



John Buchanan

Trainer

There are probably three terms that sum up trainer John Buchanan – family, Quarter Horses and Texas. If horses and racing are in Buchanan’s blood, it is a passion that is shared by his wife of 28 years, Iris. The two met in Florida over 30 years ago, and Buchanan remembers the days that they woke up at 3 a.m. to tend to the horses before they went to work other jobs. Fortunately, some of their risks paid off, and they were able to move to Texas in 1985 and make a full-time commitment to Quarter Horse racing. They bought a farm with the support of one of their first owners, and now oversee a 20-acre farm in Peaster, Texas, near Weatherford. The Buchanan’s have one daughter.

Buchanan’s stakes winners have been plentiful, but one horse that holds a special place in his heart is Pivotal Decision, a gray son of Fishers Dash. He was conditioned by Buchanan from 2000 through 2002, and the Texas-bred gelding won 15 of his 21 starts, with major stakes wins at Retama Park, Sam Houston Race Park and Lone Star Park at Grand Prairie. Pivotal Decision earned Champion Texas-Bred honors at Sam Houston Race Park and was voted Horse of the Meet at Lone Star Park in the fall of 2002. “He was by far the easiest horse to enjoy,” said Buchanan. “He was good in the barn and just did everything right.” Elans Special, winner of the 1987 All American Futurity, was one of the most challenging. “She would kick the walls down in the barn,” claimed Buchanan.

Brimmerton was probably the most promising 2-year-old Buchanan ever trained, and although he was sent to another trainer when Buchanan preferred to stay in Texas to oversee his 54-horse stable instead of going out of state with Brimmerton. Buchanan still takes great pride in the recent accomplishments of Brimmerton, who racked up back-to-back graded stakes wins this summer, taking both the Rainbow Derby and All American Derby at Ruidoso Downs. However, through May of 2004, Brimmerton was under the watchful eye of Buchanan. Buchanan ranks sixth in the all-time trainer standings at Sam Houston Race Park. Under Buchanan’s training, Lead Story won the 1997 Sam Houston Derby, Gone Celebrating captured the 2003 Sam Houston Classic and the Classic Chevrolet Stakes, Pivotal Decision was victorious in the 2001 Bayer Texas Legend Challenge, and No Fees won the 2003 TQHA Sale Futurity.

Buchanan, who remains loyal to the racetracks in the Lone Star State, said, “I’m lucky to have great owners who know that we care about all of our horses and doing what is in their best interests.”

“If elected,” states Buchanan, “I would appreciate the opportunity to serve the Texas racing industry by being fair and supporting and promoting the industry that I love so dearly. It is imperative that Texas purses get supplemented with new revenues that could be provided with favorable VLT legislation. I will always do my best to see the horsemen’s best interests are upheld in all circumstances.



K. C. Carden *Trainer*

Born in Dallas, Texas, today K. C. Carden lives and trains in Elgin, Texas. K. C. enjoys working with children, and he sponsors an Annual Trail Ride to benefit the youth in his area, at his ranch in Elgin.

K. C. got his start in racing in 1991 as a groom and pony rider in Iowa. He has been training for the last 13 years and has started horses at Manor Downs, Sam Houston Race Park, Lone Star Park, Retama Park, Delta Downs, Remington Park, Ruidoso Downs, The Downs at Albuquerque, Los Alamitos, Prairie Meadows and the Gillespie County Fair, as well as other tracks across the nation.

Carden has served on the Backside Committees at Manor Downs, Sam Houston Race Park, Lone Star Park and Ruidoso Downs, and on the Texas Quarter Horse Association Horsemen's Committee. In November of 2004, K. C. earned the honor of AQHA Leading Trainer of the Year of the MBNA Racing Challenge Program.

When asked about serving as a Board member, K. C. stated, "While serving as a Board member, I have appreciated the opportunities to listen to and voice the opinions of the people in the Texas racehorse industry. If re-elected, I strive to be a fair and equal negotiator. My future goals include continuing to help improve the racing industry for owners, trainers and backside personnel, as well as racetrack employees and fans, by promoting increased racing opportunities and purses, which will help to improve everyone's quality of life, from the backside to the frontside of the racetracks in Texas with the hopeful passage of VLTs at Texas racetracks, by keeping Texas money in Texas. The time has come for Texans to experience some of the benefits that our neighboring states are now already enjoying."



Bob Gaston *Owner*

Owner and operator of Bob Gaston Realty, Bob Gaston was born in Dallas and today lives in Edinburg, Texas with his wife, where he is a rancher, realtor and developer. Bob is a member of the American Quarter Horse Association and on the AQHA Racing Committee and a member of the Texas Quarter Horse Association.

Gaston first became involved in horse racing in 1960 with match races in South Texas and the old circuit of Del Rio, Goliad, Laredo and Columbus. In 1975, he purchased a filly with a herd of cows and became an owner. A breeder since 1978, he has been blessed with several stakes winners and qualifiers.

Bob has raced at Bandera Downs, Delta Downs, G. Rollie White Downs, Gillespie County Fair, Lone Star Park, Remington Park, Retama Park, Ruidoso Downs, Sam Houston Race Park and Trinity Meadows, to name a few. His interests include his family, quail hunting, fishing, riding horses, working cattle, horse racing, camping out with friends, and being involved in organizations interested in the above.

If chosen as a Board member, Mr. Gaston's goal is to promote fair racing standards, to protect the interests of owners and breeders by supporting video lottery legislation that encourages larger purses for the Texas racing industry and to guard the integrity of Quarter Horse Racing.



Donna Mushinski

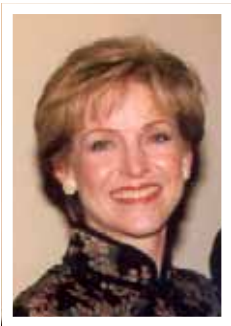
Owner

Donna Mushinski lives in Hearne, Texas with her husband of 35 years, Kie, who is also her trainer. She was born in Bay City, Texas and today works in sales for David Gardner's Jewelers, a fine jewelry business. Donna is currently seeking national American Gem Society (AGS) and Gemological Institute of America (GIA) jeweler titles. Mushinski is a member of both the Texas Quarter Horse Association and American Quarter Horse Association.

The Mushinkis' racing interest evolved from rodeo by purchasing more and more horses that were race-bred. The Mushinkis were first introduced to horse racing in the 1970s. After falling in love with the sport and finally deciding fast horses should be on a race track, they jumped in and never looked back.

Donna and Kie went to their first yearling sale in 1982 and purchased a filly. This same filly later became a broodmare, and today they keep a small broodmare band. Donna says, "Selecting stallions that will compliment the best traits of both is both challenging and rewarding."

Mushinski goes on to state, "I think we are approaching the most exciting chapter in Texas racing history. By supporting and promoting VLT legislation, we will be able to keep fast horses in Texas. First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt once said, 'You gain strength, courage, and confidence by every experience in which you really stop to look fear in the face ... do the thing you think you cannot do.' Her words challenge me to try harder every day!"



Connie Nobles

Owner

Connie Nobles, a native Texan, was born in Austin. Nobles has worked in the airline industry for over 20 years for Continental Airlines. Connie and her husband, Mike, live in Houston, Texas and have a farm in Hockley, Texas where they have bred, raised and prepared racing Quarter Horses for sales for the past 34 years.

It was in 1970 that Connie and Mike bought their first race mare at an auction. Two years later, they sold their first yearling in the All American Futurity Sale and started running their own horses. Since then, they have raced from Texas to California. The Nobles have been very fortunate to have raised and sold many excellent horses. Some of the quality horses and track record setters include Swingin Val, Southern Beduino, Meltdown, Victory Blast and Holland Honey. Connie has also been involved in the management of horse sales.

Nobles has served on the THBPA Board of Directors since her election in 1999, has served as the president and vice president of that board, and has also served as the chairman of the Texas Horsemen's Partnership. Connie is a member of and directly involved in the AQHA and the AQHA Race Committee, TQHA and PCQHA. Connie is also involved in the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo as a Lifetime Member and a Junior Horse Show Committeeman.

When asked about serving on the Board of the THBPA, Connie stated, “My goal is to represent all horsemen on a fair and equal basis, and to promote the growth of the Texas horse racing industry in all facets. I think most people will agree that the horsemen’s organizations here in Texas have become the model for other jurisdictions around the country. A big part of our success can be attributed to many talented individuals that serve on all of the Boards of the HBPA’s. My fellow board members have worked together very well to solve horsemen’s issues, and I am confident that we will continue in this spirit of cooperation. I encourage horsemen to give us input and feedback on issues that are important to them. We can only be an effective representative organization if our members attend our general meetings and local committee meetings regularly. I would highly encourage all Texas agri-industry participants to work together as an industry to pass the VLT issue, and together we can do this by supporting the ‘Keep Texas Running’ movement that this organization is already supporting.”



Jerry Windham

Owner

Jerry Windham, born in Hamilton, Texas is a rancher in College Station. Windham is a current member of the Texas Horsemen’s Benevolent and Protective Association Board, and previously served the same board from 1993 through 1995. He has been involved with the Texas Quarter Horse Association as a director and served as past president in 1995.

Windham also serves on the American Quarter Horse Association as a director and as its’ past president in 2000. Mr. Windham is currently serving as a commissioner on the board of the Texas Animal Health Commission.

In 1976, Mr. Windham bought a yearling race-bred Quarter horse filly and raced her. He states, “She won her first race and a few more, but not much money!”

Thus began his racing involvement. He has been breeding, raising, and racing Quarter horses since 1977. Through his involvement with AQHA, TQHA and the THBPA, he has promoted and helped administer horse racing in Texas.

Mr. Windham has raced at all existing Texas tracks plus most of the Texas non pari-mutuel tracks prior to the legalization of pari-mutuel gambling in Texas. He has also raced at tracks in many other states over the years, including Delta, Ruidoso, Sunland, Remington, Los Alamitos, Canterbury, Prairie Meadows, and others. Jerry is interested in breeding, raising and racing American Quarter Horses and promoting good horse racing in Texas.

Windham states, “My goal is to keep Texas competitive with surrounding states by helping to obtain alternative ways to increase purses at all Texas race tracks; to promote the horse racing industry in Texas through education, public relations, research, and charitable and benevolent activities; to engage in and manage charitable and benevolent activities for the benefit of persons in the horse racing industry in Texas; and to represent owners and trainers of horses in the negotiation, performance and enforcement of contracts with racing associations (racetracks) and to represent owners and trainers of horses in regulatory, contractual, and advocacy undertakings before local, state, and federal administrative, legislative, and judicial bodies and tribunals.”