

Viking Song (ApHC Racing Hall of Fame)

Foaled in April 1977, Viking Song came into the world at a time that Appaloosa racing was successful and purses were high. Bred by Curtis Knecht of Thousand Oaks, California, and Dr. Leslie Pam of Los Angeles, she was sired by the Thoroughbred Vikingson and out of Wildrooz.

Vikingson was a successful sire of Appaloosa racehorses; of the 22 ApHC-registered foals, 14 started on the track and accumulated \$264,600.52. Five were bronze medallion earners, including Viking Song. "His fractions as a Thoroughbred were astronomical," recalls Dr. Pam, who selected him to breed to Wildrooz. The mare spent a limited time on the track, placing third in both the Texas Futurity and the World Wide Futurity and earning \$9,608.52, and Viking Song was her first foal. Dr. Pam ended up selling Viking Song to Don Tyson of the Double B Ranch in Higgins, Texas; she was campaigned in Texas and Oklahoma but shined in her home state of California.

Viking Song took to the track in 1979, running 330–440 yards in seven races that first year, winning four. Her 3-year-old year saw her winning the Cricket Bars Derby, the Oklahoma Maturity and the California Appaloosa Derby and earning the supreme champion 3-year-old or older and 3-year-old filly racing awards. She also began running at longer distances – up to 5 1/2 furlongs.

In 1981 she returned for another successful year, winning the Fresno Handicap, Pleasanton Handicap, California State Fair Marathon and placing second in the Gold Cup Invitational Handicap; she was awarded the 4-years-and-older filly racing award.

She accumulated \$52,780.45 in racetrack earnings. Upon retirement, she began passing her running genes to her own foals. She produced 11 ApHC-registered foals, of which seven took to the track and earned a combined \$92,697.95.

Her most successful offspring was Speed Viking, a 1990 gelding sired by Aamerican Speed (AQHA). He earned \$60,036.90 and registered a 105 speed index. Viking Song's 1989 foal, When Smokey Sings, also sired by Aamerican Speed, earned \$13,745.05.

At the time of her death in December 2003, Viking Song was owned by Sherry and Elizabeth Byrd of St. Marys, West Virginia.

"I'm really glad she's being recognized," says Dr. Pam. "She was a pretty outstanding individual for her time. And even today, she'd give them a run for their money!"

