

Jay Thompson

ApHC Race Hall of Fame

Soft-spoken Utah horseman Jay Thompson promoted and advanced the cause of Appaloosa racing in many ways. He was co-founder and served as director and vice-president of the Utah Appaloosa Racing Association and as a director of the Utah ApHC; He served as the official timer for the World Wide Futurity Time Trials; He was a carded judge for three breeds; He was the Arena Director for the Golden Spike National Livestock Show and was a pedigree expert for National Racing Sales. He was also founder and chairman of Brigham



Young University's national Clinic for Horsemen and Racing and emceed numerous racing banquets.

Jay's mare, Mandalae, won the first race futurity ever held for Appaloosas in the state of Utah in August of 1963.

As a trainer, Jay's relationship with the World Wide Futurity began with its first running in 1962 and continued for nearly 30 years. 1977 was a special year at the Futurity. Jay had purchased and trained a young promising colt, The Hooper Honker. Coming into the Futurity undefeated, he swept the field, defeating two of our breed's greats—Bull Nunneley and Stayready Bull, thus giving Jay his biggest win, and making Honker the first gelding to win the Futurity.

Aside from Honker, some of the other world and track record-setting horses Jay worked with include Bold Concept, A Mean Individual, and Thealbuquerquekid.

In 1990, Jay became the first to train winners of the World Wide Futurity, the Consolation and the Gold Cup in the same year.

In addition to his own program, Jay trained racehorses for at least 10 other Appaloosa breeders, including Hall of Famers David Nemelka, Bill Robinson, David Mackie, and Jake Snipes. Early on, starting at the famous Centennial Track in Colorado, he met and formed a long-time relationship with then Quarter Horse trainer D. Wayne Lukas. Jay was offered opportunities to train Kentucky Thoroughbreds but declined the offers, remaining true to the Appaloosa breed.

Jay Thompson's involvement in every level of the industry and his tireless work to improve and grow Appaloosa racing certified him as one of the breed's greatest supporters and one of Appaloosa Racing's all-time greatest ambassadors.