



## RAMON DOMINGUEZ

**Born:** Nov. 24, 1976 in Caracas, Venezuela

**Residence:** Elkton, Md.

**Height:** 5'6"

**Weight:** 112 pounds

**Family:** Wife Sharon, sons Alexander and Matthew

**Major victories:** Breeders' Cup – Better Talk Now, 2004 Turf



Top horse in 2009 was male grass champion Gio Ponti, winner of the Arlington Million and two other Grade I races before his trainer, Christophe Clement, skipped the Breeders' Cup

Turf with him and sent him out to finish second to the super mare Zenyatta in the Breeders' Cup Classic on Santa Anita's Pro-Ride main track ... Also in 2009, was regular pilot for graded stakes winners Seattle Smooth, Haynesfield, Cat Moves and Fabulous Strike ... Other best horses ridden in the past: Tapit, Confessional, Your Out, Gin Taking and Equality ... For the year, purse earnings equaled \$18,348,422, less than \$25,000 behind top earner Garrett Gomez and third in the nation ... Other top races won: Maryland Million Lassie, Maryland Million Turf, Maryland Million Oaks, all at Laurel Park; Saranac Stakes at Saratoga, Virginia Derby at Colonial Downs and Miami Turf Cup at Calder Race Course ... Began riding at age 16 in Venezuela despite strong objections from his father, who wanted him to be a doctor. Began with jump horses, but soon moved to Thoroughbreds. Seeing the rider's fervor for the sport, the elder Dominguez became supportive of the son's efforts, though requiring him to pledge to finish high school ... Won his first race in 1995 in Venezuela ... Came to the United States from his native Venezuela in 1995 and began riding at Hialeah in 1996; scored his first U.S. win in March 1996 ... Has ridden mostly in Maryland over the years, but moved his tack to New York full time in 2009, after testing the water at the 2007 Saratoga meeting ... Won the 2009 spring/summer meeting at Belmont Park with 98 victories and led the Saratoga standings with 45 wins ... In October 2009 became the fifth jockey in history to win 300 races in one year at Aqueduct, Belmont and Saratoga, joining Angel Cordero Jr., Steve Cauthen, Mike Smith and Eibar Coa in the feat ... Was the nation's leading rider, by victories, in both 2001 and 2003 ... He was second to Rafael Bejarano in 2004, with 383 victories to the leader's 455 ... Was leading rider at Delaware Park 2004-07 ... Met his wife-to-be, Sharon, at Delaware Park, where she galloped horses and ponied in the afternoons ... They married the day after the 2001 Belmont Stakes, but delayed their honeymoon until January 2002 because of his opportunity to the

win the national riding title ... In 2006, put up his highest finish in the Kentucky Derby with a second place aboard Bluegrass Cat, among six Derby rides ... Won the 2004 Isaac Murphy Award, presented by the National Turf Writers Association to the jockey with the highest winning percentage for the year.