

National Foundation Quarter Horse

Leading Sire Dies

1st - Number of NFQHA Point Earners
6th - Total Amount of NFQHA Points



Photo by
Roger Clark

Little Steel Dust at 29 years old with Brent Jensen at Jaz Ranch

On October 22nd Little Steel Dust, an NFQHA Leading Sire, was humanely put down due to complications from arthritis in his hip. Although the 29 year old stallion had been retired from breeding for two years due to the arthritis, his passing left an empty space at Jaz Ranch, his home since 1992. Ranch partner, Brent Jensen says, "Little Steel Dust had such a dignity and strong presence that the ranch feels different without him. He always acted like he was the most important horse on the ranch and portrayed that in his bearing and his proud little trot when he was led out of his stall. We used him to tease after his retirement and he loved to strut his stuff in front of the mares, and seemed to take his job seriously and give it his best without ever getting frustrated. Of course, his favorite part may have been grazing on the lawn afterward!"

"Little Steel Dust loved being fussed over and petted, and welcomed all visitors into his stall. Having his butt scratched was his favorite thing and many new friends had a scary moment when he turned his rear to them - until they realized he was just begging for a scratch! His last rider was my four year old granddaughter this summer, which he seemed to enjoy as much as she did.

While there is a void on the ranch that no horse can fill he will never be gone as long as we can look out every day and see his sons and daughters. Jaz Ranch is lucky to have been able to keep many of his offspring, and each one is like him in looks, mannerisms, and great disposition, reminding me always that he is still here. He is buried on the ranch right outside the gate to the yard where we can remember him everyday."

The grullo stallion (100% NFQHA - 41% Poco Bueno), was born April 22nd, 1974 in Ft Collins, Colorado. He was by Poco King Tuck x Poco Bueno and out of Pretty Sparkle x Poco Light x Poco Bueno. His first six years were uneventful, and he was not broke to ride nor bred until Ronda Marte purchased him from William and Eva Stewart. Rhonda fell in love with the horse and bred him to a few mares and earned IBHA performance points. In 1983 Ronda

was heartbroken when forced to sell Little Steel Dust because of a divorce. He was purchased by Dillon Shook and pasture bred until Luis Bonilla bought him in 1986, after agreeing to buy quite a few mares **only** if he could also buy Little Steel Dust.

In 1992 Jaz Ranch, then in Lamoille, Nevada, was just starting a foundation breeding program and was looking for a foundation stallion to cross on daughters of Pocos Gray Comet (also a grullo grandson of Poco Bueno) in the future. While looking at the AQHA papers on a Poco bred stallion, Jaz Ranch partners, Brent Jensen and Gail Zscheile, realized that it was the sire, Little Steel Dust, they really wanted!

After finding his owner's address in New Guyama, CA and tracking down a phone number Brent began calling. However he was not able to reach anyone who spoke English for several months. When he finally got Luis' daughter on the phone she didn't know if her dad, who was out of town, owned Little Steel Dust but did say "he has a lot of gray horses". Brent naturally thought they must be grullo quarter horses.

When Luis and Brent finally talked it turned out that the 'gray' horses were 80 Andalusians! The Poco Buenos that Luis kept were a hobby he pursued out of love for the bloodline. Although he was no longer breeding Little Steel Dust (because he had kept all of his daughters), he could not be persuaded to part with him, but did invite Brent and Gail to his spectacular ranch to see the now 17 year old stallion.

They fell in love with Little Steel Dust as soon as they met him and tried again to persuade Luis to sell. Luis would not entertain the idea until two days later, just before they were leaving. At that point he said that he had decided that he might sell the stallion to them and asked if they would like to see him ridden. They thought that would be great and Luis and Gail both

rode Little Steel Dust who had not been saddled for two years. He responded beautifully under saddle and Brent and Gail were thrilled with the idea of buying him until Luis said he had forgotten how wonderful the horse was, and that he couldn't sell him! The deflated ranch partners returned to Nevada.

Jaz Ranch continued building its fledgling foundation program with the purchase of five outstanding 100% foundation granddaughters of Poco Bueno from all over the United States (referred to as their Mail Order Brides). After these mares arrived in Nevada Luis Bonilla called and said he had decided to sell Little Steel Dust to Jaz Ranch after all because of the quality of mares he would be bred to. Brent and Gail set a record for driving to New Guyama, CA, and returned with the horse that would be the rock solid 'foundation' of their NFQHA breeding program.

Although their search had been for a horse to cross back on daughters of Pocos Gray Comet it did not take long for them to decide to retire the younger stallion and breed everything to Little Steel Dust, and keep his daughters to cross on Pocos Gray Comet. This decision was easy after Brent conducted a research project and called all of the owners of Steel Dust's offspring that he could locate. After hearing for the fifth time that a Steel Dust offspring was "the best horse I own, the best broodmare, the lightest rein, has the most natural cow sense, etc." Brent turned to Gail and commented "This is going to be really boring!"

They never had reason to look back on that decision as Little Steel Dust lived up to their every hope and expectation. During his time at Jaz Ranch he sired nine foal crops and produced multiple NFQHA performers earning him 1st place on the NFQHA Leading Sires List for number of point earners, and 6th place on the NFQHA Leading Sires List for total points



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Jaz Ranch Broodmares & foals

earned, making Little Steel Dust one of only 4 sires that made the top twenty on both lists. All his offspring from Jaz Ranch were National Foundation Quarter Horses with 13 NFQHA point earners earning 336.83 points. His Jaz Ranch offspring are still young and most still have their performance careers ahead of them. Following is a list of some of their NFQHA achievement highlights which reflect the versatility, athletic ability, and great disposition that Little Steel Dust imparted to his get:

Incandescent Jaz out of Poco Miss Feed
1997 National Reserve In Hand Trail - Yearling Ch

Jaz Bronze Bueno out of Poca Espera
2000 National Novice Ranch Trail Ch
2000 National Novice Western Riding Ch
2000 National Novice Ranch Riding Res Ch

Jaz Destind For Gold out of Destinysflirtation
1999 National In Hand Trail - 2 yr old Res Ch
2001 Bronze COA - Novice Trail
2001 National Novice Steer Daubing Ch
2001 National Novice Ranch Cutting Ch
2001 National Novice Trail Ch
2001 National Novice Barrel Racing Res Ch

Jaz Dun Deal out of Poco Lufax
40 Youth Points

Jaz Dynamic Poco out of Pocos Dun Delicious
2001 Bronze COA Open Western Riding
2001 National Open Western Riding Res Ch

Jaz Flirtation out of Destinysflirtation
1997 National In Hand Trail - yearling Ch

Jaz Mighty Mateo out of Poco Linda Miss
2002 Bronze COA Novice Trail
2002 National In Hand Trail - yearling Ch

Jaz Slick Rock out of Slick Rock Lois
2001 National Youth Western Riding Ch
2001 National Youth Ranch Reining Ch
2001 National Youth Steer Daubing Res Ch
2001 National Youth Breakaway Roping Res Ch

Little Steel Dust offspring highlights in AQHA:

Stevie Steel Dust out of Miss Bar Type
1994 Youth World Show Team Penning 8th
1994 Qualified Youth World Show Heading
1993 Performance Register of Merit
1993 Qualified Youth World Show Breakaway Roping

Jaz Mighty Mouse out of Poco Linda Miss
1999 AQHA ROM in Reining

Jaz Poco Goldun Blue out of Slick Rock Nina
1999 AQHA ROM in Reining

Jaz Bronze Bueno out of Poca Espera
2002 AQHA 8th High Point Jr Versatility Ranch Horse

Jaz Poco Silverado out of Poco Miss Smoky
2001 AQHA ROM in Reining

Little Steel Dust has also sired IBHA and ABRA performance and Dun Factor ROMs, NRHA money earners, NRCCHA money earners, and AQHA and IBHA halter point earners. His offspring include several outstanding rope horses, and many great ranch horses. In addition Little Steel Dust's daughters have already put him on the NFQHA Leading Maternal grandsires lists, with his oldest Jaz Ranch daughter only 10 years old.

Jaz Ranch is continuing Little Steel Dust's legacy with their National Foundation Quarter Horse breeding program, which includes 34 Little Steel Dust Daughters being bred to Pocos Gray Comet, and 7 Little Steel Dust sons which will stand to outside mares. Brent states "I didn't think it was possible, but the Little Steel Dust grand get are even better than their parents".

	POCO BUENO	King
		Miss Taylor
Poco King Tuck		Illini King
	Lady Illini 25	Miss Bee 25 x Bee Line x King
Little Steel Dust		POCO BUENO
NFQHA #: F0000010	Poco Light	Smokey Lee x Pretty Boy
	Pretty Sparkle	Rudy Buck x Pretty Buck out of Poco Bueno daughter
	Sparkle Buck	Sparkle Duster x Star Duster



Little Steel Dust offspring
clockwise from upper left:

Jaz Poco Espejo 1998 Dun Stallion owned by Michael & Kathleen Walker, Arvada, CO - **Jaz Mighty Mateo** 2001 Dun Stallion owned by Roger & Sue Clark, Corbett, OR - **Jaz Poco Goldun Blue**, 1994 grullo stallion, owned by Ron & Dory Yelick, Golden, CO - **Jaz Bronze Bueno**, 1997 dun Stallion, owned by Henry & Doris Smith, Marion, UT - **Jaz Poco**

Picante, 1995 red dun stallion, owned by Sonny Miller, Decatur, TX - **Jaz Mighty Mouse**, grullo stallion, owned by Carla Welter, Luxembourg.