



Mike Smith a native of Roswell, New Mexico, leads all active riders by Breeders' Cup races won – veteran of 57 starts trails only the retired duo of Jerry Bailey (15 wins) and Pat Day (12). These include two wins on a card four times: 1994 Turf and Sprint (Tikkanen and Cherokee Run, respectively); 1995 Distaff and Juvenile (Inside Information and Unbridled's Song); 1997 Distaff and Classic (Ajina and Skip Away) and 2002 Distaff and Juvenile (Azeri and Vindication). Smith also won the Mile in 1992 and 1993 with Lure.

Smith's top victories in 2008 included Gayego (G2 Arkansas Derby), Zenyatta (G1 Lady's Secret Stakes, G1 Apple Blossom Handicap, G1 Vanity Handicap, G2 Clement L. Hirsch Handicap, G2 Milady Handicap), Stardom Bound (G1 Oak Leaf Stakes, G1 Del Mar Debutante), Madeo (G2 Del Mar Derby), Dearest Tricksi (G2 A Glean Handicap, G3 Rancho Bernardo Handicap), Warning Zone (G2 Sunset Handicap), and Daytona (G3 Fair Grounds Handicap).

In 2005, Smith rode Giacomo to an upset victory in the Kentucky Derby, resulting in a \$102.60 payoff on a \$2 bet. They went on to finish third in the Preakness and seventh in the Belmont ... In three Derby rides prior to his triumph aboard Giacomo, finished third in 1999 with Cat Thief and second with both Proud Citizen in 2002 and Lion Heartin 2004. Finished seventh aboard Tiago in 2007.

Smith won the 1993 Preakness Stakes on Prairie Bayou and was inducted into Racing's Hall of Fame in 2003.

Smith was presented with the 2000 George Woolf Memorial Jockey Award, the highest honor provided by his peers. His other major awards include ESPN's 1993 ESPY Award for outstanding jockey, and the 1994 Mike Venezia Award, given by the New York Racing Association for outstanding citizenship and sportsmanship.

In 1994 he set a record for stakes wins in a year with 68 – including 20 grade 1 victories, five of which came aboard Horse of the Year Holy Bull. Eclipse Award winner as outstanding jockey in 1993 and 1994. Also was national leader by money won in both years.

In 1991, Smith became the first U.S.-based jockey to win a European classic, taking the Irish Two Thousand Guineas with Fourstars Allstar.

Smith began riding races in New Mexico at age 11, officially launching his licensed career in 1982 at age 16 (he won his first race that year with Forever Man at Santa Fe in New Mexico)