



By
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Catch up with Adam Best

Adam Best is leading the jockey's premiership in Toowoomba this season and Leona Welburn caught up with this talented rider to find out what makes him tick.

L: Where were you born?

A: Adelaide and moved to the Gold Coast when I was three-years-old.

L: When did you decide you wanted to be a jockey?

A: When I was about 15. I am a family friend of Glen Boss (jockey) and it was suggested that with my height and build I might suit being a jockey.

L: How long have you known Glen Boss?

A: From when I turned eight-years-old.

L: Has there been any other racing connection?

A: Yes, my best friend whose father (Steven Burridge) is a horse trainer in Singapore, wanted to be a jockey, but he was too big, so I guess I was surrounded by thoroughbred racing.

L: What happened next?

A: Since I was living at the Gold Coast I met with local trainer Gary Stewart and he showed me the ropes, especially how to ride. I was with him for about 12 months. I then joined the Bryan Guy stable. I was apprenticed to Bryan for all of my four-year apprenticeship. Michael Rodd and I were apprenticed to Bryan at the same time.

L: What was your first winner?

A: Royal Entourage at Ballina. He was trained by Les Kelly.

L: How many winners have you ridden?

A: Honestly, I have no idea, but plenty.

L: How did you end up in Toowoomba?

A: Well, before that happened my family decided to leave the Gold Coast and return

to Adelaide. I went back with them because the rides at the Coast had started to dry up. My move to Adelaide only lasted for about six weeks. I then returned back to the Coast. But still the rides didn't happen. I had been back at the Coast for about a month when David Silver (Toowoomba radio station producer/my Gold Coast AFL footy coach) phoned me and said he noticed that I wasn't getting good rides and suggested a move to Toowoomba. So here I am.

L: What happened when you arrived in Toowoomba?

A: I started riding for the Darryl Gollan stable and I was with him for about six months and then I started to ride for Mark Webb and decided to stay riding for him. Mark has been really good to me.

L: How long have you been associated with Mark's stable?

A: About 18 months now.

L: So how do you like riding in Toowoomba?

A: Love it and riding winners makes you enjoy it. I am really focussed on my career and I know what I want.

L: Do you mind if I ask how old you are?

A: No, I am 26 and am married to Kristy and we have an 18-month-old son Riley.



Jockey Adam Best is settled and successful in Toowoomba Noel Pascoe photo

L: What has been your greatest day in your career so far?

A: I hope it is still to come, but for now, riding four winners at the Sunshine Coast last season.

L: What do you do in your spare time?

A: Play golf. I have given playing AFL away, but I am an avid Brisbane Lions supporter.

L: What is the best horse you have ridden?

A: I can't separate Pure Hemi and Dan Tonic.

L: What plans do you have for the future?

A: I started off with a two-year plan to stay in Toowoomba but it has now grown to a 10-year plan. We (family) are really happy here. ●

Season's greetings

Toowoomba Turf Club chairman Col Zeller, his committee and staff wish all racing supporters a Merry Christmas and a prosperous and safe 2010. ●