

Aces High Roller, with Larry Taylor in the irons, dominated the 1980 show circuit. This great team was the first to be undefeated in a campaign for the World Grand Championship. This record setting achievement did not happen by luck.

Aces High Roller began his show career when he was owned by Mr. Elam of Lenoir City, Tennessee and trained by Bobby Young. W.L. Cox saw him in a horse show in Georgia and noticed the stallion's talent. He went to a Tennessee show to confirm his first impression. Mr. Cox has a talent of his own- he can really pick champion Racking Horses. He purchased Ace after the Tennessee show; as a three year old Aces High Roller was trained by Larry Latham and the Perry Walden. His trainers said the he had a good mouth and was easy to work with. Larry Latham said, "Even as a young horse he had a lot of ability, and I felt he was destined to become a champion."

When Mr. and Mrs. Cox placed Aces High Roller in training at Harley Taylor and Son's Stables, his destiny began to materialize. Larry Taylor rode Aces High Roller to the blue seven times as a four year old and defeated a tough class at the Racking Horse World Celebration to become the Four Year Old Racking Horse Champion in 1979.

In 1980, Ace made his bid for the roses. His unanimous win at the Decatur Spring Warm Up was prophetic. Showing in Mississippi, Tennessee, Georgia, and Alabama, Aces High Roller was never defeated. His ten wins included the Alabama and Georgia State Grand Championships. The final test came in September at the Racking Horse World Celebration.

After a beautiful week of sunshine, the sky darkened and a soft rain began to fall as the tension and excitement mounted for the Grand Championship class. The competition was strong, but Ace's big front end and speed with style made him victorious. He proudly wore the roses as the 1980 World Grand Champion Racking Horse.

The trainer, Larry Taylor, was in the winner's circle for the second time. In 1976, he rode Sunset Jubilee to win the Grand Championship. He is the first rider to achieve this honor. This experienced rider and trainer has great respect for Ace's High Roller because "he is very gentle to ground handle, but he has all the spirit you could want when you get in the saddle."

