

THE HOOPER HONKER

RACING HALL OF FAME

The Hooper Honker, Private World (JC) x Bar-B-Call, was foaled February 23, 1975 and was bred by Don Korth of Mapleton, Utah. He was sold as a weanling to Jay Thompson of Hooper, Utah, who trained, raced and owned the colorful gelding for the rest of his long life (September, 2006). Affectionately known as "Honk" for his large nose (a real honker in old-time parlance), Thompson registered and named him after his new home location and nose.

While pedigree never guarantees success on the track, it often, and in Honk's case did, create exceptionally high expectations. As the record shows, The Hooper Honker delivered in spades.

In 1977 as a 2-year-old he won 6 of 6 starts for \$41,136 including the Wild Hope Futurity Finals by 2 ¼ lengths and he beat Per-

fect Union (Hall of Fame 2008) by 1 ¼ lengths in the Juvenile Stakes Trial Heat at Centennial Track. He was the first gelding to win the World Wide Futurity, and he did so over a star-studded field that included Bull Nunneley, Stayready Bull, Nellies Girl and Time To Fly Home. He was ApHC Leading 2-Year-Old Gelding with Most Wins; second to Stayready Bull, Leading Starters, Money Earned All Ages & Sexes; Leading 2-Year-Old Gelding Money Earned; and ApHC Champion Running Gelding All Ages. In 1978 he had 7 Starts, 5 Wins, 1 Place, 1 Show and earnings of \$10,743. He set three Track Records and two World Records, continued impressively winning over high caliber racehorses including Ipana Girl and Olympic Time, and won the Texas Derby Finals by 1 ½ lengths over Nellies Girl and Stayready Bull and broke that Track Record previously held by Vandy's Vi. He was named ApHC Leading 3-Year-Old Gelding, Money Earned and Leading 3-Year-Old Gelding, Most Wins. He was one of the first Appaloosas to win more than \$50,000 and through 1980 ranked 6th on the list of All-Time Leading Money Earning Appaloosa Racehorses.

Honk retired from racing and began a new career as a saddle horse. He was trained by Noel Skinner, Spanish Fork, Utah, who was trainer for actor Robert Redford's Utah stable. Honk became the mount for Thompson's daughter Joan, who competed in numerous rodeo queen contests, ultimately winning Miss Rodeo Utah and was 2nd Runner-Up, Miss Rodeo America.

The Hooper Honker was a fine representative of the Appaloosa breed, first on the track and then before large (all-breed) rodeo crowds in the Intermountain West, exposing on-lookers to a breed many had never seen before. He was a racehorse who became an ambassador and deserves his place in the Hall of Fame.

