



## Apprentice Jockey and Award of Merit

# Eddie Castro


BY LESLIE DECKARD

**W**hile working in Los Santos, Panama, Eddie Castro had to make a big decision. Would he continue attending night school to become an electrician or would he concentrate full time on racehorse riding and move to the United States? The 18-year-old chose to continue riding and now is an Eclipse Award-winning apprentice jockey.

"He is just such a hard-working kid," said agent and former rider Mike Gonzales "He comes to the barn every day with a smile on his face and is ready to go to work. I can't say enough about his work ethic."

Castro began riding professionally in Panama after graduating from that country's jockey school. He won his first race on Dec. 6, 2002, and racked up a career record of 36 wins, which led to a leading jockey title in his home country.

He moved to the United States in April 2003 and made his debut April 16 at Gulfstream Park. A shift from Gulfstream to Calder Race Course provided an upswing in the youngster's career. He won three stakes in August, including the \$100,000 restricted Aspidistra Handicap aboard Sara's Success. He finished the meet as the second leading rider. He lost his bug in late December and ended the year with a win aboard All the Honor in the Auld Lang Syne Stakes.

Castro ended 2003 with 242 wins from 1,256 starts and an in-the-money rate of 53%. His mounts earned \$3,931,877. 



BILL DENVER/REUPHOTO

### PAST WINNERS

#### APPRENTICE JOCKEY

- Gene St. Leon 1971
- Thomas Wallis 1972
- Steve Valdez 1973
- Chris McCarron 1974
- Jimmy Edwards 1975
- George Martens 1976
- Steve Cauthen 1977
- Ron Franklin 1978
- Cash Asmussen 1979
- Frank Lovato Jr. 1980
- Richard Migliore 1981
- Alberto Delgado 1982
- Declan Murphy 1983
- Wesley Ward 1984
- Art Madrid Jr. 1985
- Allen Stacy 1986
- Kent Desormeaux 1987
- Steve Capanas 1988
- Michael Luzzi 1989
- Mark Johnston 1990
- Mickey Walls 1991
- Rosemary Homeister Jr. 1992
- Juan Umana 1993
- Dale Beckner 1994
- Ramon B. Perez 1995
- Neil Poznansky 1996
- Phillip Teator (tie) 1997
- Roberto Rosado
- Sean Bridgmohan 1998
- Ariel Smith 1999
- Tyler Baze 2000
- Jeremy Rose 2001
- Ryan Fogelsonger 2002
- Eddie Castro 2003

#### AWARD OF MERIT

- Jack J. Dreyfus 1976
- Steve Cauthen 1977
- Ogden Mills "Dinny" Phipps 1978
- Frank E. "Jimmy" Kilroe 1979
- John D. Schapiro 1980
- William Shoemaker 1981
- John R. Gaines 1984
- Keene Daingerfield 1985
- Herman Cohen 1986
- J.B. Faulconer 1987
- John Forsythe 1988
- Michael Sandler 1989
- Warner L. Jones 1990
- Fred W. Hooper 1991
- Joe Hirsch, Robert P. Strub 1992
- Paul Mellon 1993
- Alfred G. Vanderbilt 1994
- James E. "Ted" Bassett III 1995
- Allen Paulson 1996
- Robert & Beverly Lewis 1997
- D.G. Van Clief Jr. 1998
- Jim McKay 2000
- Harry T. Mangurian Jr. 2001
- Pete Pedersen
- Howard Battle (posthumously) 2002
- Ogden Phipps (posthumously)
- Richard L. Duchossois 2003

ECLIPSE VOTING	
Apprentice	First-place Votes
Eddie Castro	147
Ryan Fogelsonger	52
Pablo Fragoso	12
Others	15
Abstentions	22

# Richard L. Duchossois

BY DAN LIEBMAN

**R**ichard L. "Dick" Duchossois, who brought Arlington Park back from the ashes, and then saw the track become a part of Churchill Downs Inc., was awarded the Eclipse Award of Merit. In 1985, Arlington Park was awarded a Special Eclipse Award for running the Arlington Million (gr. IT) just 25 days after the track's grandstand and clubhouse burned to the ground on July 31, 1985. That award, for the "Miracle Million," recognized the track's entire staff.

This is the second Eclipse Award for Duchossois, who was presented a Special Eclipse Award in 1989 when the track reopened after being rebuilt in grand style. In 2002, the track was showcased to the world when it hosted the Breeders' Cup World Thoroughbred Championships.


Duchossois, 83, is a native of Chicago and the founder of Duchossois Industries, which is owned by him and his four children. Based in Elmhurst, Ill., the company manufactures capital goods, consumer prod-

ucts, and national defense supplies.

An owner and breeder, Duchossois raises horses at his 700-acre Hill 'N Dale Farm near Barrington, Ill.

Duchossois received The Jockey Club's Gold Medal in 1986 and was elected to membership in the organization the following year. In 1988, he received a Special Sovereign Award from The Jockey Club of Canada, and he was presented the Lord Derby Award from the Horserace Writers and Reporters Association of Great Britain.

He has been chairman of Arlington since 1983, when he headed a group that purchased the track in northwest Chicago from Madison Square Garden Corp.

Duchossois attended Washington and Lee University for two years before being called to active military service. He served in five European campaigns and was a decorated major when he left active duty. He was awarded an honorary Doctor of Laws by Washington and Lee in 1991. 



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