

1979 Jamaican Derby with Lucky Ole Son & Emilio Rodriguez at Caymanas Park, Jamaica

Key Participants in the 1979 Jamaica Derby

The race took place at **Caymanas Park** in St. Catherine, Jamaica, and concluded in an epic three-way photo finish. The primary horses and jockeys involved in that memorable stretch run included: [\[1, 2\]](#)

- **Lucky Ole Sun:** Ridden by **Emelio "Bimbo" Rodriquez** (trained by Nigel Nunes), who won the race by a head.
- **Atta Boy:** Ridden by **Neville Anderson**, who finished second after a fierce stretch duel.
- **Lover Boy Ces:** Finished third, just a neck behind Atta Boy.
- **Bold Magic:** The pre-race favorite, ridden by apprentice Alton Andrade, who led early but faded to the middle of the track. [\[1, 4, 5\]](#)

Other documented runners that competed in the field included **Christmas Fire** (who initially showed the way), **Nursery Rhyme**, **Robin Goodfellow**, **Mr. LSQ**, and **He's A Native**. [\[1\]](#)

- The **breeding lineages** of Lucky Ole Sun or Atta Boy.
- The **career statistics** and historic milestones of jockeys Emilio Rodriguez and Neville Anderson at Caymanas Park.
- Details on other classic races from the **1979 racing season**. [\[1, 2, 3\]](#)

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- The magnificent 1979 Derby - one to always remember
Jun 13, 2013 — Loading Audio Player By Instaread, Please Wait... In the 20-year history of Caymanas Park, it is doubtful whether any previous ren...



Jamaica Observer

- **Jamaica Gleaner News - 'Bimbo' to ride at track on Saturday**
Mar 7, 2006 — To date 'Bimbo' has ridden 1080 winners at Caymanas Park. Among his tally are 15 classic winners, three of these coming in the Jam...



Jamaica Gleaner

- **Jockey Emelio "Bimbo" Rodriguez Honored by Jamaica**
Aug 21, 2020 — Stay Informed with CNW. Rodriguez, who is in his mid 60s, began his riding career at Caymanas Park in 1970. He is a four-time cham...



Caribbean National Weekly

While dozens of three-year-old thoroughbreds are initially entered during the early provisional nomination stages, the ultimate size of the starting lineup is limited by track safety rules and qualification criteria:

- **Maximum Gate Capacity:** A maximum of **16 starting stalls** are available for any single race at Caymanas Park, capping the maximum potential field size at 16. [1]
- **Recent Field Sizes:** Modern iterations of the race reflect this variation. For instance, the [2025 Jamaica Derby](#) featured **15 starters**, the 2023 edition had **13 runners**, and the 100th running in 2020 saw a smaller field of **11 horses** officially square off. [1, 2, 3, 4]
- **Entry Selection:** Because interest usually exceeds the physical capacity of the starting gate, entry priority is strictly determined by **stakes earnings** accumulated during the season. [1]

