

Quarter Chatter



Ocean Runaway

SCOTT MARTINEZ

Ocean Runaway

Three-time champion and millionaire Ocean Runaway was found dead in his stall at 6666 Ranch October 2. Cause of death has not been determined.

The 7-year-old was bred by Lucas Racing Inc. and raced by Muller Racing Inc. He won or placed in 17 of 19 starts, earning \$1,642,498. He was named the 2005 champion 2-year-old and 2-year-old colt, and the 2006 champion 3-year-old colt.

The leading money-earner by all-time leading sire First Down Dash, Ocean Runaway won the Los Alamitos Million Futurity (G1), Golden State Million Futurity (G1), Champion of Champions (G1), Governor's Cup Futurity (G1), PCQHRA Breeders' Derby (RG2), and Z. Wayne Griffin Directors' Stakes (G3). He was second in the Los Alamitos Super Derby (G1), Rainbow Derby (G1) and was a finalist in the Kindergarten Futurity (G1).

Ocean Runaway is out of broodmare of the year Runaway Wave by Runaway Winner. His full siblings include world champion Wave Carver (\$1,005,946), Grade 1 winner Trisk (\$200,864) and Grade 1 stakes-placed Sir Runaway Dash (\$117,961).

Following his race career, Ocean Runaway was syndicated by bloodstock agent James W. Pruitt and began his stallion career at 6666 Ranch.

From 71 starters in his first crop, Ocean Runaway has gotten more than 25 winners and seven stakes horses, including stakes winner Funaway and Grade 1-placed runners Ocean Fun and Runaway Tyme. At the time of his death, he stood as the No. 4 leading first crop sire.

Carter Joins 3,000 Club

Champion jockey G.R. Carter Jr. reached another milestone October 2, when he rode Karen Bennett's Jessanotheraffair to victory in the \$166,000 PCQHRA Breeders' Derby (G2), earning his 3,000th career victory.

Carter joins an elite club

of six riders that have gone over the 3,000-win mark. They include Alvin Brossette (3,631), Danny Cardoza (3,337), Kenneth Hart (3,199), John Creager (3,047) and Eddie Garcia (3,022). Only Garcia and Carter are still actively riding.

Carter began his career in 1984, and is the all-time leading rider by earnings with more than \$47.6 mil-

lion. He is an eight-time AQHA champion jockey, including the past six years consecutively.

Handle, Purses Up in September

Bucking the trends in a poor economic market, purses and handle for American Quarter Horse racing both rose during the month of September.

Purses rose 2.4 percent over the same period last year, from \$12,295,182 to \$12,585,406. Additionally, purses in the year-to-date have also seen growth, up 7/10ths of a percent over last year.

In comparison, purses in Thoroughbred racing, according to Equibase, have dropped more than 6 percent in September and more than 7 percent over the year.

American Quarter Horse racing handle rose 3.3 percent in September, as compared to the same period last year, going from \$25,102,630 to \$25,939,282. The year-to-date figures for handle show numbers only slightly dropping from last year, down 3 percent from \$258,174,469 to \$250,427,396.

Thoroughbred racing saw handle drop 8/10ths of a percent in September, while the sport's yearly handle has dropped more than 10 percent.

The number of American Quarter Horse races run to date, compared to last year, is down 2.1 percent to 7,222. The average purse per race has risen 2.9 percent to \$12,990.

In addition, the number of American Quarter Horse starters to date has risen 8/10ths of a percent to 16,051.

Bill McArthur

On September 25, Bill McArthur, 62, died of cancer at his home in Needville, Texas, just southwest of Houston, with wife Joan at his side.

A trainer of both American Quarter Horses and Thoroughbreds, McArthur conditioned champion Top Rockette and stakes winners such as Baffert's Queen, Rica's Gold and Jaguar Rocket.

"Bill was a great horseman, and a prince of a guy," said trainer Russell Harris. "He trained for people like Z. Wayne Griffin and Bob Boniface, who were good horseman themselves. Bill was an all-around hand who could do anything – train racehorses, rope, start colts, handle studs and broodmares, whatever."

McArthur was the brother of James McArthur, who trained All American Futurity (G1) winner Eastex and All American winner and world champion Easy Date, and brother-in-law of James' wife, Donna, who trained All American winner Corona Cash and world champion Dashing Folly. Dashing Folly raced for McArthur's brother Oscar, in the name of Oscar's Jamar Ltd. Bill managed Oscar's Jamar Farms at Simonton, prior to Oscar's death in January 2000. Bill also has another brother, Richard, who is a farrier at Santa Anita, Hollywood Park and Del Mar.

McArthur is survived by his wife, Joan; daughter Tracy; and brothers James and Richard.



Bill McArthur

RICHARD CHAMBERLAIN