

JONATHAN HOROWITZ

by John Moorehouse



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Many individuals involved in horse racing enter the sport at a young age. Although Jonathan Horowitz does not own, train, or competitively ride racehorses, he got off to a fast start in the industry. In 1999, Horowitz became the youngest person ever to call a horse race in the United States—at the age of 14 in the 1999 AQHA Challenge Championships.

Horowitz, now 31, is still at it. He currently serves as the announcer at Arapahoe Park in Colorado, also hosting the “Gates Open at Arapahoe Park” TV show on Altitude Sports & Entertainment.

Announcing horse races is just part of Horowitz’s rich and diverse professional resume. He double majored in mathematics and print journalism at the University of Southern California as an undergraduate and holds a master’s degree in kinesiology specializing in sports business and statistics from the University of Maryland, College Park. He has worked for the Publishing Office at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., where he was a co-author of the book *Football Nation*; authored *The One and Only: A Sports Quiz Deck of Definitive Games, Teams, Players, and Events*, wrote sections of the book *Presidential Campaign Posters*; and edited *Perspectives on the Hebraic Book*.

Now, get to know more about Horowitz in our “Lighter Side” feature.

Q: Where were you born?

A: Los Angeles.

Q: What are your hobbies outside of horse racing?

A: I’ve been learning how to ride on former racehorses for the past year and a half, and it’s become one of my favorite things to do. I’m working with an eventing trainer and also spend time helping at the barn.

Q: What is your favorite movie, and why?

A: “Inception”, written and directed by Christopher Nolan, because of how deep it is exploring the connection between the dream world and the real world. It’s the best movie-watching experience I’ve ever had.

Q: Give an interesting fact about your family.

A: My brother and I once announced a University of Southern California women’s basketball game together on radio. Because we sound alike, some people who listened asked me afterward about why I was talking to myself.

Q: Do you have a nickname and, if so, what is it and how did it come about?

A: Because I grew up in Orange County, California, my co-author at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. gave me the nickname “JBro” to reflect a Cali swag.

Q: What is the strangest personality quirk you have ever seen in a horse?

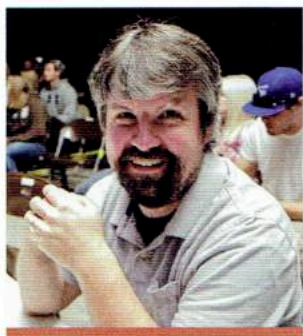
A: Horses start moving their lips, bobbing their head, and stretching their neck when they’re scratched in their favorite spot.

Q: If you were not in the horse racing business, what job would you like to have?

A: I worked in the Publishing Office at the Library of Congress as a researcher, writer, and editor. I would enjoy returning to that type of work and work environment.

Q: What is your favorite thing about living where you live?

A: Denver is a beautiful city, and my favorite activity is riding horses outside, such as cross country schooling, and appreciating the scenery.



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Q: If you could vacation anywhere on the planet, where would it be & what would you do there?

A: Las Vegas...and I can't say anymore than that!

Q: Do you have a favorite quote and, if so, what is it?

A: "As long as you're afraid of losin', you'll never be a winner."—Dizzy Dean, pitcher, St. Louis Cardinals.

Q: If you could sit down and visit with anyone, past or present, who would it be?

A: The Queen of England. She has been witness to so many world leaders and world events, and I'd like to hear her perspective and stories. I also hear she has quite the sense of humor and is fun to be around.

Q: What drink would your friends describe you as, and why?

A: Shirley Temple, because I have an inner child.

Q: Who's your favorite athlete of all time, and why?

A: Bernard "The Executioner" Hopkins. I admire how the former middleweight and light heavy-weight boxing champion transformed his life after getting out of prison—the legacy he built, and that he was still a champion at age 49 defeating opponents half his age.

Q: If you were making a movie about yourself, who would you cast to play you, and why?

A: Jake Gyllenhaal, because I've been told we look alike and there have been a few times where people mistook me for him.

Q: What's one thing you don't like about Quarter Horse racing?

A: I wish horses had longer racing careers. While I understand the breeding and business implications, I would enjoy seeing horses race longer, develop more of a legacy, and build more rivalries.

Q: What's one thing you like about Quarter Horse racing?

A: I love how the AQHA Challenge Championships brings the best horses from around the country together for a big event. I also love the moment before the start of a big Quarter Horse stakes race. All the horses are in the gates, and there is so much power that comes across so quickly when the gates open. It's like the calm before the storm. 🐾



Jonathan at the Spring Gulch Eventing Show.