

Racing World Updates

By Sonja Berry

Oklahoma Appaloosa Racing Expands

Oklahoma Appaloosa racing has expanded under a new business name: Oklahoma Appaloosa Racing (OAR) Network. Its mission is to continue to support Oklahoma Appaloosa racing and expand Appaloosa racing across the United States.

The inaugural Remington Park Appaloosa Futurity will be April 9, 2026, exclusively for Appaloosas. Remington Park in Oklahoma City boasts high-quality racing for Appaloosas, Paints and Quarter Horses. The OAR Network is working on proposals to other state associations to host a third all-Appaloosa futurity.

OAR Network members also celebrated racing achievements at the annual general membership and year-end banquet on January 16 this year at the Cattlemen's Steakhouse in Oklahoma City's Stockyards.

Kung Fu Express Wins All-Appaloosa Cricket Bars Futurity

Kung Fu Express won the 58th edition of the all-Appaloosa Cricket Bars Futurity (G1) on September 15, 2025, in Claremore, Okla. The race boasted a purse of \$36,263. Nine horses went to post, and Kung Fu Express broke well with a commanding lead in a wire-to-wire finish over a deep track at Will Rogers Downs.



Kung Fu Express finished the 2025 racing season as the second-highest Appaloosa money earner.

This is the second Cricket Bars Futurity win for owners Racing RNs, made up of sisters Anita Ruiz and Jessica McCurry, both nurses serving their local community. What makes this win extra special for Ruiz and McCurry is that both of their winners won with only one eye. Their first Cricket Bars win came in 2011 with Captain Bucko, Supreme Champion 2-Year-Old and Champion 2-Year-Old Colt. Kung Fu Express is trained by Ruiz's husband, Jesus Ruiz of Ruiz Training Stables.

Kung Fu Express was the only 2-year-old who went to post with a win under his belt, making him the morning line favorite with odds of 2-5 paying \$2.80 and earning \$14,601 for the win. The gelding finished the 2025 racing season as the second-highest Appaloosa money earner with total winnings of \$29,272. Coming from a winning line, Kung Fu Express's dam, Miss Kung Fu Panda, is a race winner with earnings of \$18,547, and his sire is BP Hes Down To Dash, a son of multiple graded stakes winner BP Shes Southern.

Overcoming a seventh-place start, Queen Blue, the full sister to four-time champion Queen For Cash, secured second place and \$7,422 in a hard-fought rally over stablemate Tommy Gunn, who earned \$5,475. Both horses are owned by Gary Vaughan and trained by Jesus Ruiz. Hawk Tuah Hero finished fourth in her first out to earn \$3,443. Tarzan's Streaker, Artico, Grey Peregrine, Jess Send Rip and Candy Doux completed the field.

After the win, OAR members thanked Michael Moss with a commemorative buckle for his years of service as past OAR president from 2018-2024.

Watch the race at youtube.com/watch?v=SPM9ZyLKr4.

◀ Sonja Berry hands the Cricket Bars Futurity trophy to co-owner Jessica McCurry, along with trainer Jesus Ruiz, jockey Roman Cruz and co-owner Anita Ruiz.

➡ Photos by Jack Coady Photography

