

Chasing

NATIONAL STEEPLECHASE ASSOCIATION | 400 FAIR HILL DRIVE, ELKTON, MD 21921

Tom Voss, Good Night Shirt elected to Horse Racing's Hall of Fame

Good Night Shirt, the Eclipse Award winner for Champion Steeplechase Horse in 2007 and 2008, and the late Thomas H. Voss, a five-time National Steeplechase Association champion trainer by wins and a three-time leader in earnings, have been elected to the National Museum of Racing and Hall of Fame by the Museum's Steeplechase Review Committee.

Good Night Shirt and Voss will be inducted into the Hall of Fame on Friday, Aug. 4 at 10:30 a.m. in a ceremony that is open to the public and free to attend at the Fasig-Tipton sales pavilion. The Steeplechase Review Committee meets once every four years to consider candidates. In 2013, the racehorses McDynamo and Tuscalee were inducted via the Steeplechase Review Committee.

Bred in Maryland by Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Bowman, Good Night Shirt (Concern—Hot Story, by Two Punch) was owned for the majority of his career by Harold A. "Sonny" Via, Jr., and trained by Jack O. Fisher. Good Night Shirt joined Fisher's barn in 2005 after beginning his career as a flat racer. He went on to win 10 graded stakes races, including eight Grade 1s.

In 2007, Good Night Shirt won the Iroquois, Lonesome Glory and Colonial Cup — all Grade 1 events — to earn the first of his consecutive Eclipse Awards. As a 7-year-old the following year, Good Night Shirt raced exclusively in Grade 1 company. He won each of his five starts, taking in succession the Georgia Cup, Iroquois, Lonesome Glory, Grand National and Colonial Cup. Good Night Shirt's 2008 earnings of \$485,520 set a single-season record, surpassing the previous mark of \$314,163, which he set in 2007.

In his 2008 Lonesome Glory victory, Good Night Shirt set a Belmont Park track record of 4:24 for 2½ miles over jumps. He received 168 pounds in the National Steeplechase Association Theoretical Handicap in 2008. Only Lonesome Glory was given a higher impost (170 pounds in 1995) among annual highweights in NSA history. The NSA Theoretical Handicap has been in place since 1992.

As an 8-year-old, Good Night Shirt began his 2009 season with a victory in the Grade 2 Carolina Cup — securing his 10th career graded stakes win — before finishing second in the Iroquois. He was then retired because of an ankle injury with a career record of 14-5-3 from 33 starts and earnings of \$1,041,083, joining Lonesome Glory and McDynamo as only the third steeplechaser to surpass \$1-million in career earnings.

Voss (1950-2014) led all NSA trainers in wins in 1997, 2000, 2001, 2002 and 2011 and in earnings in 1997, 2002 and 2009. In a career that



Trainer Tom Voss will be inducted into the Hall of Fame on Aug. 4.

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spanned from 1974 through 2013, Voss won 706 total races and had purse earnings of more than \$17 million. He won 394 steeplechase races, and his jump earnings of \$8,868,201 rank third all time.

Grade 1 steeplechase victories for Voss include the Colonial Cup (2010), Grand National (2009), Supreme Hurdle (2007), Joe Aitcheson Hurdle (2002), Breeders' Cup Steeplechase (2001), Atlanta Cup (1998), Appleton Hurdle (1998) and the New York Turf Writers Cup (1996). He trained 2010 Colonial Cup winner Slip Away to the Eclipse Award for Ken and Sarah Ramsey.

Also successful in flat racing, Voss won the Grade 1 Sword Dancer Invitational and the Grade 1 Turf Classic with 9-year-old John's Call in 2000. John's Call also finished third in the Breeders' Cup Turf that year.



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Nichols Canyon wins Stayers' Hurdle, aims for Iroquois and \$500,000 bonus

Andrea and Graham Wylie's Nichols Canyon is on course for a return trip to Nashville and a date with destiny in the \$200,000 Calvin Houghland Iroquois (Gr. 1) on May 13.

At stake will be the \$500,000 TVV Capital Iroquois-Cheltenham Challenge, a bonus paid to the winner of the Calvin Houghland Iroquois and the Sun Bets Stayers' Hurdle (Eng-Gr. 1) in the same 12-month period. Purses and bonus total approximately \$800,000.

Nichols Canyon claimed the first leg of the challenge on March 16 with a courageous charge up Cheltenham's heartbreak hill to notch a dramatic victory in the Stayers' Hurdle.

The Wylies and trainer Willie Mullins confirmed to Iroquois Steeplechase Chairman Dwight Hall that they are planning a return to Nashville's Percy Warner Park for the Calvin Houghland Iroquois. Last May, Nichols Canyon finished third in the three-mile spring classic.

"They are very much looking forward to a rematch," said Hall, who was at Cheltenham for the Stayers' Hurdle and visited with the champion trainer at his yard in Ireland last week.

Shortly after the Stayers' Hurdle, Mullins was quoted as saying that he was considering one more start for Nichols Canyon, possibly at Punchestown in Ireland, before the U.S. trip.

Nichols Canyon pursued a similar but more testing course during the 2015-2016 season, with three starts before Cheltenham's Champion Hurdle and then the Aintree Hurdle in early April. In both of those top-rated races, Nichols Canyon finished third to champion Annie Power.

In the 2016-2017 season, he had a first and



The Nashville contingent attending the Sun Bets Stayers' Hurdle at Cheltenham on March 16 included, from left, Iroquois Steeplechase Chairman Dwight Hall, Ted Thompson, Marianne Byrd, and Andrew Byrd, TVV Capital's founder and president.

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second in Irish Group 1 hurdles in November and February before falling in the Irish Champion Hurdle on Jan. 29.

Sent over a longer distance, the seven-year-old was flawless in the three-mile Stayers' Hurdle. Champion jockey Ruby Walsh had him always in good position and took a path on the stands-side rail for the final quarter-mile. Nichols Canyon jumped the final hurdle in stride and charged relentlessly up Cheltenham's fabled run-in to overtake longshot Rockerfeller and win by three-quarters of a length.

The Calvin Houghland Iroquois will cap the richest day of horse racing ever in Nashville and will be the richest spring meet on the National Steeplechase Association schedule with \$525,000 in purses.

A Music City tradition for more than three-quarters of a century, the Iroquois Steeplechase annually attracts crowds exceeding 25,000 and supports the Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt University. The Iroquois has raised more than \$10 million for the hospital since 1981.

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