

Tony Noguez

Jockey

Jockeys are the unsung heroes of Appaloosa racing, and until recent years, have not received their due recognition in the Racing Hall of Fame. Especially in the longer races, jockeys must make split-second decisions, which if mistaken can be costly. Tony Noguez is one of those Appaloosa jockeys whose decisions produced a multitude of winners riding for famous Appaloosa owners and trainers aboard equally famous racehorses. By many different measures, Tony ranks as one of the most successful jockeys to ever mount an Appaloosa

Born in Mexico City in 1957, Tony spent his early years learning racing from his brother Aureliano, who was Mexico's leading jockey from 1972 through 1984. Leaving Mexico for U.S. racing, Tony started riding Appaloosas in 1976, racing primarily on the California state fair circuit. His early successes caught the eye of legendary trainer Don Collins which led to a great partnership and Hall of Fame-worthy career.



In 1985 Tony started riding the legendary all-time money earner Blowing Easy for Don Collins and Mike House. He rode Easy for 23 races between 1985 and 1990, winning 15 of the richest races anywhere, most of them between 1985 and 1987, and against the toughest competition, which included I Love Willie and Brent's Song. Whether Tony rode Easy to Appaloosa racing fame or Easy made Tony famous, the "team" became one of the historic milestones in Appaloosa racing.

He was ApHC Leading Jockey four years in a row from 1986 to 1989, tied for second in 1990 and then won again in 1992. In 1986 alone, he won 30 Appaloosa races, earning \$163,000 and was also awarded Leading QH Jockey on the Northern California circuit and placed second as Leading Thoroughbred Jockey. In 1989, he had 38 Appaloosa wins, and 36 in 1990. During the 10-year stretch from 1985-1995, Tony rode to 260 Appaloosa wins, and over the course of a nearly 30-year career, jockied over 1,000 Appaloosas.

Tony rode for some of the most renowned owners and trainers in Appaloosa racing history, among them, Don Collins, David Nemelka, Dr. Leffie Carlton, Dr. Edward Allred, Ken Tapley, Charles Tanner, Don Tyson, Red Smith, Mike House of Bemik Enterprises, Bill Jones, and Lew Meibergen..

The list of Appaloosas he jockied in California reads like a who's who of famous Appaloosas and includes: Blowing Easy, Brazen Lad, Geneo JJ, Just Like Willie, Mike T., Papa John, J.J. Bob, Double Clutch, South Host Ky, Olympic Time, Bold Concept and Just Like Mike.

According to a report from the California Racing Commission to the California Horseracing Board, Tony dominated All-Breed racing for nearly two decades, with 12,622 career starts for earnings of more than ten million (\$10,657,598.00) dollars.

Tony Noguez was one of the best riders to ever jockey an Appaloosa. His qualities were recognized by numerous owners and trainers, most of whom are listed above and already in the Hall of Fame. Tony's record is extraordinary, his success incomparable and his place in the Appaloosa Racing Hall of Fame well deserved.