

# A Tale of Two Larrys

February 2026



**Larry, whose official name is Mr Solanos Kid, was a legendary reiner with the OSU Equestrian Team. A National Horse of the Year. Favorite of hundreds of girls who vied to ride him and love on him.**

## THEN AN INJURY ENDED IT ALL.....

Equestrian Coach Larry Sanchez, a champion himself, took a hard look and saw a great horse: tired of stall rest, wanting people instead of a pasture, and needing a new job. He sent Larry to Turning Point for a fresh start on New Year's Eve 2019.

Larry quickly became the heart of Turning Point. In just five years, he partnered with 82 riders in over 1000 classes.

- He helped a 16-year-old girl relearn to walk after a rare neurological illness. Together, they won Gold at the Oklahoma Special Olympics Equestrian Games.
- He carried a 40-pound six-year-old who had been born prematurely, helping her ride independently for the first time.
- His tack color was pink and of course he took it in stride when the whole barn "pinked out" for his birthday.



With each new rider, Larry seemed to reset himself, responding not to their disability, but to their determination. After all, he knew first hand what it felt like to move past pain and limitations. So he listened hard when a 21-year old man with severe cerebral palsy used his only working hand to neck rein. Chalk up another GOLD for Larry.

On August 3, 2025, Larry took his last ride. The barn fell silent and a pink memorial sprang up. He passed away the same day as one of his favorite riders from the Junior High, It felt as if Larry knew she shouldn't make that journey alone. We thought it was his last act of service,

## But Champions Leave a Legacy



This month, AQHA, the American Quarter Horse Association and PATH International, the Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship, named Larry their **Equine Assisted Services Horse of the Year**. His \$10,000 prize will allow more riders at Turning Point to find their futures through the magic of horses like him.

He was a champion in the show ring in two careers, but at Turning Point he became something greater: the Champion of our Hearts.

And Thanks to Coach Larry for knowing a real Champion when he saw one.