

## NORTH AMERICA (U.S.A)

### JULIEN LEPAROUX



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Birth date:	July 15, 1983
Year of Debut:	2005
'06 Season Record	1,740 mounts, 403 wins
'07 Season Record:	1,230 mounts, 235 wins
	(as of Oct. 31, 2007)

#### Recent Career Highlights:

- '07 Secretariat Stakes (G1, USA) Shamdinan
- '07 Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf (G1, USA) Nownownow
- '07 CashCall Mile (G2, USA) Lady of Venice

Son of a jockey-turned-assistant trainer, Julien Leparoux was born in Senlis, France in 1983 and is said to have had the intuition of becoming a jockey from the time he was five.

After growing up around racing in Chantilly and starting to work at the track from the age of 18, Leparoux then decided to come to southern California in 2003 to work as an exercise rider for fellow Frenchman and trainer Patrick Biancone. As his riding talents became evident, he started his riding career in the summer of 2005, and marked his first win in Saratoga on Aug. 18.

In 2006, he celebrated his first stakes victory in February at Turfway and his first G1 victory aboard Gorella in the Beverly D. at Arlington Park. It was a most astonishing year for him as he finished a record-setting apprentice year as the nation's leading rider with 403 wins, earning \$12,491,316, the most by an apprentice in history. He also finished the '06 Saratoga meet with 28 wins, the most in track history by an apprentice. It came with no surprise that he was awarded the Eclipse Award for Leading Apprentice Jockey for 2006.

This year has equally been prosperous for him, with two G1 victory accomplishments—the Secretariat Stakes with Shamdinan and the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf on Nownownow. He also showed an amazing feat in becoming the fifth jockey in the 133 year history of Churchill Downs to ride six winners in a single card.

He is one of the most promising jockeys in North America today.

Participation in the WSJS: First

## NORTH AMERICA (U.S.A)

### EDGAR PRADO



Birth date: June 12, 1967  
Year of Debut: 1983  
'06 Season Record: 1,302 mounts, 248 wins  
'07 Season Record: 979 mounts 181 wins  
(as of Oct. 31 2007)

#### Recent Career Highlights:

'07 Black-Eyed Susan Stakes (G1, USA) Panty Raid  
'07 American Oaks Invitational (G1, USA) Panty Raid  
'07 Florida Derby (G1, USA) Scat Daddy  
'07 San Carlos Handicap (G2, USA) Latent Heat

Born in Lima, Peru and now residing in Florida, U.S.A., Prado, whose father was a former trainer, and two of his brothers currently active in the U.S. as a jockey and a jockey-turned-trainer, began his career in Peru and won his first race on Tatin in October 1983.

After gaining instant success in his native country, he moved to the U.S. and began as a contract rider for Manny Azpurua in Florida in 1986. He later moved north to Maryland where he became leading rider there six times in '91-'93 and '96-'98. During this time, Prado also took part in the '94 Young Jockeys World Championship (YJWC) and was the overall champion in the event. In 1997, he made it to the top of the national jockey standings with 536 wins and kept his title for three years running. In 1999, he made a move to New York and captured his first NYRA (New York Racing Association) riding title at the 2000 Belmont Park Fall Championship Meet with 38 wins. He marked his 5,000th career win at Gulfstream Park in 2004.

His highlights since moving to New York include two Belmont Stakes titles with Sarava in 2002 and with Birdstone in 2004, in which he stopped Triple Crown attempts on both occasions—War Emblem in 2002 and Smarty Jones in 2004. He also won his first two Breeders' Cup title with Folklore (BC Juvenile Fillies, G1) and Silver Train (BC Sprint, G1) in 2005. In 2006, he added another title, the Kentucky Derby with Barbaro and captured the BC Distaff (G1) with Round Pond, followed by numerous grade-race wins this year.

He was presented with the NYRA's Mike Venezia Award for "extraordinary sportsmanship and citizenship" and also earned his first Eclipse Award for the nation's outstanding jockey in 2006.

Participation in the WSJS: Sixth

## EUROPE (FRA)

### STEPHANE PASQUIER



Birth date: January 17, 1978  
Year of Debut: 1994  
'06 Season Record: 865 mounts, 108 wins  
'07 Season Record: 919 mounts, 164wins  
(as of Nov. 5, 2007)

#### Recent Career Highlights:

'07 Grand Prix de Paris (G1, FRA) Zambezi Sun  
'07 Prix d'Ispahan (G1, FRA) Manduro  
'07 Prix Jacques le Marois (G1, FRA) Manduro  
'07 Prince of Wales's Stakes (G1, FRA) Manduro

Born in Paris, France in 1978, Stephane Pasquier began as an apprentice for the trainer Robert Collet and rode his first race in December 1994. His first victory was at Amiens racecourse in September the following year aboard Floris.

He landed his first listed race victory in 1999 and his first group race victory came in 2001, riding Acceleration in the Prix Corrida (G2, FRA). Experience obtained from racing overseas during the winter of 2001-2002 and a chance to ride in the '02 Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe with Fair Mix worked well for Pasquier as he won his first G2 race, the Prix Greffulhe, continued by successes in major races throughout 2003. In October 2004, he celebrated his first G1 victory in the Prix Royal Oak (G1, French St. Leger) with top stayer Westerner.

He suffered a bizarre accident in the summer of 2006 which was expected to keep him out of racing for two months, but his strong character helped him to come back sooner. He resumed racing in late August, and in October, he rode Rail Link against Japanese triple crown winner Deep Impact to victory in the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe (G1, FRA).

His experience racing in Japan includes his ride in the Japan Cup (G1) with Policy Maker in 2004, and his participation in the World Super Jockey Series in 2005.

With four G1 wins, the Grand Prix de Paris, the Prix d'Ispahan, the Prix Jacques le Marois and the Prince of Wales's Stakes this year, he is leading in wins and career earnings and is a few steps away from his first Leading Jockey of the Year title.

Participation in the WSJS: Second

## EUROPE (GER)

### ANDRASCH STARKE



Birth date:	January 4, 1974
Year of Debut:	1989
'06 Season Record:	426 mounts, 66 wins
'07 Season Record:	393 mounts, 105 wins

(as of Nov. 5, 2007)

#### Recent Career Highlights:

- '07 Deutschland-Preis (G1, GER) Schiaparelli
- '07 Preis von Europa (G1, GER) Schiaparelli
- '07 Grosser Preis von Baden (G1, GER) Quijano
- '07 Bayerisches Zuchtrennen (G1, GER) Soldier Hollow
- '07 Gran Premio del Jockey Club (G1, ITA) Schiaparelli

Born in Germany, Starke had his first ride as an amateur at the age of fifteen in 1989. After scoring his first win three months later, it was in the summer of 1992 when he landed his first major race victory with Irish Stew in the Berlin Brandenburg Trophy at Hoppegarten. His first grade-race win outside of Germany was in 1995, partnered with Sternkonig in the Premio Federico Tesio in Milan.

His appointment as stable jockey to the powerful (Bruno and later on son Andreas) Schutz stable, together with his superb skills and talent, resulted in giving him a long list of major race victories headed by four wins in the Deutsches Derby (G1, GER), four in the Preis der Diana (German Oaks, G1, GER) and one in the Grosser Preis von Baden (G1, GER), not to mention wins in the Deutschland-Preis (G1, GER), the Bayerisches Zuchtrennen and the Preis von Europa. His first G1 victory was aboard Oxalagu in the '97 Bayerisches-Zuchtrennen (Grosser Dallmayr-Preis, G1, GER), which he also captured successively in 2006 and 2007. His partnership with Schiaparelli since last year has been successful, winning their first start in the Deutsches Derby and scoring four out of six starts this year including the Deutschland-Preis (G1, GER), the Preis von Europa (G1, GER) and the Gran Premio del Jockey Club (G1, ITA).

He has competed in various countries including Japan, in the '97 Japan Cup (Caitano, 4th) and the '01 Japan Cup Dirt (Aeskulap, 15th), and has won races in Dubai, France, Italy and Singapore. In recent years, Starke has also raced seasonally in Hong Kong where he won the Cathay Pacific International Jockey's Championship at Happy Valley racecourse twice in 2000 and 2005.

Starke is about to capture his sixth leading jockey title this year, and has been invited to take part in the World Super Jockey Series for the first time.

Participation in the WSJS: First

## EUROPE (GBR)

### SEBASTIAN SANDERS



Birth date:	September 25, 1971
Year of Debut:	1990
'06 Season Record:	834 mounts, 117 wins
'07 Season Record:	1,121 mounts, 190 wins (as of Nov. 10, 2007)
Recent Career Highlights:	
	'06 French Oaks (G1, FRA) Confidential Lady
	'04 Irish 2000 Guineas (G1, IRE) Bachelor Duke

Landing a job as an apprentice with trainer Bryan McMahon in 1990, Sanders captured his first victory in June the same year at Pontefract, riding Band on the Run. In 1995 he rode a total of 65 winners thus becoming the Champion Apprentice Jockey of the year. His first G1 success came in 1997 when he guided longshot Compton Place to victory in the July Cup at Newmarket.

Taking over the position of first jockey at Sir Mark Prescott's stable from retiring jockey George Duffield in 2004, he rode Albanova to victory in the '04 Preis von Europa (G1) in Germany and enjoyed another success abroad with Confidential Lady in the '06 French Oaks (G1), giving Prescott his first Classic success.

Another of Sander's major wins is the Irish 2000 Guineas (G1) in 2004, in which he partnered with James Toller-trained Bachelor Duke. This Classic victory marks the biggest win of his career so far.

This year, Sanders finished a thrilling season by sharing the British flat racing Champions Jockey title with Jamie Spencer by winning his very last race of the season, which brought their seasonal totals to 190-190.

Sanders is not new in Japan as he has raced under a short-term license in Japan in 1999 and 2000, marking 11 wins all together, and racing in the Queen Elizabeth II Commemorative Cup with Summitville in 2005.

Participation in the WSJS: First

## OCEANIA (NZL)

### OWEN PATRICK “OPIE” BOSSON



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Birth date:	July 24, 1980
Year of Debut:	1995
'05/06 Season Record:	177 mounts, 31 wins
'06/07 Season Record:	664 mounts, 116 wins
	(as of Nov. 5, 2007)

#### Recent Career Highlights:

- '07 Singapore Gold Cup (G1, SIN) Recast
- '07 New Zealand Oaks (G1, NZL) Princess Coup
- '07 International Stakes (G1, NZL) Sir Slick
- '07 Waiakto Sprint (G1, NZL) Darci Brahma
- '07 Thorndon Handicap (G1, NZL) Sir Slick

After debuting in 1995 in New Zealand, the son of an amateur jockey, Bosson made history in the 97/98 season in becoming the first apprentice rider to earn 100 plus career wins in a single year, which earned him the BMW racing award for the jockey of the year. His achievement won him the invitation to represent Oceania for the '98 World Super Jockey Series, in which he became the first teenage jockey to take part in the event.

Gradually working his way up, he landed his first grade-race win in the '02 Bayer Classic (G1,NZL) with Bunker, followed by three G1 wins in 2003—the New Zealand Two Thousand Guineas, the Kelt Capital Stakes (Ormond Memorial) (G1, NZL) and the New Zealand Oaks (G1,NZL). He scored another nine grade-race wins the following year, in which five were G1 victories, among which three were partnered with the chestnut mare Lashed.

Bosson was forced to take a year and two months off his burgeoning career in 2005 due to injuries and weight problems, however resumed a better rider, marking five G1 wins in the 06/07 season, pushing him up in the list of leading riders and winning him the Mercedes Jockey of the Year award.

He has challenged his skills in Singapore on a short-term license starting this autumn and his dedication and determination paid off handsomely as he led the Laurie Laxon-trained Recast to victory in the Singapore Gold Cup (G1, SIN) on November 11th. The Singapore Cup was not only all part of a triumphant comeback for him but his biggest win to date.

Participation in the WSJS: Fourth

## OCEANIA (AUS)

### CRAIG WILLIAMS



Birth date	May 23, 1977
Year of Debut	1993
'05/06 Season	490 mounts, 70 wins
'06/07 Season	487 mounts, 94 wins

(as of Nov. 5, 2007)

#### Recent Career Highlights:

- '07 Victoria Derby (G1, AUS) Kibbutz
- '07 Stradbroke Handicap (G1, AUS) Sniper's Bullet
- '07 Australian Guineas (G1, AUS) Miss Finland
- '07 Arrowfield Stakes (G1, AUS) Miss Finland

Craig Williams was born into a racing family—his father Allan Williams is a jockey-turned-trainer now based in Cranbourne and his two brothers Jason and Damien are also trainers while his relatives on his mother's side, his grandfather Tom Harrison and three uncles, Doug, Kevin and Tony Harrison are all trainers as well. Beginning his jockey career as apprentice to his father in 1993, Williams scored his first win on Pride Of Demus at Ballarat on July 22, 1993.

Having acquired his Jockey A license in 1997, he registered his first G1 victory aboard Lee Freedman-trained Grand Echezeaux in the 2000 Australasian Oaks at Morphettville and then embarked on a globetrotting racing career beginning with England. He rode 52 winners during 2000 including Godolphin's Tobougg with whom he partnered to win two G1 titles in the Dewhurst Stakes (G1, GBR) and the Prix de la Salamandre (G1, FRA), and went on to ride 14 winners in Dubai in 2002.

Williams spent three educational years racing in Hong Kong from 2002, teaming up with Hong Kong-based Australian trainer David Hayes, and accumulated more than 100 wins there. His relationship with Hayes continued after both of them returned to Australia in the 2005/2006 season, and Williams, who had become a full-fledged jockey, instantly took to the top of the leading jockey list for two consecutive years, outclassing the second placed rider by more than forty wins. He once again leads in the standings for the 2007/2008 season at this point.

Awarded the Scobie Breasley Medal and the Metro Jockey of the Year for two consecutive years this year, Williams is once again invited to represent Oceania for the World Super Jockey Series this year.

Participation in the WSJS: Second

## HONG KONG

### DOUGLAS WHYTE



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Birth date:	November 15, 1971
Year of Debut:	1987
05/06 Season Record:	645 mounts, 114 wins
06/07 Season Record:	633 mounts, 91 wins
	(as of Nov. 5, 2007)
Recent Career Highlights:	
	'06 Cathay Pacific International Mile Trial
	'07 Stewards' Cup

Douglas Whyte debuted in his homeland South Africa in 1987. His transfer to Hong Kong was decided after his experience there under a short-term license during the 96/97 season, and he has enjoyed a number of successful years since then, with superb mounts such as Indigenous (Hong Kong Gold Cup, Hong Kong Vase), Oriental Express (AP Queen Elizabeth II Cup, Chairman's Prize) and Best of the Best (Cenenary Cup) with internationally recognized former trainer, Ivan Allen.

He claimed his first Hong Kong champion jockey title for the 00/01 season and has been reigning the title for seven consecutive years. In 2004, he became the first jockey in Hong Kong to ride 100 winners in a single season, and concluded the 03/04 season with a record of 106 wins, which he eventually renewed in the 05/06 season with 114 wins. Whyte is once again on top of the list for this season with 25 wins to date.

In Japan, he has displayed his talented riding skills not only in the '99 Japan cup where he and his mount Indigenous finished second to Special Week, but when he marked 15 wins out of 66 mounts under a short-term JRA Jockey's License in 2004. The World Super Jockey Series title shared with German top rider Andreas Suborics in the same year is still fresh in memory.

As with the World Super Jockeys Series in Japan, Douglas Whyte has regularly participated in the Hong Kong International Jockeys' Championship in which he has won the title in 2002.

Participation in WSJS: Fourth

## JAPAN (JRA Eastern District)

### HIROKI GOTO



Birth date:	March 19, 1974
Year of Debut:	1992
'07 Season Record:	716 mounts, 97 wins
Career Record:	8,643 mounts, 992 wins (as of Oct. 28, 2007)

#### Recent Career Highlights:

- '07 Nakayama Kinen (G2) Lohengrin
- '07 Tanabata Sho (G3) San Valentin
- '07 Saudi Arabia Royal Cup Fuji Stakes (G3) Meiner Segal

Goto made his debut in 1992, affiliated with trainer Masanori Ito, and landed his first win with Tiger Lily the same year. His first major race victory came unexpectedly aboard Silk Grayish in the '94 Fukushima Kinen, where he was appointed to ride the colt in the last minute to substitute the original rider who had a spill in the previous race. The trainer of the colt had never heard of Goto till then.

He then decided to challenge his skills abroad and flew to the United States in 1996 where he raced based in Florida for six months. Supported by his experience overseas, his wins increased amazingly and put him among the top ten of the jockey standings for the first time in 1998. His first opportunity to participate in the World Super Jockey Series turned up in 2000 when he marked an annual win of over 100 for the first time in his career.

His long awaited G1 victory was achieved in 2002 in the Yasuda Kinen (G1) aboard Riichi Kondo-owned Admire Cozzene, after which he went on another overseas campaign to Great Britain and France for three months. Goto continued to score several grade-race wins every year and landed another G1 win in the Japan Cup Dirt (G1) with Alondite in 2006. He marked his 1,000th win this year on November 10th.

Known by the fans for his sense of humor and sometimes obtrusive manners, he celebrates his second participation in the World Super Jockey Series as the fourth leading jockey in Japan this season.

Participation in the WSJS:    Second

## JAPAN (JRA Eastern District)

### KATSUHARU TANAKA



Birth date:	February 25, 1971
Year of Debut:	1989
'07 Season Record:	695 mounts, 99 wins
Career Record:	12,218 mounts, 1,272 wins (as of Oct. 28, 2007)

#### Recent Career Highlights:

- '07 Nakayama Kinpai (G3) Shadow Gate
- '07 Garnet Stakes (G3) Three Avenue
- '07 Epson Cup (G3) Eishin Deputy
- '07 Keisei Hai (G3) Kings Trail
- '07 Singapore Airlines International Cup (G1, SIN) Shadow Gate

Born in Hokkaido, Japan as the son of a thoroughbred breeder and racehorse owner, Tanaka made his debut in 1989 and landed his first win seven months later. However, he went on to claim his first major race victory the following year at the Keio Hai Autumn Handicap partnered with Oratorio.

In due course, his first G1 title came along in 1992 in the Yasuda Kinen (G1) with Yamanin Zepher with whom he took home one win, two seconds and a third out of five grade-race starts the same year. He has constantly claimed numerous grade-race titles in his career including his success with Balance of Game, with whom he captured six G2 wins between 2002 and 2006. He celebrated his 1,200th career win in March this year.

When it comes to G1 races, however, luck was not on his side since his win in the Yasuda Kinen in 1992. But his first overseas campaign this year gave him his long-awaited G1 victory in the Singapore Airline's International Cup (G1, SIN) aboard Shadow Gate, winning over defending champion Cosmo Bulk by 1 3/4-length margin. He adds another milestone in his career this year by becoming leading jockey in eastern Japan and participating in the World Super Jockey Series for the first time.

Participation in the WSJS: First

## JAPAN (JRA Western District)

### KATSUMI ANDO



Birth date:	March 28, 1960
Year of Debut:	1976
'07 Season Record:	482 mounts, 112wins*
Career Record:	4,784mounts, 765wins (as of Oct. 28, 2007)

#### Recent Career Highlights:

- '07 Mile Championship (G1) Daiwa Major
- '07 February Stakes (G1) Sunrise Bacchus
- '07 Yasuda Kinen (G1) Daiwa Major
- '07 Queen Elizabeth II Commemorative Cup (G1) Daiwa Scarlet
- '07 Nikkei Shinshun Hai (G2) Tokai Wild

\*JRA races only

Katsumi Ando began his career riding in the NAR regional public races at Kasamatsu at the young age of 16, acquiring his jockey license in September 1976. His first win was with Junior China in his sixth career start, which he won by a staggering 5-length margin. In his second season, he was already ranked second on the jockey's leader-board with 78 wins out of 487 mounts and landed his 100th mark in February 1978 when he won his 647th career start with Wataru Shinei. He became leading jockey of Kasamatsu that year and continued to reign as champion for 18 years thereafter. He has also won over 100 wins every year since then and marked a total of 3,299 wins until he transferred to the JRA in 2003.

His success in the JRA circle came in 1980 when he won his first ride in JRA's invitational race with Yamaninsky and was given an award by the Kasamatsu Racing Club in honor of his feat. He was the national champion in NAR racing of 1988 and captured countless major events and grade-race titles run by the JRA while he was still a NAR jockey, between 1995 and 2002.

Ando is especially renowned for being the main jockey for the legendary horse Oguricap, who debuted in Kasamatsu and went on to the JRA to capture 12 grade-race titles and participated in the Japan Cup for three years in a row, from 1988 to 1990. Although Ando was unable to team up with the legend in the JRA races as he was still a NAR jockey at that time, they are still vividly remembered as a pair.

Acquiring his JRA jockey license in 2003, he quickly marked his first win in less than two weeks with Non Standard. Since then, he has captured numerous grade race titles and celebrated his 700th win this year. He has landed four G1 titles this season with Sunrise Bacchus (February Stakes), Daiwa Major (Yasuda Kinen and Mile Championship), and Daiwa Scarlet (Queen Elizabeth II Commemorative Cup).

Participation in WSJS: Third

## JAPAN (JRA Western District)

### YASUNARI IWATA



Birth date:	March 12, 1974
Year of Debut:	1991
'07 Season Record:	717 mounts, 126 wins
Career Record:	2,760 mounts, 376 wins
	(as of Oct. 28, 2007)

#### Recent Career Highlights:

- '07 Takarazuka Kinen (G1) Admire Moon
- '07 Antares Stakes (G3) Wild Wonder
- '07 Kyoto Himba Stakes (G3) Dia de la Novia

The former Sonoda Racecourse-based Yasunari Iwata made his jockey debut in NAR regional public racing in 1991. Showing great promise, he consistently registered over 200 wins every year since '96. In combination with K.S. Yoshizen, Iwata became the winning jockey of Hyogo's Triple Crown at the age of 22 ('96) and led the jockey standings of the Hyogo prefecture for the first time in 2000, repeating the feat in '02 and in '04.

Iwata enthusiastically challenged his skills in JRA races while still affiliated with the NAR and scored his first grade-race win in the '02 Centaur Stakes (G2) with Believe, and then his first classic race victory, the Kikuka Sho (Japanese St. Leger) with his congenial mount Delta Blues in 2004. He claimed the World Super Jockey Series title in 2005 with 41 points, and finally transferred his license from the NAR to the JRA last year, after which he again participated in the same series, though he was unable to defend his title, lacking 2 points to German contender Andreas Suborics.

His first season in the JRA was astounding not only with three grade-race victories in a total of 126 wins, but with his first overseas campaign in Australia, finishing in great success as he and his winning mount in the '04 Kikuka Sho (Japanese St. Leger), Delta Blues, dominated the Melbourne Cup (G1, AUS) held at Flemington Racecourse. This year, he has been equally competent by capturing three more grade race victories including the Takarazuka Kinen (G1) in June, and celebrated his 300th JRA win in April. He trails behind Yutaka Take for this year's leading jockey title by 5 wins (as of Nov. 11, '07).

Participation in the WSJS: Third

## JAPAN (JRA Western District)

### YUTAKA TAKE



Birth date: March 15, 1969  
Year of Debut: 1987  
'07 Season Record: 571 mounts, 130 wins  
Career Record: 14,287 mounts, 2,999 wins  
(as of 28, Oct. 2007)

#### Recent Career Highlights:

'07 Takamatsunomiya Kinen (G1) Suzuka Pheonix  
'07 Tenno Sho (Autumn) (G1) Meisho Samson

Yutaka Take is the third son of jockey-turned-trainer Kunihiko Take, who was known as the “Turf Specialist” in his days, and elder brother to Koshiro Take, also a jockey with much talent and a star in his own right.

Take rode his first winner in his debut year in 1987, when he scored 69 wins and was Japan’s Champion Apprentice. He has and continues to renew practically every record available along with what he himself has set, not to mention the '05 record of 212 wins in a single season. He has also reigned as leading jockey for 16 years, including nine consecutive years from 1992 to 2000. He has enjoyed successful riding spells in France and the United States, and has shared the Cathay Pacific International Jockey’s Championship title with French jockey Christophe Soumillon held at Happy Valley, Hong Kong in 2004.

In 2005, he excited the nation by landing the Japanese Triple Crown (Satsuki Sho, Tokyo Yushun, and Kikuka Sho) on the legendary colt Deep Impact, the horse that won him his second Japan Cup last year.

The star jockey’s career was highlighted by another extraordinary feat this year as Take, at 38, broke another JRA record for most career victories (2,944 wins) in July, and posted his 3,000th win at Kyoto racecourse on November 3rd. It was his 14,288th JRA ride, giving him a career winning percentage of nearly 21 percent.

Participation in the WSJS: Ninteenth

## JAPAN (Winner of Summer Jockey Series)

### KOICHI TSUNODA



Birth date:	November 18, 1970
Year of Debut:	1989
'07 Season Record:	349 mounts, 23 wins
Career Record:	7,254 mounts, 660 wins (as of Oct. 28, 2007)

#### Recent Career Highlights:

- '07 March Stakes (G3) Quiet Day
- '07 Hakodate Sprint Stakes - Agnes Raspberry
- '07 Kitakyushu Kinen - Kyowa Roaring

Koichi Tsunoda demonstrated an incredible debut year in 1989 by marking 43 wins which led to an unsurprising achievement of the JRA Best Jockey (New Comer) award. He landed his first grade-race win in 1990 with Samantha Tosho in the Epsom Cup (G3), followed by two more grade-race victories that year.

With the fortune of teaming up with more Tosho Industry-owned mounts, he acquired his first classic race title, the Ohka Sho with Sister Tosho in 1991 followed by other grade-race victories partnered with mounts such as Nuevo Tosho, Tosho Balkan and Sweep Tosho. Highlighted by multiple G1 wins in the year of 1994, Tsunoda has achieved countless grade-race victories during his 18-year career. He has dominated the Tokyo Yushun (Japanese Derby) with Jungle Pocket in 2001, guided Hishi Miracle to win the Kikuka Sho in 2002 as well as the Takarazuka Kinen (G1) and the Tenno Sho (Spring) (G1) in 2003.

Not always as fortunate, Tsunoda has not been given many opportunities on good mounts in recent years, though his confident steering skills have not changed. He became the champion of this year's Summer Jockey's Series, which won him a seat in the World Super Jockey Series for the first time.

Participation in the WSJS: First

## JAPAN (NAR Jockey)

### SHUJI AKAOKA



Birth date: March 15, 1977  
Year of Debut: 1994  
'07 Season Record: 601 mounts, 162 wins  
Career Record: 7,532 mounts, 1,036 wins  
(as of Oct. 28, 2007)

#### Recent Career Highlights:

'07 Kenibetsu Sho, Tosa Lauren  
'06 Kochi Mayor Award, Escape Hatch

(JRA records not included)

Born and raised in Kochi prefecture, Japan, Shuji Akaoka made his debut in 1994, and marked his first victory six days later.

His first NAR grade-race victory came in 1997 aboard Easy Smile in the Kochi Yushun. Adding another victory with the filly in the Kuroshio Satuskisho the same year, the team was sent to challenge the Kuroshio Kikukasho, the last leg of the Kochi triple crown (the Kochi Yushun, the Kuroshio Satsukisho and the Kuroshio Kikuka Sho) in which they were unfortunately beaten by Shinmei Arthur. Akaoka was given another chance in challenging the triple crown in 2001 with Kachimasaru, in which they claimed the Kochi Yushun and the Kuroshio Kikuka Sho but was unsuccessful in the first leg, the Kuroshio Satsukisho.

He marked his 500th win in 2003, and his 1,000th win was celebrated this year in August. His recent success was with his mount Escape Hatch, with whom he scored 13 wins and 3 seconds last year, including the Kochi Shicho (Mayor) Sho. Akaoka finished the year 2006 as leading jockey for the first time, and is so far most likely to repeat the feat again this year.

In the NAR preliminaries, his skills and talent successfully overwhelmed the adversity of being partnered with less favored mounts, and won him the seat to the World Super Jockey Series this year, marking the first rider ever from Kochi racecourse to participate in this series.

Participation in the WSJS: First