



Trainer Candidate

JOSE CORRALES

Jose Corrales, who is approaching the 500-win mark as a trainer, has regularly placed high in the standings at Maryland tracks over the last decade. His runners have earned almost \$11 million.

A jockey-turned-trainer, Corrales befriended trainer and former jockey Wesley Ward and became his assistant in the early 1990s. He trained for a while on the island of Macau, and when he returned to the United States eventually met Andy Stronach, son of Frank Stronach, in 2011.

The relationship led to Corrales training a string of horses for the Stronach family. One of them, Something Awesome, went from claiming races to become a multiple stakes winner, including the Grade 3 General George Stakes and Grade 2 Charles Town Classic in 2018 at the age of 7.

Among the issues Corrales would like to see addressed include having more outriders during training and better organization among the outriders, and a better system whereby trainers don't miss making it to the frontside from the backstretch to view workouts.

"I've spoken to Sal Sinatra about some things," he said. "As horsemen, we have to think about the horses."

Corrales acknowledged there is "really not much we can do now" regarding purse levels at Maryland tracks that are likely to remain static, but he said he would like to see more races for \$5,000 claimers and lower-level starter allowance races that allow owners and trainers who claim horses for \$5,000 to protect them for a period of time.

Corrales said members of the Spanish-speaking community "are some of the best workers and are very loyal" and "need a better way to feed themselves. There isn't a good facility on the backstretch for them to cook or use microwaves. It's very expensive for them to live and also send money to their families. A little bit of help would make it better for them."

Corrales also is an advocate for communication among all parties to move Maryland racing forward.

"If we all get together and improve communication and try to understand each other, there can be better conversation, which would be good for everyone," he said. "I don't have an ego—I care for everybody and want everybody to do well."