

Hall of Fame—Inductees

Maid's Dream

ApHC Hall of Fame

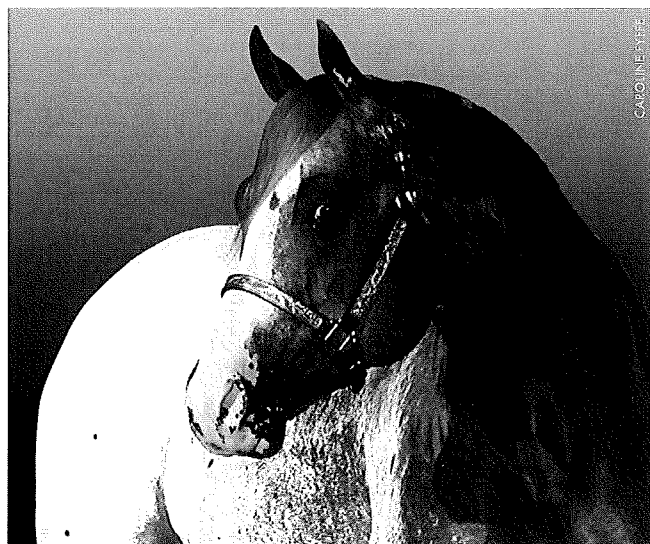
He was like a big, gentle giant," says Steve Dal Porto, co-owner of Maid's Dream, a 1992 stallion bred by Jim Wild of Sarcoxie, Missouri. When Steve first spotted Maid's Dream, the stallion was a yearling at the National Show.

Steve had been exhibiting another horse in the class, but had been one of the first entrants and was setting up when Maid's Dream was led into the ring. "I liked him," Steve recalls. "After the class was over, I went to see Jim and inquired about the horse. We made a deal and I bought him."

So Maid's Dream went home with Steve and his wife, Carol, to Brentwood, California, and the Dal Porto Ranch. Exhibited lightly as a young horse, Maid's Dream was started as a sire at 2 years old, having the stature and maturity to go with him. Full grown, he reached 16.1 hands and was a stout, well-built horse. A World champion resulted from his first foal crop, which hit the ground in 1995. The Dal Portos let his foals speak for him from that point on, and they racked in the points and accumulated various honors.

The Maid's Dream breeding program began with daughters of the 1983 stallion Mister Re. Mister Re had been siring fine horses, but the Dal Portos recognized that they needed another horse to begin developing the next generation. Maid's Dream was sired by a rising Appaloosa star, Dreamfinder, and out of Wapiti's Maid. "This horse seemed like something we'd draw upon," Steve says. "He bred five mares as a 2 year old, and it just happened to click right off the bat. He's a big, colored horse, and in our industry, a big, colored horse is important."

Maid's Dream rose to success in the Dal Porto program and



stood to outside mares as well, building his record for siring excellent offspring. He sat atop the leading sires of halter class winners list for several years, and even in 2010, three years after his death he remains fifth on the list.

Maid's Dream was syndicated by the Dal Portos, Donna and George Thom, Richard Hawkins and Jim Wild. "I imagine [Jim] probably wavered when we wanted to buy him," Steve says. "But he didn't fit the program because Maid's Dream was related. Jim changed and bought back in, continued to own and promote his babies. That's a great legacy for a horse."

Maid's Dream passed away at a youthful 15 years old due to complications from surgery. He's sired 315 ApHC-registered foals to date; the Dal Portos have frozen semen from the sire, so that number may increase. His offspring have earned 131 performance points and over 7,500 halter points; 21 have earned a combined 49 bronze medallions.