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Charles Howard spent \$8,000 to buy Seabiscuit. During his day, the champion ultimately became the biggest purse-winner on the horse-racing circuit. Image online, courtesy Seabiscuit Heritage Foundation. PD Seabiscuit was born in Kentucky on May 23, 1934. His grandfather was the famous Man O'War who, in 1920, was Here of the Year and is still ranked as the number one therewebbred of the 20th contury. (Another Man

was Horse of the Year and is still ranked as the <u>number one</u> thoroughbred of the 20th century. (Another Man O'War offspring - his great-grandson <u>Kelso</u> - raced for eight seasons and won more top honors than any other horse, before or since.)

<u>Seabiscuit</u> was an unlikely <u>champion</u>. He had knees that didn't straighten and a gait that never matched his competitors. He was the <u>strange-shaped</u> son of the temperamental thoroughbred, <u>Hard Tack</u>. But he had the heart of a winner which his trainer, Tom Smith, coaxed to the forefront.

Some folks who saw "The Biscuit" thought he looked like a scraggly cow horse. Those who understood him - like Tom Smith - believed otherwise.

The <u>book</u> which first documented Seabiscuit's unlikely, incredible story was published in 1940. (It has since been reissued.) With an introduction by the famous broadcaster, <u>Grantland Rice</u>, *Seabiscuit: The Saga of a Great Champion* contains eyewitness accounts and period photographs.

Laura Hillenbrand consulted that book when she wrote her terrific bestseller *Seabiscuit: An American Legend*. She also personally interviewed key people and studied primary source material preserved by Marcela Howard.

Seabiscuit won all kinds of races, and set track records (like the <u>Yonkers Handicap</u> on July 24, 1937), after Charles Howard bought him, Tom Smith trained him and Red Pollard rode him.

Despite all his victories, Seabiscuit was not the first horse to win a million dollars. That honor goes to <u>Citation</u> who, in 1948, won the Triple Crown and was named Horse of the Year. Seabiscuit, however, was the first horse whose winnings topped \$400,000 (which translates into \$5.6 million in 2002 dollars).

He ran a total of 89 races.

One race, for several years, proved elusive for Seabiscuit and his team. It was the race with the biggest purse of all: the Santa Anita Handicap. But in 1938, in what is still regarded by many as the best horse race in history, Seabiscuit caused a furor at Pimlico.

That was also the year when American newspapers gave more ink to Seabiscuit than they gave to either President Roosevelt or Adolf Hitler.

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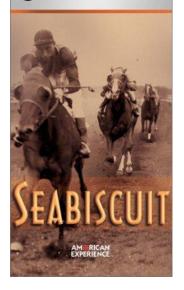
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SEABISCUIT

PBS HOME VIDEO



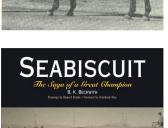
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Seabiscuit - Profile Photo

Image online, courtesy Quarter Horse Legends website.







Hard Tack - Sire of Seabiscuit Image online, courtesy <u>sporthorse-data.com</u> website. PD View this asset at: <u>http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Hard-Tack-Sire-of-Seabiscuit</u>

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<u>Grantland Rice</u> Image online, courtesy Sporting Madness website. View this asset at: <u>http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Grantland-Rice</u>

<u>Seabiscuit at the Yonkers Handicap</u> Image online, courtesy the U.S. Library of Congress. View this asset at: <u>http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Seabiscuit-at-the-Yonkers-Handicap</u>