

Hall of Fame Inductees

Monashee by Randy Goulding



When Monashee made her way into the sales ring at the 2003 September Yearling Sale at Keeneland, it would have been hard to imagine that she would develop into one of the best fillies or mares to ever race in British Columbia. After all, she was a runt, ill-behaved, had a modest pedigree and wasn't very attractive to most of the prospective buyers in attendance.

"She wasn't anything to look at," recalled her trainer Tracy McCarthy. "Most of the yearlings you see in Kentucky look like a million dollars and are perfectly turned out. She was just the opposite. She was a whirling dervish, though, and we loved the way she walked. Plus she was gray."

Ole Nielsen paid a bargain \$14,000 for Monashee, who was sired by the South African champion Wolf Power. Racing under Nielsen's Canmor Farms she went on to earn \$760,490. In one remarkable streak between June 10, 2006, and October 13, 2007, Monashee won 11 stakes races in a row. In 2005 as a 3-year-old she won the Grade 3 British Columbia Oaks and beat older fillies and mares in the Grade 3 Ballerina. She won the Ballerina again in 2007. In an era when horses are rarely asked to carry imposing weights Monashee packed 130 pounds while winning the 1 1/16 miles Delta Colleen. She never lost going a mile and a sixteenth. In 2007 she was named the British Columbia Horse of the Year.

Monashee retired after beating a strong field in the Paseana Stakes at Santa Anita in 2008. In total she won 18 races.

Simply stated by Nielsen, who was inducted into the British Columbia Horse Racing Hall of Fame in 2005, "She was the best horse I ever owned."

Monashee didn't distinguish herself in three starts as a 2-year-old, and Nielsen didn't start to get excited about her until she won her first race as a 3-year-old with Hall of Fame rider

Chris Loseth aboard.

"Chris had her parked three wide every step of the way and she still won," said Nielsen.

McCarthy said she had never seen a horse grow as much physically as Monashee did between her 2-year-old and 3-year-old season. Her emotional development was another story.

"She wasn't an easy horse to keep happy, and Tracy was the only one that seemed to be able to do it," said Nielsen.

"She was just very aware of everything going on around her, and any small noise would set her off," said McCarthy. "Part of her problem early in her career is that she would hear other horses being loaded in the gate and it would set her off."

After Monashee had a bad experience at the gate at Stampede Park in her second start as a 3-year-old in the Mount Royal, McCarthy experimented by fitting Monashee with ear cones. The result was a resounding success. Monashee won her next three races including the B.C. Oaks.

Team Monashee also learned a valuable lesson when they ran her against boys in the British Columbia Derby in her next start. By then Loseth, McCarthy's husband, had retired from riding and was Monashee's exercise rider and assistant trainer.

"She just didn't like me," said Loseth. "We had a horse running in the race before the Derby, so Tracy was at the track and I had to put the bridle on Monashee. She fought me every step of the way and by the time she made it to the paddock, she was fried. That was the last time anyone other than Tracy was allowed in her stall before a race."

Dave Wilson became her jockey in 2006 and was aboard for all 11 of her stakes wins as a 4

and 5-year-old.

"I've ridden a lot of good horses, and she has to rank near the top of the list," said Wilson. "She had great natural speed and you could put her anywhere."

With Wilson aboard Monashee waltzed through wins in the Strawberry Morn, Senate Appointee, B.C. Cup Distaff and the City of Edmonton Distaff at Northlands Park. She returned from Edmonton in late August with pleural pneumonia and was turned out for the year.

According to Team Monashee, she was lucky to survive. She came back better than ever as a 5-year-old, though, winning all four of her races at Hastings before ending her impressive streak with a loss at Woodbine in the Maple Leaf.

Nielsen didn't want Monashee to close out her career on a sour note and sent her to Santa Anita where jockey Mike Smith guided her to a front-running win in the Paseana.

"I told Mike to just put her on the lead and she won't get beat," said Nielsen.

For Nielsen watching Monashee win 11 stakes in a row was a thrill of a lifetime, but it also took a toll.

"There is nothing in our long involvement in horseracing that gave me and my family more joy than watching her run," said Nielsen. "But, when she started putting all those stakes wins together I became a nervous wreck every time she ran."

Nielsen has been able to relax since Monashee retired to become a broodmare. Now he is looking forward to seeing her, too, be inducted into the British Columbia Horse Racing Hall of Fame.

Glen Todd by Brian Pound



The first British Columbia Thoroughbred Awards Hall of Fame night was staged in 1980 before a sellout crowd at the Hotel Vancouver Ballroom. Watching in the background was a young member of the B.C. Breeder's Thoroughbred Society whose idea it was to honour the best of the breed in British Columbia.

Tonight, 32 years later, he steps out of the wings and onto the main stage as he is inducted into the Hall of Fame in the Owners category. His name would also fit well in the Builder category.

He is Glen Todd.

It is fitting that Todd enters the Hall of Fame after a sensational year that most owners can only dream of.

Consider:

- Under the title the North American Thoroughbred Horse Racing Company, he captured his sixth straight owner's title at Hastings, the first five coming in partnership with Vancouver businessman Patrick Kinsella. (Todd and Kinsella were co-winners of the Sovereign Award in 2011 as the nation's top thoroughbred owners).
- As of mid-October Todd had won 23 stakes races registering him as the leading stakes owner in North America.
- In August he won the prestigious Longacres Mile with Taylor Said, a race he watched and attended as a youngster with his father Jack.
- And perhaps best of all, watching the rider he mentored and helped develop, Mario Gutierrez, win the first two legs of racing's Triple Crown, the Kentucky Derby and Preakness.

Some people collect coins, others stamps. Todd collects race horses and at last count his stable totalled 116 horses.

A near death experience six years ago prompted a dramatic change in attitude. A successful businessman with 18 companies under his control and the owner of five or six horses, he was diagnosed with pancreatitis and kidney failure. Doctors told him he might soon be joining the crowd at the big racetrack in the sky.

But Todd's will to survive and a strong heart pulled him through. And that was the beginning of a new chapter in his life. Once again on solid ground he said to his longtime trainer Troy Taylor, "Let's have our last hurrah. Let's have some fun. There's no point in being the richest guy in the graveyard."

At the time of his illness, Todd was near completing B.C.'s only privately owned off-track betting facility, the Derby Bar and Grill, located adjacent to his company compound at the Pacific Highway border crossing.

"I wanted to build a first class facility where I could help bring the tradition back to horse racing, a facility with the old Turf Club atmosphere and, of course, help support the local racing scene."

Through a series of misadventures and political setbacks, it took five years to complete the project, but today it prospers and you had better have a reservation if you want to attend on big race days such as Breeders' Cup, B.C. Cup and B.C. Derby day.

Oh yes, the B.C. Derby. That is the only major race in the Pacific Northwest that Todd has yet to win, although he keeps trying and came close this past season when his three-horse entry finished second, third and fourth.

His interest in improving the breed continues. He purchases horses at the B.C., Washington and Keeneland sales. He also makes private purchases from sources throughout North America. He is also a member of the newly-formed B.C. Horse Racing Management Com-

mittee, which oversees the financial business of local racing.

The man who oversees racing at Hastings, Raj Mutti, has said in the past: "I respect him [Todd] very much, and from a management point of view, appreciate his continuing contributions to help make the industry grow and improve here. He has gone out of his way to unselfishly help us hopefully turn the corner, not only as an owner, but as a great customer."

Todd can't remember how many races he's won or how many visits to the winner's circle after a stakes victory, but he estimates he's won over 100 stakes races and his wins count in the hundreds.

And going along for the ride has been veteran 81-year-old trainer Troy Taylor, who was inducted into the B.C. Horse Racing Hall of Fame last year. Recently Todd and Taylor teamed up with jockey Mario Gutierrez. Together they form Canada's version of Two and a Half Men.

Todd's first job in racing was as a handicapper at the Columbian newspaper when he was 16-years-old. He also worked at the Daily Racing Form. He has been coming to the track as long as he can remember.

"I could read the Racing Form before I could read Dick and Jane."

So we salute the man who began to believe in racing back when he was just a youngster attending the races with his father. It is stuff dreams are made of.

Todd is already a member of the B.C. Sports Hall of Fame and both the Canadian and B. C. Softball Halls of Fame for his outstanding contributions to that sport.

With his induction into the British Columbia Horse Racing Hall of Fame he completes a much deserved perfecta.