

Undercover Willie

ApHC Race Hall of Fame

Foaled April 29, 1979 by the great Bull Nunneley and out of Kellie's Miss (JC), Undercover Willie has taken his place as one of the all-time greatest in Appaloosa racing.

Bred by Bill Jones and trained primarily by Red Smith (Don Collins in California), Undercover Willie was the first Appaloosa to earn a Speed Index of 110. Bill Day purchased him as a baby and raced him until complications from leg injuries ended a short but brilliant racing career.

His 2-year-old year in 1981 was a great one. In May he set a new track record for 350 yards in the Texas Futurity trial heat and then broke his own record winning in the finals—also setting a new ApHC World Record. In September he won the World Wide Futurity, beating the great Gene Miles mare Go Easy Lovin' and set a new All-Breed track record for 440 yards. Then in October at Midway Downs in the Sire and Dam Futurity he broke another All-Breed track record for 440 yards in his trial heat. He was 1981 ApHC Champion 2-year-old Sprint Gelding and Supreme Champion 2-year-old Running Appaloosa.

By May 1, 1982, he'd earned \$88,293. Barely past one racing season he was ranked second only to Easy We Go on the ApHC list of the first 17 horses to win over \$50,000. Later that year he became the first Appaloosa whose lifetime earnings surpassed \$100,000.

He won the 1982 Cricket Bars Futurity in track and World Record-setting time. He broke the Fresno track All-Breed record for 4½ furlongs, defeating speedster Miles JJ. Until this race Willie had never run over 440 yards and never around a turn. He led the race start to finish, and won by three lengths.

Then on Memorial Day, in the first pari-mutual match race ever held in the state of California, Willie defeated the great Thoroughbred, Grey Moon Runner, at 870 yards causing his trainer to exclaim, "I've never seen a horse run that fast."

With the final record of 11 wins and 3 places out of 16 starts for \$105,773, Undercover Willie proved to be versatile, groundbreaking and undeniably one of the fastest Appaloosa racehorses of all time. 🐾

