got his start in his native Venezuela in 1996. He moved to the United States a few months later in June 1997, riding on the South Florida circuit.

Javier's move to New York in 2001 was immediately successful; he finished sixth in the 2001 New York jockey standings and was second in 2002.

In 2004, Javier got his first big break when he was the rider for Frank Stronach's colt Ghostzapper on which he won several major races including the 2004 Breeders' Cup Classic. Ghostzapper was voted the 2004 Eclipse Award for Horse of the Year and named the World's Top Ranked Horse.

In 2006, Javier rode Bernardini for Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum's Darley Racing, earning his first Triple Crown race victory in the G1 Preakness Stakes. Bernardini went on to be named champion 3-year-old of 2006 with additional wins in the Jockey Club Gold Cup, Withers, Jim Dandy Stakes and Travers Stakes.

In 2008, Javier rode 2006 Breeders' Cup Turf winner and Turf Champion Red Rocks to victory over Curlin in the G1 Man o' War Stakes on the Belmont Park lawn, issuing the only defeat the reigning Horse of the Year had suffered at that point in the season. He earned his 2,000th win at Calder Race Course on April 28, 2007 aboard Nombre de Dios (Brz) for trainer Mark Hennig.

Javier rode Ave (GB) to victory in the Flower Bowl Invitational Stakes (G1), and Afleet Express in the Travers (G1) for major wins in 2010, and won additional 2010 graded stakes aboard Discreetly Mine, Blues Street, New Normal, You and I Forever, Battle Plan, Get Stormy, Interactif, Prince Will I Am, and Miss Keller (Ire). Javier won five consecutive races at Saratoga in 2010 on the third day of the meeting, and three times has won five races on the day at Saratoga.

One of the top five jockeys in the nation in 2011, Castellano rode G1 winners Ask the Moon (Personal Ensign Invitational Stakes, Ruffian Invitational Handicap), Hilda's Passion (Ballerina Stakes), Stay Thirsty (Travers Stakes), Zagora (Diana Stakes), C.S. Silk (Foxwoods Just a Game Stakes), Get Stormy (Maker's Mark Mile), Lilacs and Lace (Central Bank Ashland Stakes), and Her Smile (Prioress Stakes). Javier had 11 Grade 1 victories in 2011, more than any other rider that year. Other graded stakes winners ridden in 2011 included Union Rags, Right One (FR), Exhi, and Awesome Maria.

He won his first riding title on the New York Racing Association circuit in four years, when he edged Ramon Dominguez by two victories at the conclusion of Belmont Park's fall meet, and finished 2011 on a tear after shifting his tack in December to Gulfstream Park, leading the standings there at year's end. Among all riders, he concluded 2011 fifth in victories with 278, and third in earnings, with his mounts making \$15,675,977. Javier rode the 3000th winner of his career February 24, 2012 at Gulfstream Park, guiding Virtuously to a thrilling late-closing victory in the sixth race. On March 16, 2012, Javier tied the record at Gulfstream for most wins during the meet with 97. He shares the record with Jerry Bailey (1996), Wiggy Ramos (1991) and Julio Pezua (1987). On March 17, 2012, Javier broke the record at Gulfstream for most wins during the meet.

On January 18, 2014, Javier won his first Eclipse award as top jockey of 2013.

Javier calls his father, who passed away in 2000, the biggest influence on his career. His uncle was also a jockey, his brother Abel Jr. rides on the East Coast, and his father-in-law Terry Meyocks is a former NYRA and NTRA executive and currently serves as the national director of the Jockeys' Guild. Javier is a devoted husband and father to wife, Abby, children, Kayla, Sienna, Brady Ryan.

Major Racing Wins

W. L. McKnight Handicap (G3 2014)
Tropical Park Oaks (2014)
Breeders' Cup Filly and Mare Turf (G1 2014)
Champagne Stakes (G1 2014)
Temperence Hill Invitational Stakes (2014)
Pilgrim Stakes (G3 2014)
Yaddo Stakes (2014)
Ketel One King's Bishop Stakes (G1 2014)
Travers Stakes (G1 2014)
Singspiel Stakes (G3 2014)

Plate Trial Stakes (2014)
Pennsylvania Governor's Cup Stakes (2014)
Penn Mile Stakes (2014)
Mountainview Handicap (2014)
Poker Stakes (G3 2014)
James W. Murphy Stakes (2014)
Chick Lang Stakes (2014)
Black-Eyed Susan (G2 2014)
Churchill Distaff Turf Mile (G2 2014)
Elusive Quality Stakes (2014)
Dixiana Elkhorn Stakes (G2 2014)
Beaumont Stakes (G2 2014)
Jenny Wiley Stakes (G1 2014)
Besilu Florida Derby (G1 2014)
Gulfstream Oaks (G2 2014)
Skip Away Stakes (G3 2014)
Davona Dale Stakes (G2 2014)
Canadian Turf Stakes (G3 2014)
Ladies Turf Sprint Stakes (2014)
Hutcheson Stakes (G3 2014)
Sweetest Chant Stakes (2014)
Forward Gal Stakes (G2 2013)
Sugar Swirl Stakes (G3 2013)
Comely Stakes (G3 2013)
Demoiselle Stakes (G2 2013)
Remsen Stakes (G2 2013)
Thunder Rumble Stakes (2013)
Pearl City Stakes (2013)
Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies (G1 2013)
Tempted Stakes (G3 2013)
Awad Stakes (2013)
Finney Stakes (2013)
Iroquois Stakes (2013)
Pilgrim Stakes (2013)
Jazzy Stakes (2013)
Beldame Invitational (G1 2013)
Gallant Bloom Handicap (2013)
Ashley T. Cole Stakes (2013)
Bowling Green Handicap (G2 2013)
With Anticipation Stakes (G2 2013)
P. G. Johnson Stakes (2013)
Speed Boat Stakes (2013)
Albany Stakes (2013)
Alabama Stakes (G1 2013)
Yaddo Stakes (2013)
Stroll Stakes (2013)
John's Call Stakes (2013)
TVG Coaching Club American Oaks (G1 2013)
Fairy Garden Stakes (2013)
Open Mind Stakes (2013)
Edward P. Evans All Along Stakes (G3 2013)
Da Hoss Stakes (2013)
Astronomia Stakes (2013)
Bouwerie Stakes (2013)

Pimlico Special Stakes (G3 2013)
You Go West Stakes (2013)
American Turf Stakes (G2 2013)
Sixty Sails Handicap (G3 2013)
Louisiana Derby (G2 2013)
Fair Grounds Oaks (G2 2013)
Pan American Stakes (G2 2013)
Gulfstream Park Handicap (G2 2013)
Canadian Turf Stakes (G3 2013)
Suwannee River Stakes (G3 2013)
Withers Stakes (G3 2013)
Busher Stakes (2013)
Correction Stakes (2013)
Sweetest Chant Stakes (2013)
CashCall Futurity (G1 2012)
Hollywood Derby (G1 2012)
Fall Highweight Handicap (G3 2012)
New York Stallion Series Stakes (2012)
Nashua Stakes (G2 2012)
Breeders' Cup Filly and Mare Turf (G1 2012)
Queen Elizabeth II Challenge Cup (G1 2012)
Miss Grillo Stakes (G3 2012)
Woodford Stakes (G3 2012)
Kelso Handicap (G2 2012)
Charles Town Oaks (2012)
Groovy Stakes (2012)
Glens Falls Stakes (G3 2012)
Spinaway Stakes (G1 2012)
Riskaverse Stakes (2012)
P. G. Johnson Stakes (2012)
Union Avenue Stakes (2012)
New York Stallion Series Stakes (2012)
Diana (G1 2012)
Schuylerville Stakes (G3 2012)
Delaware Oaks (G2 2012)
Oh Say Stakes (2012)
Western Larla Stakes (2012)
Endear Stakes (2012)
True North Handicap (G2 2012)
TVG Acorn Stakes (G1 2012)
Kingston Stakes (2012)
Dixie Stakes (G2 2012)
Gallorette Handicap (G3 2012)
Appalachian Stakes (G3 2012)
Charles Town Classic (G2 2012)
Shakertown Stakes (G3 2012)
The Wood Memorial (G1 2012)
The Appleton Stakes (G3 2012)
The Orchid Stakes (G3 2012)
The Gulfstream Oaks Stakes (G2 2012)
Herecomesthebride Stakes (G3 2012)
Hillsborough Stakes (G3 2012)
Stonewall Farm Ocala Suncoast Stakes (2012)
Mac Diarmida (G2 2012)

Risen Star (G2 2012)
Endeavour (G3 2012)
Holy Bull (G3 2012)
Sweetest Chant (2012)
Fort Lauderdale (G3 2012)
Harlan's Holiday (2011)
Sugar Swirl (G3 2011)
Tropical Turf Handicap (G3 2011)
La Prevoyante (G3 2011)
Kentucky Jockey Club (G2 2011)
Long Island Handicap (G3 2011)
Shady Character (2011)
Iroquois (2011)
Firethorn (2011)
Duck Dance (2011)
Champagne (G1 2011)
Noble Nashua (2011)
Gallant Bloom (G2 2011)
Garden City (G1 2011)
Summing (2011)
Personal Ensign (G1 2011)
Travers Stakes (G1 2011)
Ballerina (G1 2011)
Saratoga Special (G2 2011)
Gleaming (2011)
Birdstone (2011)
Ruffian (G1 2011)
Jim Dandy (G2 2011)
Diana Handicap (G1 2011)
Curlin (2011)
Irish Linnet (2011)
Jaipur (G3 2011)
Prioress (G1 2011)
Just A Game (G1 2011)
Vagrancy Handicap (G2 2011)
Shuvee Handicap (G2 2011)
Ben Ali (G3 2011)
Maker's Mark Mile (G1 2011)
Ashland (G1 2011)
Ocala (2011)
Rushaway Swift Warrior (2011)
Inside Information (G2 2011)
Hurricane Bertie (G3 2011)
Hallandale Beach (2011)
Tropical Park Derby (2011)
Forty Niner (2010)
W L McKnight (G2 2010)
Sweet Patootie (2010)
Rood and Riddle Dowager (2010)
Hudson (2010)
Flower Bowl (G1 2010)
Turf Amazon Handicap (2010)
Canadian (2010)
Natalma (G3 2010)

Salute Me (2010)
Lena Spencer (2010)
P.G. Johnson (2010)
Travers Stakes (G1 2010)
Bernard Baruch (G2 2010)
Anne M. Clare (2010)
Bennington (2010)
West Point Handicap (2010)
National Museum of Racing Hall of Fame (G2 2010)
Hilltop (2010)
New York Stallion (2010)
Giant's Causeway (2010)
Muniz Memorial Handicap (G3 2010)
New Orleans Handicap (G2 2010)
Bienville (2010)
Gulfstream Park Handicap (G2 2010)
Fair Grounds Handicap (G3 2010)
Risen Star (G2 2010)
GP Sprint Championship (G2 2010)
GP Sprint Championship (2010)
Interborough (2010)
Queens County (G3 2009)
Commonwealth Turf (G3 2009)
Long Island Handicap (G3 2009)
Mohawk (2009)
Bryan Station (G3 2009)
Pebbles (2009)
Pilgrim (2009)
King's Bishop (G1 2009)
Lure (G3 2009)
Ballston Spa (G2 2009)
Sword Dancer Invitational (G1 2009)
Double Feint Stakes (2009)
Acorn (G1 2009)
Sheepshead Bay (G2 2009)
Matt Winn (2009)
La Prevoyante (G2 2009)
Miami Mile (G3 2009)
Shakertown (G3 2009)
Bay Shore (G3 2009)
Palm Beach (G3 2009)
Kelso (G2 2008)
Gazelle Handicap (G1 2008)
Garden City (G1 2008)
Coaching Club American Oaks (G1 2008)
Man O' War (G1 2008)
Mother Goose (G1 2008)
Shirley Jones Handicap (2008)
Nearctic (G2 2007)
Kelso (G2 2007)
Long Branch Stakes (2007)
Gulfstream Park Handicap (G2 2007)
Jockey Club Gold Cup (G1 2006)
Gazelle Handicap (G1 2006)

Travers Stakes (G1 2006)
Jim Dandy (G2 2006)
Withers (G3 2006)
Flash Stakes (2005)
Metropolitan Handicap (Met Mile) (G1 2005)
Wood Memorial Stakes (2005)
Hill Prince Stakes (2005, 2006)
Futurity (G2 2004)
Woodward (G1 2004)
Iselin Handicap (2004)
Tom Fool (G2 2004)
Gotham (G3 2004)
Vosburgh (G1 2003)
Clark Handicap (2003)
Beldame Stakes (2001,2004)
Smile Sprint Handicap (2000)
Miami Mile Handicap(1999, 2009)

American Classics / Breeders' Cup wins

Preakness Stakes (G1 2006)
Breeders' Cup Classic (G1 2004)

International race wins

Dubai Golden Shaheen (2005)
Connaught Cup Stakes (2006)
Woodbine Oaks (2008)
Canadian International Stakes (2008)

Significant Horses

Gemologist
Ghostzapper
Bernardini
Saratoga County
Afleet Express
Stay Thirsty
Bellamy Road
Pine Island
Exogenous

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