



Chicks Beduino

IN 1979, JOE MUNIZ AND HIS SON-IN-LAW JOHN BOBENRIETH decided to get into horse racing.

On the recommendation of trainer Denny Ekins, they claimed a daughter of Chick's Deck for \$12,500. But a knee injury shortened the mare's career, and A Classy Chick became a broodmare for the partners.

Muniz and Bobenrieth sent A Classy Chick to the Thoroughbred stallion Beduino, and she foaled a little gray colt in 1984. When Chicks Beduino was born, Joe's son, Rory Muniz, was brought in as a partner. "Chicks" was raised on the family ranch Rory ran in Lompoc, California.

After Chicks won the Bay Meadows Futurity (G1) in 1986 with jockey John Craeger, the horse's trainer, Connie Hall, said "I think he could be a champion, the kind of horse that's going to set some records."

Her remark was prescient: Chicks compiled a lifetime race record of 14-7-2-1 and a top speed index of 104. He earned \$412,099.

Then the Munizes and Bobenrieth retired the colt to stud at Schvaneveldt Ranch, where he would really make a mark for himself with the help of Dale Badon and Blane Schvaneveldt.

From 13 crops to race through 2006, Chicks Beduino sired 136 stakes winners and the earners of more than \$32.9 million.

In 2000, the gray stallion topped the America's Horse list

of sires of the century based on the number of registered progeny, and as of 2006, he was third on the list of all-time sires by money earned and second on the list of leading sires by race winners.

His offspring read like a Who's Who of Racing: world champion Whosleavingwho and other champions Separatist, Chicks First Policy, Corona Chick, This Snow Is Royal, Artesias Special Chic, The Prize and this year's champion aged stallion, Country Chicks Man.

"He was really something," Bobenrieth told *The American Quarter Horse Racing Journal* in 2003. "We were just small-time before Chicks. We'd been in racing for several years and had a couple of mares, but that was a whole new ballgame – our family's first Grade 1 win – and from that point on, everything changed. Right after he won the Bay Meadows Futurity, we got a firm six-figure offer for him, which we talked about as a family and then turned down. We'd never had a horse of that caliber before, and we knew we might never have another like him, so it was an easy decision."

Chicks was euthanized in 2003, a victim of kidney failure.

"Chicks meant a lot to us as a family and a lot to our industry," Bobenrieth said. "He was a very good racehorse and a very, very good sire. I think his daughters will keep his name alive for a long, long time. We've lost a good friend – and a business partner."