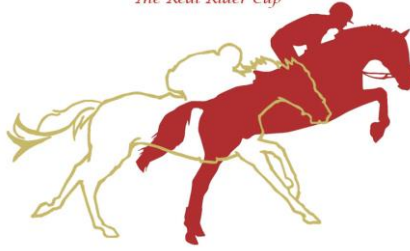


*The Real Rider Cup*



**RIDER:**

**MIKE BALAZ** adds a bit of international flair to Real Rider Cup 2018. Mike is the son of Rick Balaz, president of leading Canadian breeders/owners Sam-Son Farm. The farm was founded in the 1960s by Mike’s paternal grandfather, Ernie Samuel, and was formerly run by Mike’s mother, the late Tammy Samuel-Balaz, both of whom were inducted into the Canadian Horse Racing Hall of Fame.

Mike began showing hunters and jumpers at age six and rode competitively for over 18 years before turning his attention full-time to racing. He worked for trainer Mark Casse in New York during the winter/spring of 2018 and was then offered the opportunity to return home to work for the racing manager at Sam-Son in Ontario.

“Sam-Son is a big supporter and proponent of Thoroughbred aftercare and rehoming. We retire a lot of our good, older geldings to the farm in Canada. We have the Long Run program in Canada, which we support. So this is an opportunity for me to participate and I’m excited to do it.”

Competing with the Owners squad, Mike will wear his family’s iconic red and gold silks.



**MOUNT:**

**HARMONY BAY**

Bay Gelding, March 2, 2010

Doneraile Court – Risky Kitten, by Formal Gold

Bred in New York by McMahon Thoroughbreds LLC & Robert Raphelson

<u>Starts</u>	<u>Firsts</u>	<u>Seconds</u>	<u>Thirds</u>	<u>Earnings</u>
20	2	4	3	\$48,690