

Leona Eclipse

Inducted into the IBHA Hall of Fame 3/17/18

Doug LaSota's first ever buckskin was Leona Eclipse. She was, in his words, "Perhaps the best horse I ever owned". Doug purchased Leona as a promising, yet unhandled weanling. He took a chance on her, knowing her half siblings had done well, and soon had her in the show pen campaigning from California to Oklahoma.

Between her yearling and three year old season she racked up halter and dun factor points that soon helped her earn a Supreme Championship just 6 weeks into her three year old year. She earned this award on February 14, 1987 and at the time, she was the youngest ever horse to win an IBHA Supreme Championship and she was the 16th horse in IBHA history to earn this coveted title.

As a yearling, Leona was named Yearling Mare Reserve National Champion in the IBHA National Futurities. As a two year old, she earned her Superior in Dun Factor and became an IBHA Champion.

In 1987, Leona proved her versatility by winning the national Honor Roll for High Point Halter Horse for all ages and sexes, the IBHA Honor Roll High Point All-Around Horse and the IBHA Honor Roll High Point Performance Horse. Leona continued to break down barriers as she disproved the notion that halter horses "do not ride well".

From 1987 to 1992, Leona earned Superior Awards in Dun Factor, Halter, Western Trail, Disciplined Rail, Hunt Seat Trail, Western Pleasure, and Huntseat Pleasure. She also won IBHA Honor Roll Titles in Hunter Hack, Hunt Seat Trail, Disciplined Rail, Western Trail, Mare Halter and Broodmare Halter.

Leona won several titles while in foal to Doug's paint Stallion Quorum, including being a 3 time World Champion in Broodmare Halter, Disciplined Rail, Western Trail and Hunt Seat Trail. She won her last Western Trail class at the IBHA World Show with a perfect go (while in foal) and was the unanimous winner. She was the Reserve World Champion All Around Horse at the 1991 IBHA World Show.

Leona amassed over 1,532 IBHA points in her great career, all while displaying an exceptional attitude and a will to please. Her wonderful personality made her a great friend and companion to Doug's son Christopher when he was little and he credits Leona and her paint offspring with helping build his career as a competitor and judge. Her extreme versatility and energetic spirit will always be remembered.