



## RICHARD MANDELLA

**Born:** November 5, 1950 in Altadena, Calif.

**Resident:** Bradbury, Calif.

**Family:** Wife, Randi; son Gary, also a trainer; daughter Andrea

**Breeders' Cup victories:** Classic – Pleasantly Perfect (2003); Turf – Kotashaan (1993), Johar (2003-DH); Juvenile – Action This Day (2003); Juvenile Fillies – Phone Chatter (1993), Halfbridled (2003).

**National Museum of Racing Hall of Fame:** Inducted 2001.



Richard Mandella is the son of a blacksmith and worked for his father in Beaumont, Calif., before breaking and galloping horses for five years at Three Rings Ranch, in Beaumont, during his high school days. He followed that with a one year stint at the ranch of the legendary Southern California trainer Farrell Jones, father of former trainer Gary Jones and grandfather of trainer Martin Jones.

Mandella began his training career in earnest when he served for 18 months as assistant to another racing legend, V.J. (Lefty) Nickerson, in New York during the early 1970s, before taking a private training job with owner Roger Braugh in 1974.

The 59-year-old Mandella opened a public stable in 1976 and has operated ever since. Through the years, he has turned out a number of first class young trainers, including Dan Hendricks, C. Beau Greely, Michael Machowsky and his son Gary, who all worked as assistants.

His career resume is covered with major stakes victories, including the 2004 Dubai World Cup with Pleasantly Perfect, three Santa Anita Handicaps (Siphon, Malek and Rock Hard Ten, three Pacific Classics (Dare And Go, in which he stopped Cigar's win streak at 16, Gentlemen and Pleasantly Perfect), two Hollywood Gold Cups (Siphon and Gentlemen), Woodford Reserve Turf Classic with Romarin, Pimlico Special with Gentlemen, Arlington Million with The Tin Man, Met Mile with Wild Rush, as well as his six Breeders' Cup wins and practically every major stakes race at Southern California's three major tracks – Santa Anita, Hollywood Park and Del Mar.

Of course, he made history at the 2003 Breeders' Cup championships by winning four of the eight championship races on the day at Santa Anita. On that day, also, the trainer sent out Minister Eric to finish second in the Juvenile and The Tin Man to run fourth in the Turf to run his earnings for the day to a Breeders' Cup record for a single day of \$4,560,040.

The only thing missing in that resume is a victory in a Triple Crown race. He has saddled six Derby starters, with a fifth place by Soul of the Matter in 1994 being the highest finish. Ironically, the 2009 Derby winner, Mine That Bird, was in Mandella's hands for a couple of weeks going into the 2008 Breeders' Cup Juvenile, having been sent to him from his earlier Canadian base. The gelded son of Birdstone finished 12th in the Juvenile and went on to New Mexico to prepare for his 3-year-old season.

The trainer's first big stakes winner was Bad N Big, who was 1977 champion Cal-bred 3-year-old and 1978's Cal-bred older horse. He has two Eclipse Award champions: Kotashaan, 1993 Horse of the Year, and Phone Chatter, 1993 2-year-old filly.

Mandella has won six training titles on the Southern California circuit and his \$2.4 million purse earnings in 2009 raised his career earnings to \$112,140,249 on a record of more than 1,800 victories and good for eighth nationally.