

**C**onsidering his success in the show ring, it would come as a surprise for most of his fans to know that the palomino stallion's career almost ended as a result of an accident he sustained during his three-year-old year.

**A**pparently, Nu Chex To Cash or "Cheeks" as he was then known, took a fall and chipped his right knee. As trainer Todd Crawford prepared him for the Reining Futurities, he noticed the horse having a little problem at the start of his right spins. Todd believed it to be a training problem, since he was never lame. At the Reno Spectacular, Nu Chex made it to the finals and earned a paycheck. At the NRHA Futurity in Oklahoma they again made it to the finals, but failed to earn a check. It is not known when the injury actually occurred. In his debut performance earlier in the year, the stallion was the Santa Barbara Snaffle Bit/Hackamore Champion. Looking back, it was probable that he took a fall sometime between the Santa Barbara and Reno events.

**A**s a four-year-old, Todd had the knee radiographed and the chip was discovered. Owners, Wendell and Jan Burson agreed to have Arthroscopic surgery performed. After a period of rest, Todd showed the horse at a Quarter Horse circuit in Arizona. Marking scores up to 77's, he earned his R.O.M. and seemed fully recovered from the old injury.

**N**ot long afterward, the spin problem returned and new radiographs were taken. To their great disappointment, the Bursons learned that another bone fragment was found and that this chip had been missed in the first surgery. Nu Chex To Cash went into surgery for the second time, and was again given several months rest. The Bursons then advertised Nu Chex To Cash for sale with a small ad in the back of the Quarter Horse Journal.

**O**ne of the first people to find the ad was Tammye Hutton who admits to reading magazines "beginning at the back of the book". The Huttons had been looking for a stallion with the proven cow horse blood they found in his pedigree. Tammye pestered Charlie to call, but Charlie felt the horse would cost more than they could afford. Tammye countered with "Well, we can at least afford the phone call"! The call was made, and the Bursons agreed to send a video.

**W**hen they saw the video, both of the Huttons agreed that this was a horse they "had to own". After a few phone calls, the horse was purchased sight unseen. Charlie first called Todd Crawford who told Charlie that the stallion was one of the nicest horses he had trained and the biggest stopper he had ever started. The Bursons then referred the Huttons to the Vet who had performed the second surgery. An offer was made and accepted, contingent on new radiographs and a fertility check.

**T**he surgeon found no further deterioration of the knee in the new radiographs and advised the Huttons that the stallion would probably be sound enough to show for at least a year. The deal was done.

**T**his "untold story" sheds new light on the accomplishments of Nu Chex To Cash since his arrival at Hilldale Farm in November, 1995. Six years after he took a fall and chipped his knee, Nu Chex To Cash became the first horse in AQHA history to earn High Point titles in both Reining and Working Cowhorse in the same year! At age 11, he was competing and easier to show than ever before. Charlie Hutton believes that his willing attitude and heart are the biggest reasons for his success.

Late in 2001, Charlie retired Nu Chex To Cash. This became a "Michael Jordan" retirement when Charlie offered his stepdaughter Jessica Keller a chance to "have a little fun" with Nu Chex. She accepted the offer and promptly won the NRHA Limited Non Pro at the 2001 NRHA Futurity Show in Oklahoma City.

In 2002, Jessica and Nu Chex became a team, and proved that Nu Chex To Cash was much more than a "nice little weekend horse". Showing in at least two classes at every show, they won or placed in both Open and Non-Pro events at dozens of major shows. One of their best "signature runs" was at the Tradition, in Lexington, VA, where they scored 221 1/2 points to win the \$3,000 Saddlesmith Non-Pro class. They finished out the 2002 season with earnings over \$55,000. His lifetime earnings are now over \$61,000.

Jessica and Nu Chex finished out the 2002 season winning the World Championship in the Intermediate and Limited Open and Reserve World Champions in the Non Pro and Intermediate Non Pro. Also in 2002, Wimpys Little Step by Nu Chex To Cash won the NRHA Futurity and the Congress Futurity. Nu Chex To Cash then became a household name around the world. He was inducted into the NRHA Hall of Fame in 2010 and he is now an NRHA Three Million Dollar Sire.

It is an honor to have had the opportunity to own such a great individual and at 27 years young he can still play in the paddock. It's amazing that he has done all that he has with such limited funds to promote him. He never got to breed those high dollar, big money earning mares until after his World Championships and after he sired a Futurity Champion. Wimpys Little Step came from a crop of 23 foals and Charlie and Tammye Hutton remember the day they bought Leolita Step at a north Alabama farm for \$3000. The mare had never won or produced anything but she was the right kind. She had a different pedigree but the right conformation and disposition. Snip O Gun was another of those kind of mares. Purchased for \$4500 at age five, Snip had never won a penny or had even been bred but she was the right kind. She still roams the pastures at Hilldale Farm with several mares like her. She has now produced foals (all but two by Nu Chex To Cash) that have earnings of over \$800,000!

Nu Chex To Cash is a "Once In A Life Time Horse". He is loved by all and loves all the attention he gets in his old age.