

Horse Feature

Remembering Silver



Silver
(Marcia Hall photo)



Josh Thompson
riding Silver.



By LORI ANN EDMO

Sho-Ban News

FORT HALL – Once in a lifetime a horse comes along that leaves an imprint on one's memory and that is Silver's Image – a big gray with lots of heart, speed and muscle.

The horse belonged to Kilburn Buckskin and he purchased Silver when the horse was three years old. He became a part of Boogie Boys Indian Relay horse racing team winning many Chief races and relay races over a ten-year period.

He passed away on championship day of Festival Indian Relay races in 2017 succumbing to a shattered ankle.

Kilburn said, "It was pretty sorrowful when we lost him, everybody was crying – a lot people knew him." But he has good memories of him and Silver is the only horse he every dreamed about, "It was the second year I had him - he was running - with no rider - I think at the track." "I got really attached to him - he was special." He's never dreamed about any of his other horses and he's had many over the years because he had an Indian Relay team since the late 70s.

He purchased Silver from Tom Manzanares in Idaho Falls. "He was a good looking horse but they didn't think nothing of him, he didn't work out." So Kilburn had his riders Frankie Gould and Josh Thompson work with him. "He always wanted to play around and test them out - it was his nature." "If a rider was scared, he knew it."

Kilburn said there was a lot of work put into him, "The boys got him in shape,"

Silver had good feed and "A lot of heart, that's what he had." He also knew when he was going to the track, always on his toes. But if he didn't want to do anything, he'd play. A lot of people knew him in the community – the Boogie Boys called him Silver but he was also know as the "Mighty Gray."

The first year they had him Silver didn't show much but toward the end of the season he was a tough horse to outrun. "He won races every year either Chief race or relay - the boys counted on him," Kilburn said. "It was kind of fun to watch him, he'd run about third at the back but on the back side is where he wanted to run and he'd pass the other horses and move away from them, that's probably why a lot of people liked to see him run."

Kilburn's son Raiburn said he called Silver his dad's baby. Toward the end of the season when it got colder, the team had to give the horse a warm bath but the other horses got regular water. Silver trusted Kilburn and would let him walk behind him, but Raiburn said he wouldn't because he might get kicked. The first year they raced him he did okay but the following year he picked it up and knew how to run. "He was a racehorse then," he continued. He won most the races he was in.

He said Silver was a short track horse. They ran him at Sandy Downs (a bigger track) but he overdid himself. "He was my mom's favorite horse," and both her and Kilburn loved him just like one of their kids. They bought him special feed and if there was a little bit of dust in the hay, Raiburn



Kilburn Buckskin

be ready – stand there and wait,” he said. “He’d take the lead at the first corner and he was gone.” Raiburn said he probably should have been running in pari-mutuel races.

Boogie Boys team catcher Earl Buckskin said when the team first got Silver they tried him out but set him aside until he aged a bit. As he matured, Silver really developed his speed. Frankie was riding him and he turned out to be a pretty fast horse and had a “big barrel chest on him, Earl said. “As soon as he hit that first turn, straightened out, he really poured it on,” in a race.

Silver was one of their good runners, “We tried to save him to get us into championship or for championship day.” As catcher, Earl catches the horse during the exchange. When Silver first started in relay, he had no brakes as he was still learning how to stop so they used him as the last horse. They figured out what type of bit to use on him and as time went on he became an all around horse.

Earl believes Silver got familiar with the color of his shirt, “When he would come in, he would lock his ears in on me, come right towards me – it looked like he wouldn’t stop but he’d come right in, right to the fence – that’s how he worked.”

He recalled a Chief race during Festival when Kyle Nipwater was riding, they were familiar with how Silver ran, he took a wide turn, went to the outside then cut right into the inside rail and made his way. “He was always coming from behind, but he had a really good kick on him,” Earl said. He added the Blackfoot Fair must of thought a lot of him as they used him on their billboard a few years back.

Tyrell Buckskin, a grandson of Kilburn, said he helped care for Silver when the horse was younger and wilder. But as the horse got older he became calm. Tyrell used to be a back holder for Boogie Boys and said he’d stand good but could feel the power when he went on the track. “The Chief races were my best memories, he was fast.”

Boogie Boys rider Frankie Gould said Silver was bigger than a normal horse and that was his advantage – a lot of muscle, “Every time I rode that horse we were in the money.” He rode him for about eight or nine years and he caught on fast when he was new to relay and liked to run – he’d be the first or last horse in the relay, “You want a good anchor horse and he was good first and last.”

Frankie said the team’s horses are family members, “We get to know them as much as they know us – it’s always good to know your horse.”

Chief race rider for Boogie Boys Freeland Larkin was the last one to ride Silver as he won the 2017 Festival Chief Race on him. “I came out in the front on him, didn’t whip, I just mooched him – it was good



Frankie Gould

and exciting to win that race.” He rode Silver for two years.

Brisco Teton rode Silver in relay and won on him in Blackfoot at the Eastern Idaho State Fair, “He was powerful and big,” recalling he always stood to the side. If there were a false start, he wouldn’t want to stop. “He was a cool horse.”

Kyle Nipwater said he rode Silver in the Chief race and got three wins and also got a couple wins in relay. “He had all the power, a one of a kind horse, he ran hard and really fast.”

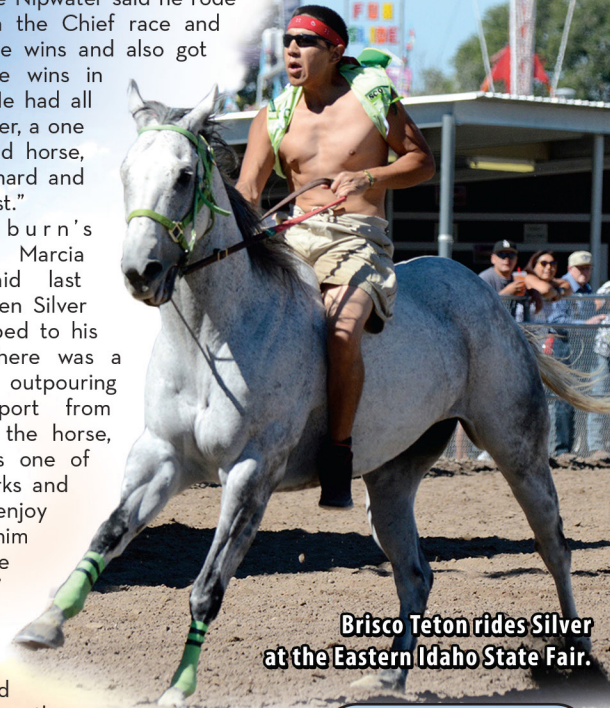
Kilburn’s niece Marcia Hall said last year when Silver succumbed to his injury there was a lot of outpouring of support from fans of the horse, “He was one of the sparks and people enjoy seeing him on the track,” recalling the horse would come from the back then be leading by two lengths, “It was something remarkable.”

In honor of Silver, the Boogie Boys team is selling T shirts in his memory. The T-shirt reads “the long shot becomes a legend – Silver 2002-2017, Indian Relay Chief champion, Fort Hall, Idaho.”

“I think it was one of those things, not only a loss to us but to other people – it was a way to give back – honor his whole aura – he was the go to horse, it’s to honor him because he meant a lot to us and the community,” Hall said.

Marcia helps market Boogie Boys T shirts and hats, along with get team sponsors. Funds raised from the items help pay for entry fees and horse feed to help her uncle and cousin cut the costs, “It’s my way of giving back to them to ease the financial strain and a way for us to be involved.” She said they have 24 sponsors and they have a part in the whole season adding some have never seen a relay race and they’re excited to see whom they’re cheering for. She said the Boogie Boys relay is a family team as they get support from the Buckskin side, extended family members and close family friends.

In addition, family members will be adding extra prize money to the Eastern Idaho State Fair Chief race in Blackfoot,



Brisco Teton rides Silver at the Eastern Idaho State Fair.



Marcia Hall

