

ALL NEW SEASON

JOCKEYS

FRIDAYS COMING IN AUGUST 

DARRELL HAIRE

West Coast Regional Manager of the Jockeys' Guild

Born in Lexington, Kentucky, Darrell Haire is a native to the state and is considered by many as the heart of the thoroughbred racing industry. Haire spent his childhood in the New England area as part of a large Irish-Catholic family consisting of five sisters and one brother. Known as "D" among family and friends, he was greatly influenced by the strong Italian heritage of his maternal grandmother, Angelina Cicerone.

Haire's family is deeply rooted in the industry as his father was a jockey, his uncles were trainers, and his brother Timothy also was a rider. Haire has been around horses "as long as I can remember," and beginning at a very early age worked at race tracks and saw first hand the personal and professional struggles faced daily by jockeys.

He began his own jockey career at age 17 and successfully rode for the next 15 years throughout the country. His career highlights include winning the 1980 Arkansas Derby aboard Temperance Hill, owned by John Ed Anthony (Loblolly Stables), and a near magical streak in 1982, winning the Derby Trial at Churchill Downs aboard Listcapade, owned by Mrs. Joe W. Brown. A 10-year career as a licensed securities dealer and investment and insurance broker followed, but Haire kept his ties to horse racing by exercising horses early mornings at Santa Anita Park for highly respected trainers Bobby Frankel, Richard Mandella and the late Walter Greenman.

In 1999, Haire returned full time to the sport he loves as west coast regional manager for the Jockeys' Guild, the professional organization that represents more than 1,200 of the nation's riders. He briefly left the Guild during its reorganization in 2001 and later returned in the position of national member representative. In that role, Haire traveled the United States, representing the riders at race tracks, racing commission meetings and at other industry-related gatherings.

On November 15, 2005, Haire was named the interim national manager of the Jockeys' Guild by a new board of directors elected during an emergency meeting of the organization's senate. Haire served for nine months in the position during which time he worked to rebuild the Guild and bring important issues affecting jockeys to the industry and public's attention. After his tenure as interim national manager, Haire returned to his previous Guild position as west coast regional manager.

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Haire is considered an expert on jockey health and safety issues and has served on a number of committees and boards within the industry such as the Thoroughbred Racing Association Safety Committee and the National Thoroughbred Racing Association (NTRA) Track Insurance Working Group, formed to examine the issue of medical insurance for jockeys. Haire was also a member of the governor of Kentucky's Blue Ribbon Panel studying workers' compensation insurance for jockeys and exercise riders.

Haire presently serves on the advisory boards for the National Accreditation Program for Racing Officials and Judges and is frequently a guest lecturer as part of these accreditation programs around the country. He is a charter member of the National Medication and Drug Testing Consortium and has given presentations throughout the U.S. on professional issues of importance to the jockeys such as the scale of weights and track safety. Haire also is a member of the board of the highly acclaimed North American Racing Academy located in Lexington, Kentucky. The Academy is the first and only fully accredited jockey training school in North America.

Haire is especially proud of his work as a board member of the Winners Foundation, a non-profit organization based in California providing assistance to individuals in horse racing with substance-abuse problems.

Finally, Haire coordinated the initial participation of riders in "Tribute to Kentucky Derby Winning Jockeys," a permanent exhibit at the Galt House Hotel & Suites in Louisville, Kentucky that is similar to Hollywood's "Walk of Fame."

Haire's home is in southern California, where he lives with his wife, Susan, and their four children, Natasha, Darrell Joe, Natalie and Cara.