



WE'D LOVE TO OWN

CHOCOLATEY

Barn name: Harry.

Particulars: 2005 dun Appaloosa stallion with white blanket, sired by Hot Chocolate Chip and out of Pass In Style.

Owned by: Noelle Schmidt, Stillwater, New Jersey.

Trainer: Patrick Heeley, Janetville, Ontario, Canada.

Before his time: When Appaloosas were largely unrepresented and underestimated in open classes at National Snaffle Bit Association shows, Chocolatey excelled as a Western pleasure futurity phenom. By the end of his 3-year-old year, he was a five-time NSBA open champion at such shows as the Southern Belle Invitation and Reichert Celebration. He also became an NSBA reserve world champion and Appaloosa Horse Club world champion.

Barrier buster: "By winning against the nation's best horses, Chocolatey's broken down every barrier that's existed against Appaloosas," Noelle says. "He's shown his breed is beautiful, has great conformation and movement, and can win at the highest levels."

Many names: "When he first showed in NSBA open classes, people called him 'Spot' (referring to his blanket) or 'that Appaloosa.'" Noelle remembers. "Now, they call him by his name. He's earned that respect."

'Hello there': "At BSB R11 breeding farm where Chocolatey stands at stud, they call him the 'Walmart greeter,'" Noelle explains, "because he gives a very vocal greeting to everyone arriving. He loves to talk to his mares, and he assumes every incoming trailer is for him!"

Horse life: "Chocolatey's turned out every day and enjoys the sunshine. To see him lope naturally and effortlessly around the pasture is as breathtaking as seeing him in the show ring."

Tasty treats: The owners of Chocolatey's first batch of foals all received celebratory chocolate cigars. Noelle also plans to raise money for the NSBA's Trainers Crisis Fund by serving chocolate ice cream cones at this month's 2009 Appaloosa World Show in Fort Worth, Texas.

...Erin Sullivan