**John Campo**

John Campo is *not* in the Horse Racing Hall of Fame. Nonetheless he is a *Legend of the Queens Turf*. John was an outsider—he operated a public not a private stable. Steve Cady of the *New York Times* in 1981 said: “To his detractors, he will still be unpolished, ungrammatical, even uncouth. Campo’s critics cite his (poor manners) when he said of his horse Pleasant Colony after winning the Kentucky Derby ‘He won because I’m a good horse trainer, pal and don’t ever forget it.’”

Tex Maule wrote in Sports Illustrated in 1971:“Yet if one should suggest to racing’s small circle of elite owners and private trainers that Johnny Campo may well be the best trainer in the business, the response is a quick, pained denial. To the people with breeding farms, the best stallions and racing programs geared to a few classic victories each year, Campo is a rather unwelcome intruder from an unfamiliar world. Elliott Burch, a Yale man who trains for Paul Mellon’s prestigious Rokeby Stable, said recently, ‘Campo? I really don’t know him very well. He still calls me Mr. Burch.’”

Campo grew up in Ozone Park, attending PS 108 where he could look out the window and see Aqueduct Racetrack. He dropped out of John Adams High School at the age of 16. He was a leading trainer in New York for many years. His horses won 3 Eclipse Awards and approximately 100 Stakes races. John never won an Eclipse Award for his training.

Past Performance

Number of Starts 12,826

Number of Wins 1,431

Earnings $25,566,380