

## Jerry Nunneley

### Owner/Breeder

Jerry Nunneley, now 84 years old, still enjoys talking about his years in Appaloosa racing. There's much to talk about, for Appaloosas bred, owned, raced, and sold by him won nearly every major Appaloosa race. Few can make such a claim. Possibly more important, however, are two "gifts" he gave to racing: he bred, owned, and started the breeding career of one of the greatest sires in Appaloosa history—Mr. Spotted Bull (Hall of Fame, 1999). Mr. Spotted Bull's record as a leading sire is legendary. The other "gift," is not as well known, but ranks near the top of contributions to Appaloosa racing. It was 1974, and Nunneley was just starting to promote the young Mr. Spotted Bull as a sire. North Texas was a hotbed for Appaloosas, and Bill Jones and Jerry were close friends. Jerry offered Bill a free breeding to his little-known sire. As they say, the rest is history.



Jones accepted the offer and bred his Go Man Go granddaughter to Mr. Spotted Bull. The match produced a colt that he named in honor of Jerry and grew up to be one of the greatest sires in racing —Bull Nunneley. After his own success on the track Bull Nunneley went on to sire Racing Hall of Fame (RHOF) horses Wing It, I Love Willie and Undercover Willie. Without Jerry's encouragement and free breeding, Jones may never have started what became a Hall of Fame racing career. Jerry's record, however, goes far beyond these two "gifts."

Jerry Nunneley was the first owner to win back-to-back World Wide Futurities—Zepana Bull in 1974 and Dervish Maid in 1975. He was also one of only two owners up to that time to win two World Wide Futurities. Zepana Bull himself was a record-setting AAA+ race horse and despite only two foal crops (killed after a terrible corral accident), became a leading sire of both pari-mutuel and non-pari-mutuel racehorses. Other Nunneley-owned or -bred racehorses placed in both the World Wide Futurity and Consolation finals as well as other major races in the midwest. Several are note-worthy.

Jerry purchased Top Scat as a yearling prospect at Bud Hicks' Triangle H. dispersal sale. Top Scat went on to win numerous races, including the World Wide Derby, Oklahoma Derby and Cricket Bars Derby. Hello Magic placed second in the Texas Futurity; won the Oklahoma Futurity and later placed second in the Texas Derby. Come Easy Go Easy, bred and raced by Nunneley, later sold to California, won major races and was later named ApHC Horse of the Year.

Throughout the late 70s and early 80s, Nunneley was a leading breeder of both pari-mutuel and non-pari-mutuel racehorses, behind only Hall of Famers Leffie Carlton, Bill Jones, and J.E. Baker. Jerry Nunneley left his mark on Appaloosa racing in many ways. As an owner and breeder of some of the most famous Appaloosa racehorses, he deserves his place in the Appaloosa Racing Hall of Fame.