

Blazing Hot Spots

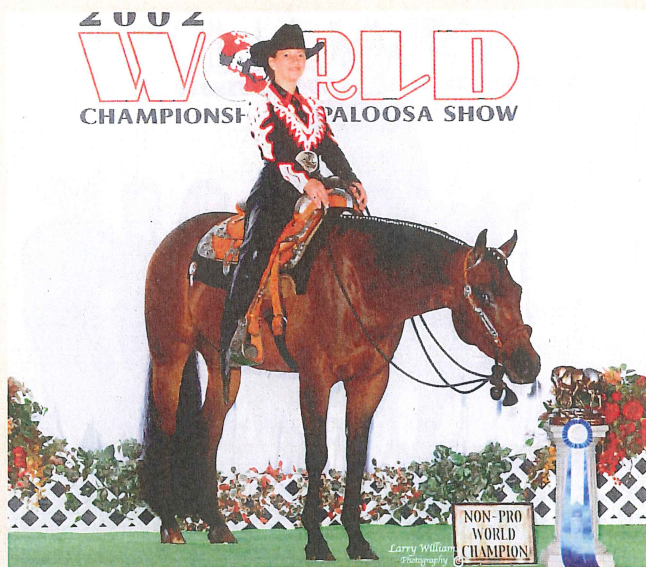
APHC Hall of Fame

The life of 2011 ApHC Hall of Fame inductee Blazing Hot Spots was fleeting, but bright. During his brief five years in the spotlight, the talented gelding would become one of the most decorated young horses of the early 2000s, and would leave a lasting impression on the Appaloosa world.

Bred by Jack and Barbara Albert of Boone, Iowa, Blazing Hot Spots – aka “Harry” – was foaled in March of 1998. Bay with a sprinkling of spots over his hips, Harry was by NSBA Hall of Fame member Blazing Hot (AQHA) and out of an Appaloosa mare named Sonny's Sweet, who was by AQHA Hall of Fame stallion Sonny Dee Bar and out of a Goer-bred mare. As a yearling, Harry was sold to Baker Training Stable in Olympia,

Washington, and he burst onto the Appaloosa show scene in 2000, winning an ApHC World Championship in Two-Year-Old Snaffle Bit Western Pleasure.

It was coverage of Harry's outstanding performance at the 2000 ApHC World Show that first caught the eye of Donna French, who at the time was making the switch from Quarter Horses to Appaloosas. Encouraged by the enthusiasm of her trainers Heath Wilkerson and Debra Eidemiller, French finally met Harry at the 2001 ApHC National Show, and remembered being thinking that he “wasn't much to look at” while in his stall. Her opinion changed dramatically, however, when she saw Harry compete. Says Donna, “It was very obvious he had all the qualities I was looking for in an athletic, all-around horse. He had cadence, drive, and work attitude and was very athletic even at that young age.” Harry took home two National titles that summer – in Ladies' and Junior Western Pleasure – and Donna French took Harry home.



At the 2001 ApHC World Show, Harry gave his all, winning World titles in Three-Year-Old Snaffle Bit Western Pleasure and Junior Western Pleasure, as well as a reserve World title in Junior Trail, and placing third in Ladies' Western Pleasure. Harry was also a highly successful competitor at National Snaffle Bit Association (NSBA) events, and in 2001 was the highest-placing Appaloosa in open multi-breed classes at the Just for Pleasure Futurity.

2002 brought Harry and owner Donna French even closer, as the pair began competing together at the National and World level in non-pro classes. At the 2002 ApHC National Show, Harry

and Donna competed in Novice Non-Pro Western Horsemanship, Novice Non-Pro Western Riding, both times finishing in the top ten. Later that year at the ApHC World Show, they would finish top ten in Novice Non-Pro Showmanship, Novice Non-Pro Western Horsemanship, and win a World Champion title in Novice Non-Pro Western Pleasure, an experience that Donna calls “the thrill of a lifetime.” In the Open show pen, Harry won a National and World Championship in Junior Western Riding, while finishing in the top ten in both Junior Trail and Junior Western Pleasure at both shows. The following year, Harry repeated his Junior Western Riding championship at the 2003 National Show, while placing a respectable third in Junior Trail. It was in late August of that year Blazing Hot Spots died suddenly at the age of five. Donna received an outpouring of condolences and support from the Appaloosa community nationwide, as they too mourned the loss of the talented, well-known, and young horse.

Despite his short time competing, Harry amassed eight bronze performance medallions, seven year-end top ten awards, and four Registers of Merit (ROMs) in addition to 164.5 Open performance points. Harry's devoted owner Donna French describes him thusly: “I think Harry will always be remembered as a one-in-a-million Appaloosa horse—and that's as it should be, because he was just that.”