

= Rosie Napravnik =

Anna Rose " Rosie " Napravnik (born February 9 , 1988) is an American Thoroughbred horse racing jockey and two @-@ time winner of the Kentucky Oaks . Beginning her career in 2005 , she was regularly ranked among the top jockeys in North America in both earnings and total races won . By 2014 she had been in the top 10 by earnings three years in a row and was the highest @-@ ranked woman jockey in North America . In 2011 she won the Louisiana Derby for her first time and was ninth in the 2011 Kentucky Derby with the horse Pants On Fire . In 2012 , she broke the total wins and earnings record for a woman jockey previously held by Julie Krone , in the process becoming the first woman rider to win the Kentucky Oaks , riding Believe You Can , winning the race for a second time in 2014 on Untapable . She is only the second woman jockey to win a Breeders ' Cup race and the first to win more than one , having won the 2012 Breeders ' Cup Juvenile on Shanghai Bobby and the 2014 Breeders ' Cup Distaff on Untapable . Napravnik 's fifth @-@ place finish in the 2013 Kentucky Derby and third in the 2013 Preakness Stakes on Mylute are the best finishes for a woman jockey in those two Triple Crown races to date , and she is the only woman to have ridden in all three Triple Crown races .

A native of New Jersey , she and her horse trainer husband , Joe Sharp , have homes in Louisville , Kentucky and New Orleans , Louisiana . She was the leading rider at the Fair Grounds Race Course every year from 2011 through 2014 and leading rider at Keeneland Race Course in 2013 and 2014 . After her win in the 2014 Breeders ' Cup Distaff , Napravnik announced she was seven weeks pregnant and taking a " retirement " of " indefinite " duration from race riding following the 2014 Breeders ' Cup . She continues to assist Sharp in training race horses .

= = Background = =

Napravnik was born in her grandmother 's home in Mendham , New Jersey , on February 9 , 1988 . Shortly after she was born , she was sent to a hospital in Morristown , New Jersey , which is often mistakenly listed as her location of birth . Her father Charles is a farrier and her mother Cindy ran a boarding and training stable , plus trained event horses . She has one older sister , Jasmine (known as " Jazz ") , and a brother , Colt . Napravnik began working with horses at a very young age . Her first horse @-@ related injury was a broken arm that occurred when she fell off a pony at age four . By the age of seven , she began to ride in pony races , and , inspired by the documentary Jewels of the Triple Crown , she decided that year to become a jockey who rode Triple Crown races . She spent most of her childhood in New Jersey , but lived briefly in Vermont with her mother after the divorce of her parents , though she spent summers with her sister Jazz , who was living in Maryland and Pennsylvania .

In early adolescence , Napravnik , along with her sister , went to work for trainers Lilith Boucher , Bruce Miller and Jack Fisher . By age 13 , she worked for steeplechase trainer Jonathan Sheppard . At 15 , she decided to take a year off from employment in the horse industry to spend time with friends and to be an ordinary teen . But at 16 , Napravnik went to live with her sister at the farm of trainer Holly Robinson in Maryland , and Robinson sent her to work for trainer Richard " Dickie " Small . Small had a good reputation for mentoring young riders and had helped several other women jockeys get started in their careers . Napravnik began exercising Small 's race horses in 2004 . That year , she attended both Hereford High School and night school , but left school before her senior year to begin racing as a professional jockey . She later passed her high school equivalency GED test .

Napravnik is a natural redhead , 5 ft 2 in (1 @.@ 57 m) tall , and as a jockey rode at about 113 pounds (51 kg) . In addition to racing , she is very active in efforts to rehome and provide aftercare to retired race horses . In 2014 she began to show her own off @-@ track Thoroughbred Old Ironsides , nicknamed Sugar , in Eventing . Interviewed for Vogue magazine , she explained how she felt about riding in the American classic horse races , ? When you ? re riding in the Derby , you see all those iconic silks in the same race and it gives it a special feel , like you ? re part of history . ?

= = = Joe Sharp and family = = =

Napravnik married Joe Sharp in October 2011 . He is three years older than Napravnik , and has a daughter , Aiyana , born in 2005 , whose mother is jockey Chamisa Goodwin . Napravnik and Sharp have a son , Carson , born June 1 , 2015 .

Horse owner Ken Ramsey , who knows Napravnik and Sharp well , says the couple are likable and well @-@ respected , saying " They go together like ham and eggs . " Sharp had Napravnik ride a horse for him at Penn National in 2009 , and they began dating a few months later , becoming engaged in 2011 . Sharp , a horse trainer , was born in Martinsburg , West Virginia . He is an only child and grew up around horses . His father , Marc Sharp , is a trainer who also owns a horse farm near Harpers Ferry , West Virginia . His mother , Sara Escudero , was an exercise rider . The pair divorced and Sharp split his time between them , growing up in Kentucky and West Virginia .

Sharp was a jockey from 2004 @-@ 2005 , riding mostly at Canterbury Downs in Minnesota , but also in West Virginia and Maryland . Sharp was an assistant trainer to Mike Stidham for four years , and then for three years an assistant to Mike Maker , where he ran Maker 's operations in New York , Kentucky and New Orleans . Napravnik and Sharp sometimes competed against each other when a horse Sharp trained was running against one Napravnik was riding , but the two were a trainer @-@ rider team for Ramsey 's three @-@ year @-@ old colt , Vicar 's In Trouble , who won the Louisiana Derby and contested the 2014 Kentucky Derby . In August 2014 , Sharp left Maker 's barn to begin an independent horse training stable , with the full support of both Maker and Napravnik . He scored his first graded stakes win on May 16 , 2015 on the Preakness undercard with the Ramsey 's horse Sandbar in the Grade III Maryland Sprint Handicap . Of the couple 's relationship , Sharp has stated , " Some guys might think being married to someone as famous as Rosie is a tough position , but I don 't , I 'm very proud of her . " Sharp and Napravnik split their time between homes in Louisville and New Orleans . Besides working with horses , the pair also provide foster care to rescue dogs .

= = Career = =

Nappravnik obtained her jockey license in 2005 at Pimlico Race Course . She won her first race as a licensed jockey on June 9 of that year , riding Small 's horse , Ringofdiamonds . She initially rode under the name " A.R. Nappravnik " to conceal her gender . In November 2005 , she broke her left collarbone and was sidelined for almost six weeks. when the horse in front of her fell and her horse was unable to avoid a collision , creating a four @-@ horse chain reaction that sent Nappravnik and one of the other riders to the hospital . At the time of the accident she was the leading jockey at Laurel Park Racecourse .

Nappravnik established herself as a top @-@ ranked jockey in 2006 when she finished 30th in national earnings and fifth in total wins with 300 victories on 1 @, @ 465 mounts and purse winnings of \$ 6 @, @ 395 @, @ 075 . That year at Laurel Park , she won her first stakes race . One of her highest profile wins was in a race that was on the undercard for the 2006 Preakness . She won riding titles in 2006 at all four meets at the major Maryland tracks , one at the annual meet at Pimlico , and the other three at Laurel Park . Nappravnik was runner @-@ up to Julien Leparoux for the Eclipse Award for Outstanding Apprentice Jockey that year .

When a horse fell with her in a January 2007 race at Laurel Park , Nappravnik suffered three compression fractures of her thoracic vertebrae and was out for several weeks to recuperate . In July , after recovering from the Laurel Park injuries , she had another fall that resulted in a major break to her wrist , subsequently repaired with a plate . In spite of her injuries and layoff , she still rode 507 races with 89 winners in 2007 . In 2008 , Nappravnik was the most successful rider in Maryland with 101 wins . Riding a total of 893 races with 176 wins , she finished 62nd in earnings for the year , even though she broke her tibia and fibula in a racing accident at Delaware Park Racetrack in August , resulting in a three @-@ month layoff . She moved to Aqueduct Racetrack in New York in November 2008 , and in 2009 finished 38th in national earnings with 184 victories out

of 1 @, @ 109 mounts and with earnings of \$ 5 @, @ 176 @, @ 563 .

In 2010 , Napravnik began riding at Fair Grounds Race Course in New Orleans , Louisiana . Initially , she faced some of the most significant problems in her career with intimidation by the male jockeys , but overcame the challenge by refusing to give ground . Eventually she earned the respect of her male colleagues , and that year , she won her first graded stakes race , the Grade III Cicada Stakes at Aqueduct . By 2013 Napravnik was viewed as one of the most popular jockeys at the Fair Grounds . She finished the year with no major injuries and was ranked 30th in earnings .

Napravnik began 2011 with a win in the Louisiana Derby , riding Pants on Fire , becoming the first woman to win that race . When she was named the leading rider at that track in 2011 , with 110 wins , she was also the first woman rider to win the title . She then became only the sixth woman to ride in the Kentucky Derby. riding Pants on Fire to a 9th place finish , the best placing for a woman rider in the history of the Derby to that date . She also was second in the 2011 Kentucky Oaks , riding a longshot filly named St. John ? s River . In July of that year , Napravnik fractured her arm again when the horse she was riding broke down on the track and fell . This time the fracture was just above the plate in her wrist that had repaired her first break , an injury that required a three @-@ hour surgery and replacement of the wrist plate with a larger one .

In 2012 Napravnik became the first woman jockey to win the Kentucky Oaks , riding Believe You Can . The race was also her first Grade I win . She then rode in the Belmont Stakes for the first time , finishing fifth aboard Five Sixteen . Later that year , she won the Breeders ' Cup Juvenile aboard Shanghai Bobby , becoming only the second woman jockey to win a Breeder 's Cup race . Her injury for 2012 was relatively minor : a non @-@ displaced fracture of her toe , obtained when her horse hit the side of the starting gate at Saratoga . She finished the race and returned to ride the next day . She ended the year ranked 8th in national earnings , winning \$ 12 @, @ 451 @, @ 713 , which surpassed the earnings and national placing record for a female jockey previously held by Julie Krone . As a result , sports analysts viewed her as the most successful woman jockey since Krone .

Early in 2013 , Napravnik once again won the leading rider title at the Fair Grounds , making it three years in a row that she had won the award . She had hopes of riding Shanghai Bobby , who was undefeated in five races , in the 2013 Kentucky Derby , but he suffered a pelvic fracture at the Florida Derby and missed the Triple Crown races . She was able to pick up another horse for the Derby , Mylute , with whom she broke her previous Kentucky Derby finish record , taking fifth . Napravnik rode in the Preakness Stakes for the first time in 2013 , finishing third , again on Mylute . In doing so , she was only the third woman to ever ride in the Preakness , the first since 1994 , and had the highest @-@ placed finish for any woman jockey in that race . Adding the Preakness to her 2011 Kentucky Derby and 2012 Belmont races , she also became the first woman ever to have ridden in all three Triple Crown races . She then rode the filly Unlimited Budget to a 6th place finish in the 2013 Belmont , becoming the first woman to ride all three Triple Crown races in the same year . Napravnik also broke a record previously held by Donna Barton Brothers when she rode 45 winners at Churchill Downs ' spring meet .

That summer , Napravnik also was named captain of the three member " Girls ' Team " for the Shergar Cup jockey competition at Ascot Racecourse in the United Kingdom where she was the leading female rider of the team . In October , she became the first woman to win the leading rider title at Keeneland Race Course . She rode the two @-@ year @-@ old filly Untapable to a win in the Pocahontas Stakes , and then competed in the Breeders ' Cup Juvenile Fillies , but finished eighth , having to check the filly to avoid another horse that fell during the race . She finished the year eighth in earnings at \$ 13 @, @ 242 @, @ 202 , breaking her own record from 2012 , and was fifth in total wins .

She began 2014 being named the leading rider at the Fair Grounds Race Course for the fourth consecutive year . She won the 2014 Lecomte Stakes and the Louisiana Derby on the three @-@ year @-@ old colt Vicar 's In Trouble , trained by Sharp while he was an assistant to Maker , and owned by Ken and Sarah Ramsey . Of Napravnik 's ride in the Louisiana Derby , veteran hall of fame jockey Mike Smith , who rode the favorite but finished second , said , " She rode a great race . A brilliant race actually . " Napravnik also teamed up again with Untapable , now a three @-@ year @-@ old , first winning the Rachel Alexandra Stakes and the Fair Grounds Oaks , and then to the

jockey 's second victory in the Kentucky Oaks , winning the 2014 race by 4 @-@ 1 / 2 lengths . Prior to the Oaks , Napravnik told reporters , " I own this race . " Napravnik 's win on Untapable and a victory in the Humana Distaff Handicap , on the undercard on Derby day , brought her ranking up to second in the nation for jockey earnings and wins during the early weeks of May 2014 . With mounts on Vicar 's In Trouble in the Derby , Bayern in the 2014 Preakness Stakes , and General a Rod in the Belmont , for the second year in a row , she rode horses in all three Triple Crown races . She was in contention for leading jockey at Churchill Downs ' spring meet , in second place with 31 winners , including a single day where she won five races , setting yet another record for a woman rider . But on June 15 , the day after she had a major win on Tapiture , she had another significant injury : a separation of her clavicle and left shoulder joint that occurred when a horse she was working in the morning broke its leg and fell . While Napravnik did not require surgery , she was sidelined for a few weeks . Even though she missed the end of the Churchill meet , she still tied for second place in leading rider standings at that track . By July 5 she was working horses . She returned to racing on July 18 for the opening day of the Saratoga meet . In October , she repeated as leading rider at Keeneland 's fall meet .

After her win in the 2014 Breeders ' Cup Distaff aboard Untapable , Napravnik announced that she was seven weeks pregnant and announced a " retirement " from race riding . When asked if her retirement was " permanent " , she replied , " It 's indefinite ? I mean , I 'm not thinking about a comeback in 10 months , but I can 't promise to stay off a horse forever . " She further explained that she intended to assist Sharp with his training business and intended to remain " very much involved with racing . " At the time of her announcement , she ranked sixth in the nation for 2014 in earnings and fifth by number of wins . In spite of losing time due to injury and retiring with two months left in the year , Napravnik closed out 2014 seventh in the nation for earnings , bringing her lifetime total to \$ 71 @, @ 396 @, @ 717 .

Following her retirement announcement , Napravnik became Sharp 's assistant trainer , continuing to ride regularly . After initially exercising the stable 's race horses in the early months of her pregnancy , she moved over to ponying and other activities . As of 2015 , she and Sharp currently hope to have two children fairly close together , and after that , Napravnik has not ruled out a return to race riding but has not made any firm decisions . As she explained in February 2015 , " I 'm satisfied with the accomplishments that I 've made . If I feel like I really want to come back in a few years then I can do it . The greatest thing is I don 't have to . "

= = On being a woman jockey = =

Napravnik 's success has come in a sport where only 10 % of all jockeys are women , even though they have been licensed as jockeys in pari @-@ mutuel races since 1969 . She initially was uncomfortable finding herself viewed as a role model for girls , preferring to simply be noticed as a top jockey . She became aware that she could have a positive impact on others and that helped her be more comfortable with her prominence . She still prefers to emphasize her riding prowess , and stated in 2014 , " If you show your work ethic and professionalism and obvious skill and ability , that is what is going to win somebody over . ?

Like many other women jockeys , she views the primary challenge to be the difficulty of horse racing itself . She describes races as " every man for himself (sic) . " She does not ask for any breaks from male jockeys , and has explained that horse racing is a sport where women simply have to be just as good as men . She speaks well of other successful women jockeys , and expresses a lot of respect in particular for Julie Krone , to whom she is often compared . But she also said in a 2011 interview , " a lot of young female riders are just girls who love horses , but they just don 't have the strength and toughness , and they 're not cut out to be jockeys . You 've got to deliver the goods to get over that hump . "

She acknowledges the struggles for equality that women riders in earlier generations had to face were greater than her own , but notes that women jockeys still " fight a battle . " In her early career , she simply tried to " blend in " with the male riders , but nonetheless encountered some owners and trainers who refused to hire a female jockey . She later said , " I was very conscious when I raced

against their horses ? and when I beat them . " Napravnik has encountered harassment from male jockeys on the track when other riders would deliberately bump her or pin her horse from all sides . In a 2013 interview with 60 Minutes , Napravnik said that she has heard hecklers at the track yell at her to ? go home and have a baby , " or " go home and stay in the kitchen . ? She repeatedly has chosen to make her mark on the track instead of getting into post @-@ race fights . Trainer Larry Jones , having witnessed other jockeys deliberately bumping into her on the track , commented , ? Don ? t do Rosie that way , because she will run over you . The girl has no fear . ?

She summed up her views in a 2014 interview for Elle , stating , ? We are beyond the days of being boycotted . We are beyond the days before Civil Rights . So it has to do with the woman . It has to do with the individual and being able to compete as smart , as sharp as any man . ?

= = Year @-@ end charts = =