

Q&A WITH FIRST RECIPIENT OF TVI'S JOHN VELAZQUEZ SCHOLARSHIP ANDRE STOCK JUGGLES LOADS AT UNIV. OF LOUISVILLE, RACETRACK RACE FOR EDUCATION OVERSEES SCHOLARSHIP FOR A HISPANIC STUDENT

From Jennie Rees of the Louisville *Courier-Journal* comes the following story on Andre G. Stock, the first recipient of the John Velazquez Scholarship, which was instituted by Barry and Kathleen Irwin and Team Valor International:



Andre Stock juggles life as a full-time student at the University of Louisville with his job overseeing Larry Jones's division at Trackside Training Center in Louisville. He is pictured with former Kentucky Governor Brereton Jones' Graded stakes winner Mark Valeski.

Andre G. Stock oversees trainer Larry Jones' satellite division at Churchill Downs' Trackside Training Center while also a full-time student in the University of Louisville's equine business program. Stock, who turned 21 Thursday, is the first recipient of the Race for Education's Team Valor International-sponsored John Velazquez Scholarship, awarded to a student of Hispanic heritage who wants to work in the thoroughbred industry.

His father was in the Army, and Stock was born at Fort Polk, La., moving as an infant to his mother's native Panama, where his grandfather was a prominent thoroughbred owner-breeder. The family moved back to the United States when Stock was 10.

*He reconnected with racing when his mom went to Delaware Park, her son in tow, to write about jockey Gabriel Saez. He began working for Jones during the summer of 2011 at Delaware Park, transferring from the University of Arizona racetrack program to UofL last year, when Jones relocated to Kentucky. *Courier-Journal* turf writer Jennie Rees caught up with Stock this week at Trackside, before he had to leave for a class.*

When do you sleep?

Whenever my body just shuts down. No, usually 10 o'clock or 11 at night, whenever I'm done with school work and finished cooking and cleaning. I get up at 4:40, leave the house at 4:50 and go to Churchill. Larry will give me the set list (groups in which horses train), tell me anything important. I'll grab feed, whatever we need for hay, if we're running low, and I'll head this way. Six o'clock the first set goes out. I watch over it, supervise it, make sure it's all going the way Larry would want if he was here.

I'm taking 15 credits. But to make the load easier, I'm taking one online class through UofL and another one. I go to campus four days a week, because Fridays the College of Business doesn't have classes. I'll probably use Friday to catch up and bring a lot of hay and feed over here -- and kind of take a little nap.

Because you want to train, a lot of horsemen would say the best education is the track's school of hard knocks. What does college do for you?



Barry Irwin and John Velazquez celebrated Kentucky Derby glory together with Animal Kingdom in 2011.

It just prepares me for the real and professional world. ... My parents told me when I was in high school, "If you want to work on the backside, you've got to go to college and get a degree." ... The racetrack program in Arizona gave me a lot of the animal and racetrack background. The one in Louisville can give me the business background. And what I'm going to miss out in Arizona, I can make up on

the track.

What about earning the first John Velazquez Scholarship?

That's quite an honor. Obviously Johnny V is a great jockey, but I look up to him for his professionalism and his way of being humble.

So what's the tougher curriculum: UofL or Larry Jones U.?

I think this one (laughs), because you can be fired... Honestly, I think they're both about the same. Just being able to manage both is the difficult part, managing work full-time, more than 40 hours a week, a full schedule at college and then trying to have a personal life in between.

What Larry Jones says about Stock:

He gives you hope that the sport is going to still be good in the future, because this kid is good. He's very bright. He wants to do things the right way. He's not afraid to get in and get his hands dirty. He's going to be one of the ones I can pretty much bet my money on that he'll make it.



Trainer Larry Jones

More information on the Race for Education and its scholarship opportunities at raceforeducation.org.