= Shannon (horse) =

Shannon (1941 ? 1955) , named Shannon II in America , was an outstanding Australian Thoroughbred racehorse who was inducted into the Hall of Fame . He created new racecourse records in Australia before he was sold to an American buyer who exported him to California in 1948 . There Shannon equalled the world record of 1 : 473 ? 5 for the nine furlongs (1 @,@ 800 metres) in winning the Forty Niner Handicap Stakes , then one week later equalled the world record of 1 : 594 ? 5 for a mile and a quarter (2 @,@ 000 metres) . Shannon was named the 1948 American Champion Older Male Horse . At stud in America he proved to be a good sire .

= = Breeding = =

He was by the leading sire , Midstream (GB) (sire of 39 stakes @-@ winners that won 120 stakes races) from the race @-@ winner , Idle Words by the good sire , Magpie (GB) . Idle Words was the dam of 12 foals , of which 11 raced with 8 winners , including three stakes @-@ winners : Bernbrook (by Midstream) , won AJC Doncaster Handicap etc . , exported to US ; Defame (by Delville Wood) dam of a stakes @-@ winner ; and Lysander (by Midstream) , won City Tattersall 's Cup .
Shannon was owned and trained by Peter Riddle who selected him from the Kia @-@ Ora stud yearlings and paid £ 367 for him at the Sydney yearling sales .

= = = 1946 Racebook = = =

= = Racing record = =

= = = At two years : 1943 @-@ 1944 = = =

He won the 1943 AJC Two @-@ year @-@ old Handicap , the AJC Kirkham Stakes and the 1944 AJC Sires ' Produce Stakes over seven furlongs . During the season he had seven race starts for three wins , three seconds and one unplaced run .

= = = At three years : 1944 @-@ 1945 = = =

In his first three @-@ year @-@ old start Shannon was unplaced in the STC Flying Handicap , but then won the Hobartville Stakes from a very good field before he finished unplaced in the Rosehill Guineas and AJC Derby . Shannon did not have another race start for ten months .

= = = At four years : 1945 @-@ 1946 = = =

He started as a four @-@ year @-@ old , with 9 stone 1 pound (58 kg) in the AJC Campbelltown Handicap over 6 furlongs , which he won at long odds . Next he met and defeated the great mare Flight at even weights in the Tattersalls NSW Tramway Handicap . His win in the STC Hill Stakes made him the favourite for the AJC Epsom Handicap . After a good race , Shannon was the winner by a neck from Melhero , and Silent the same distance away in third place . After four starts and four wins for the season Flight relegated him into second place in the Craven Plate . Shannon was then spelled (rested) during the autumn and winter .

= = = At five years : 1946 @-@ 1947 = = =

As a five @-@ year @-@ old Shannon repeated his Campbelltown Handicap win carrying 9 st 11 lb (62 kg) and at his next start had a win in the Theo Marks Quality Handicap . Shannon is probably

best remembered for not winning the Epsom Handicap that season , when he appeared to be unbeatable . As a short @-@ priced favourite for the 1946 Epsom Handicap , Shannon missed the start and did not move from his starting position until the rest of the field had travelled about a hundred metres . Despite the setback his jockey , Darby Munro took off after the field and failed only by half a head to catch the winner Blue Legend , and just past the post he was in front . On his return to scale Munro was given a hostile reception for his ride in the race , it was later disclosed that the starter had failed to see that Shannon was not facing up .

Two days later , he won the George Main Stakes in an Australasian record time of 1 @.@ 34 ½ by six lengths from Flight with Magnificent a further four lengths away in third place . The next Saturday , Shannon defeated Flight in the King 's Cup which included Russia , who won the Melbourne Cup four weeks later .

At six years : 1947 @-@ 1948

When his owner @-@ trainer died he was auctioned in Sydney and purchased by W.J. Smith for £ 27 @,@ 300 . Shannon only raced four more times in Australia , in the next spring to register two wins , in the Canterbury Stakes and George Main Stakes , and a second in the Warwick Stakes . Shannon was again sold again in early 1948 , this time to American Neil McCarthy for a reported £ 52 @,@ 000 . His last start in Australia ended in defeat with him finishing second to Russia in the 1947 AJC Craven Plate .

Shannon was one of the best middle @-@ distance horses to race in Australia with a tally of 25 starts in Australia for 14 wins including prominent wins in the AJC George Main Stakes and the AJC Sires Produce Stakes .

Racing in the United States

In 1948 new owner Neil McCarthy of California , entrusted Shannon 's race conditioning to trainer William Molter . At Hollywood Park Racetrack in June , Shannon won the Argonaut Handicap and then , on 17 July , won the most prestigious race of his American career : the Hollywood Gold Cup . At Golden Gate Fields on 17 October 1948 , Shannon equalled the world record of 1 : 473 ? 5 for the nine furlongs (1 @,@ 800 metres) in winning the Forty Niner Handicap Stakes , then just one week later at the same track equalled the world record of 1 : 594 ? 5 for a mile and a quarter (2 @,@ 000 metres) while capturing the Golden Gate Handicap . In America he was second to Citation with Shannon being the leading money earner in his division . In November he won his last race , the San Francisco Handicap at Tanforan Racetrack . Shannon was named the 1948 American Champion Older Male Horse in a poll conducted by Turf and Sports Digest magazine . The equivalent award in rival Daily Racing Form poll was " Champion Handicap Horse " and included three @-@ year @-@ olds : it was won by Citation .

Stud record

Sold for US $ 300 @,@ 000 to a breeding syndicate led by Leslie Combs II , Shannon was retired to stud duty and stood alongside another Australian champion Bernborough at Combs ' Spendthrift Farm in Lexington , Kentucky , where he had a successful career as a sire . Eleven of his first crop yearlings averaged $ 11 @,@ 755 each . The best of his progeny were Clem ($ 535 @,@ 681) who defeated Round Table in track record time in the Washington Park Handicap , and Sea O Erin ($ 407 @,@ 259) , who won the Citation Handicap and 18 other races . Shannon sired the winners of more than $ 4 million while he was at stud in Kentucky .

In 1955 , Shannon broke a leg and was humanely euthanized . He is buried in an unmarked grave at Green Gates Farm , which was formerly part of Spendthrift Farm .

Honours

Shannon was the American Co @-@ Champion Older Male Horse , along with Citation , in 1948 . He was inducted into the Australian Racing Hall of Fame on 4 July 2006 . The Shannon Stakes named in his honour is held annually at Rosehill Gardens Racecourse .