

Update 08/29/2008

Richard is the son of Chano and Delia Ruiz of Tucson, Arizona. He has an older sister, Stella Padilla and two younger brothers, Joe and Arthur Ruiz. He graduated from Sunnyside High School in 1975 and for a year worked in construction. He eventually decided he would rather race horses for a living. John Bassett gave him his first break at Rillito Race Track riding for him.

Due to his work ethics he eventually worked his way up to Leading Jockey in the years that followed at Rillito Race track and Prescott Downs.

Failure is not a word that Richard knows. In 2000 he retired from horseracing full time, and while continuing to exercising horses in the mornings at Turf and working as a jockey valet at Turf Paradise, he decided to take up Roping with the extra time he now had. He joined the United States Team roping Championships (USTRC) and within a very short time won a saddle and Roping buckle in Laughlin, which qualified him for the USTRC finals in Oklahoma City placing in his division that same year.

He also enjoys hunting elk and deer up north and when he not planning a hunting trip he enjoys visiting with people of all ages and from different walks of life. You couldn't ask for a better human being.