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# Horse Racing Biographies: Lester Piggott

Lester Keith Piggott, who was born 5 November 1935 in Wantage, Oxfordshire, is a retired English jockey, popularly referred to as "The Long Fellow". He's considered to be the best of his era and the greatest flat racing jockey of all time, with 4,493 career wins, including 9 Derby victories.

Family background and private life:

Lester Piggott is the son of Keith Piggott, who was a profitable Nationwide Hunt jockey and trainer. Keith Piggott received the Champion Hurdle as a jockey in 1939 and the Grand Nationwide as a coach in 1963 with Ayala. In that 1962-sixty three season he turned British bounce racing Champion Trainer. Lester's grandfather, Ernie Piggott, rode three Grand National winners, in 1912, 1918 and 1919 and was married to a sister of the jockeys Mornington Cannon and Kempton Cannon, who both rode winners of the Epsom Derby, in 1899 and 1904 respectively.

Piggott is married to Susan Armstrong. Her father Sam Armstrong and Robert Armstrong were both racehorse trainers. Lester and Susan have two daughters, Maureen, an ex-eventer who's married to Derby-profitable trainer William Haggas, and Tracy who's a effectively revered sports activities presenter on the Irish tv station RTÉ. Lester also has a son, Jamie, from a relationship with Anna Ludlow, his lengthy-term mistress.

Jamie hopes to comply with in his father's footsteps as a jockey. Away from the glare of the British racing world, Piggott's solely son made his "racetrack" debut, riding in a pony meeting in Broadford, Co Limerick. Based on racing insiders, Piggott is fiercely protective of his son and whilst quietly supportive of his want to develop into a jockey, will not drive him into anything. Sadly, it's thought that Jamie may find yourself too huge - at over 9 stone - to change into a Flat jockey like his father. Instead, he could pursue a career, like his grandfather Keith, as a soar jockey. Keith received the Champion Hurdle at the Cheltenham Pageant as a jockey in 1939 and the Grand Nationwide at Aintree as a coach in 1963. There have been at the least 4 generations of Piggotts who have ridden as jockeys.

His achievements:

Simply over 5,300 winners within the UK & overseas

9 Derbys

3 Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe.

11 Championships. 1960, 1964-71, 1981 & 1982.

30 Classic victories in England.

25 centuries between 1955 & 1984.

Wins in 27 countries exterior the UK.

Certainly one of Britain's most well-known jockeys, Lester Piggott began racing horses from his father's steady when he was ten years old and gained his first race in 1948, aged twelve years, on a horse called The Chase at Haydock Park. Definitely a teenage sensation, he rode his first winner of the Epsom Derby on Never Say Die in 1954 aged eighteen years and went on to win eight more. Famously tall for a jockey, he's 5 ft eight in/1.73 m tall, therefore his nickname of "The Lengthy Fellow". He additionally struggled to keep his weight down. However, he grew to become Champion Jockey eleven occasions throughout his improbable career.

Piggott, who retired in 1995, tarnished his good title, and sacrificed his OBE, when he was jailed in 1987 for tax fraud. The jockey, whose fortune was estimated at £20 million, spent a 12 months in prison.

This post is written by John Lewis, who also always writes about other topics such as [sterling silver jewelry](#), [cz jewelry](#) & [Sterling Silver Necklace](#).

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