

2012 Futurity/Derby and Junior Division



Women's Professional Rodeo Association

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Futurity/Derby Program

The WPRF Futurity and Derby program is the beginning steps of turning barrel horse prospects into champion rodeo horses.

The program, which began in 2006, is for building better rodeo horses that will last through the years. The program gives members a place to take young horses and introduce them to the competition arena but in a more relaxed atmosphere.

The Futurities are open to horses 5-years-

old and younger that are competing for the first time, while the Derby program is for 6-and 7-year-old horses, as long as they did not compete in Futurities as a 4-year old. A horse that starts his competitive career as a 4-year-old has two years of eligibility, but as a 5- and 6-year-old.

The program has proven a great training ground for building rodeo horses of the future.

Hart and Parker close out WPRF aged event world titles

By Tanya Randall

Sandra Hart and her talented mare Hart Ta Fame claimed the WPRF Futurity World Championship, while Rissie Parker and Letta Lash Do It captured the WPRF Derby World Championship. It was a long year for both ladies and their horses, but the satisfaction of seeing a goal to its end was well worth the effort.

Both received their titles at the WPRF World Finals, held Oct. 13-16 in the Lancaster Event Center at Lincoln, Neb.

The WPRF World Finals drew 85 entries for the \$13,500-added Futurity, while the \$5,000-added Derby drew 52 entries. Monica McClung and Easy French Alibi topped the two-run average in the Futurity for \$5,417 of the \$29,439 total purse. Britta O’Keffe and YHS Tex Roger won the Derby average for \$2,192 of the \$10,850 total purse.

An exciting addition to this year’s event was the 21-entry slot futurity. Cindy Smith and her homegrown star Wood B Smokin fame claimed \$12,600 of the \$31,500 total purse.

World Champions

“Looking back on the year and what we’ve accomplished—it’s been quite a ride,” said WPRF Futurity World Champion Sandra Hart of Centerville, S.D.

Hart purchased her world champion Hart Ta Fame (“Fergie”) as a yearling from her friend Kristie Whitehead. Fergie, a 5-year-old mare is by WPRF Pro Elite Sire Incentive (PESI) stallion Holy Bart, a son of PESI and four-time

National Finals Rodeo (NFR) sire Dash Ta Fame, out of a “big, soggy” foundation-bred mare, Skippa Rudy Ashley, by Rudy Skippa. The mare was bred by Sandra Swenson, Sioux Falls, S.D.

Hart, the mother of a high school senior and a nursing student, said training Fergie for barrels was “very easy.” She added that the mare “surprised us all” by doing well at the early futurities in Arizona. Solid performances throughout the year earned them a world title.

The year wasn’t without its complications though.

“Late July we started with a respiratory infection, so I dealt with that most of August and some of September,” said Hart, who is sponsored by South Grove Tack and Equi-Pride. “I got her healed up from that and I had a different colt fall with me in a paved parking lot, and I cracked some ribs.”

At the WPRF Finals, Hart once again had to contend with a sick horse, but Fergie was able to rally and earn a second-round check.

For now, Hart and Fergie’s future plans are somewhat on hold as Hart’s mother had to be placed in hospice care after the WPRF Finals.

“My mare is on vacation just standing around eating,” said Hart, who wanted to thank her husband Tut, a farrier, for all his help in making her championship possible. “I won’t take her to the derbies until she’s 7, so I’ll probably just give her the year off. I’ve got a colt that I’m trying to get ready for the summer and fall futurities, but mostly stay around home depend-

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ing on what goes on with Mom.”

Full-time mom and family business manager Rissie Parker and Letta Lash Do It (“Banana”) also had a long haul to the WPRF Derby World Championship.

“It was a long, very educational year,” said Parker, who has two toddlers at home. “It was so hard this summer. My horse got sore. My office manager quit, so I would be gone all weekend and comeback and work all night in the office, just to catch up.”

Parker started on the derby odyssey when she realized she still had a derby eligible horse as she was filling out the paperwork for her WPRF permit. She had bought Banana, a 7-year-old gelding by PESI and NFR sire Letta Hank Do It out of Brays Foxy Lady, by Rockin L Rocket, in April 2010. Laurie Phillips, Seminole, Okla., bred the gelding that was later trained and campaigned by Latricia Duke for Arbie and Betty

Miller of Merkel, Texas.

“I met a lot of great people that I wouldn’t have if I hadn’t decided to do the derby deal,” said Parker. “There are a lot of great ladies out there running great derby horses. I’m excited to see how far they take them.”

Difficulties aside, Parker’s grateful for the experience and the opportunity.

“I thank God for the opportunity,” said Parker, who also wanted to thank her family for all their help and support. “Some of us have great horses, but don’t have the opportunity. I’m very grateful that I had the opportunity and means to do it.”

World Finals Futurity

Monica McClung was pleasantly surprised by the championship performance of Easy French Alibi (“Fancy”) at the WPRF World Finals. She fully expected Moons And Myths, who finished third in the futurity average, to



While Sandra Hart captured the Futurity title it was Rissie Parker and Letta Lash Do It taking top honors in the WPRF Derby Division for 2011. Parker and Banana captured their world title with earnings of \$3,357 and 155 points. WPRF Photo by Kenneth Springer

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her best shot.

“I was pretty ‘iffy’ about her,” said McClung, an 18-year-old recent high school graduate from May, Okla. “She didn’t run as good as my other filly at the Jud Little Futurity in Ardmore. I just took it easy on her the first run and then asked her little harder and then a little harder.”

McClung didn’t start competing on Fancy, a 4-year-old daughter of PESI stallion and multiple NFR sire Frenchmans Guy out of Easy Mag, by Magnificence, until June after she finished her high school rodeo career.

“Fancy is your typical tall blonde girl,” laughed McClung, who plans to continue training futurity horses as well as professional rodeo. “She’s pretty fun to be around.”

WPROA Finals Derby

Mechanical engineer Britta O’Keefe had a decision to make before the WPROA World Finals—to enter the Derby or enter the Permit Race. Having missed out on the derbies she had planned on attending thus far, O’Keefe chose to enter the Derby in Lincoln with her homegrown gelding YHS Tex Roger.

“My family raised him,” O’Keefe said of her 6-year-old gelding by the family stallion Yellow Hammer Six. “He’s out of a mare that I roped on and ran barrels on a little in high school. My dad heeled on her and I roped breakaway on her.”

O’Keefe actually bought Roger, who is out of the Vegas The Third mare Im Pandes Hard Way, as a 5-year-old from her mother Lisa last May. She competed in the Futurity division on

Roger last year and spent this summer seasoning him at the rodeos.

“He doesn’t run ridiculously hard or turn ridiculously hard,” said O’Keefe, who filled her permit this summer. “He’s just really, really smooth. I hope he makes a rodeo horse.”

WPROA Slot Futurity

Former NFR qualifier and cardholder No. 6 in the WPROA, Cindy Smith, Hobbs, N.M., and her home-raised Wood B Smokin fame (“Brees”) more than paid for their WPROA World Finals trip with a win in the Slot Futurity. It was the second slot futurity they’ve won this year, having won the BBR Finals Slot Futurity in April.

“He’s probably one of the nicest ones we’ve had,” said Smith of the 4-year-old gelding by Woodbridge, a son of Dash Ta Fame out of Smokin Shuttle, by Shuttleman (TB). “He was just easy. It’s nothing that I did. I think anyone could have made him.”

Smith said she plans to rodeo a little more on the talented gelding, who already has pro rodeo money under his belt from placing at Lovington, N.M.

“He’s still just for 4, but he’s pretty solid,” said Smith, who wanted to thank the WPROA for their futurity program and the WPROA World Finals crew. “He kind of surprised me and won his first ammy rodeo. I’m going to go the good ones that I can get in. He’s the kind that when he does make a run, he clocks. I’m not going to waste him running at a bunch of little ones.”

Champions

Futurity:

- 2011 – Sandra Hart/Hart Ta Fame
- 2010 – Bo Hill/Phame
- 2009 – Jan Duquette/Magico Fire Water
- 2008 – Leslie Maynard/LRM Lightning Watch
- 2007 – Judy Melvin/MNMs Vanilla Sky
- 2006 – Kay Blandford/Talents Dark Angel

Derby:

- 2011 – Rissie Parker/Letta Lash Do It
- 2010 – Kindell McKaniel/Parkers Secretary
- 2009 – Lisa Ruhnke – First Banana
- 2008 – Susie McConaghie – Super Hero (PT)
- 2007 – Lacy Billingsley – Shawne Dash

Junior Division

It remains one of the most indelible images of WPROA history. Blonde curls bobbing, bat clinched firmly between her teeth, a barely teenaged Clayton, N.M., cowgirl roared into the history books of barrel racing. Charmayne James was just 14 when she and super horse Scamper won the first of a record 10 straight world championships. Along the way, she captured the hearts of rodeo fans across the nation.

The site of young girls guiding their top equine partners flawlessly through a barrel pattern disappeared in the mid-nineties when the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association initiated a mandatory age limit of 18 years of age for competitors at PRCA sanctioned rodeos. Due to the relationship between the two sanctioning bodies at the time, the WPROA followed suit and little girls no longer had a place in professional rodeo.

Beginning in 2007, the WPROA instituted the WPROA Junior Division for all girls aged 17 and under. The junior division introduces a whole new group of members to the ranks of professional competition and allows mothers and daughters to compete for world points at some of the same events.

Juniors run in WPROA Junior sanctioned races as well as co-sanctioned divisional races and rodeos to earn points for the WPROA World Finals. Juniors can only earn points in WPROA Junior Division races, in co-sanctioned rodeos, and in the 1D of co-sanctioned divisional races. Juniors do not compete against WPROA members for points are not eligible to enter WPROA events or rodeos.

Among the big name races co-sanctioned for the WPROA juniors is the world renowned Josey Junior World Championship barrel race. Hosted by legends RE and Martha Josey, the 1980 WPROA World Champion, this race has played host to thousands of aspiring barrel racers through the years, many of whom have gone on to tremendous success in the ranks of the WPROA.

Terlip doubles up with average and world Junior titles in 2011

By Kristen M. White

Winning the Junior World Championship, along with the average at the Junior World Championships for the second year in a row – not too shabby for an 11-year-old sixth grader at Louisburg Middle School.

Kylar Terlip won the average at the Junior World Championships, held Oct. 13-16 at the Lancaster Event Center in Lincoln, Neb., in 32.87 seconds on two runs. In the process of winning the average, she captured the Junior World Champion title as well, making her doubly excited.

“It was really cool,” said the Frontenac, Kansas cowgirl. “Ultimately it came down to the very last run, so that was fun.”

Terlip said she didn’t mind the pressure of having the victories come down to the wire, because she said the more pressure she’s under, the better she seems to ride.

And apparently her horse, 17-year-old Firepowered Jet, doesn’t mind the pressure either, because he was steady and consistent this year and last for Terlip.

“It was cool to win back-to-back (average titles),” Terlip said. “And this year was more special to win because it ultimately won me the world too. It’s cool that I had consistent runs two years in a row with no hit barrels.”

Terlip said having a horse that is calm and collected like Jet makes her job a lot easier. She got rid of her old mare because of the horse’s tendency to be high strung, so the past 14 months with Jet have been really good.

“There are horses out there that don’t win and they’re still nuts. It’s nice when you find a calm one that’s a winner too. We have a good relationship. I just have to focus on the run and don’t worry about what he’s doing at the gate, which is good.”

Junior Division

There were less than two months before the Junior World Championships when Terlip and her family crunched some numbers and discovered it was possible for her to win the world title, and that it was something worth going for that late in the season.

But having that ultimate victory in mind didn't change the way Terlip rode or approached rodeos.

"We knew if I didn't win the world, I'd be trying for Reserve, and that if we didn't win, we'd tried," she said. "But you still have to ride the same. You have other barrel races to think about and you can't always have it in your mind. You have to ride like you haven't won anything, no matter what."

Spoken like a true veteran. Terlip apparently already has a steady head when it comes to barrel racing, which is perhaps what helps make her so successful.

She won the world with \$12,597, edging out competitor Emily Efurd of Pittsburg, Texas, who finished the season with \$12,300. Efurd made Terlip work for the title right down to the end.

Going into the Junior World Championships, Terlip said she knew she and Jet would have to be quick and consistent. She started by turning in a second-place run in the first round, rounding the pattern in 16.32 seconds.

Before the second round, Terlip said she knew she "had to be pretty fast, couldn't go out and just run slow," and of course she knew she had to keep the barrels up. But she was first out, so Efurd – who narrowly won the first round in 16.31 seconds – was still to come and could spoil Terlip's hope for the average and the World.

"I'd rather be last, because I ride better if I have a fast time to beat," she said. "We waited

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and waited ... and waited. I was really nervous."

Terlip's second-round run of 16.55 seconds held up for another second-place finish, behind Stevie Mae Scott-Smith's run of 16.52 seconds. It was enough to capture the average, beating out Scott-Smith's two-run total of 32.99 seconds.

With the 2011 season in her rearview mirror, Terlip already has her sights set on a repeat of

the World Champion title. She said this time she plans to call upon the use of her back-up horse, AC Take A Kiss, for some additional help.

"I want to try and start running him more," she said. "We'll see what happens, and I want to get Jet some time off. He's 17, and it's hard for him to go out every weekend, so I hope the back-up horse can give him some time off."

World Champions

2011 – Kylar Terlip, Frontenac, Kan.

2010 – Callie duPerier, Bandera, Texas

2009 – Lake Mehalic, Oro Valley, Ariz

2008 – Tara Timms, Leedy, Okla.

2007 – Madison Montchal, Atalisa, Iowa

Circuit Champions

2008

Badlands: Cassidy Kruse

California: Caitlyn Loomis

First Frontier: Rebecca Weiner

Great Lakes: Madison Montchal

Mountain States: Cassidy Wahlert

Prairie: Tara Timms

Texas: Emily Efurd

Turquoise: Lake Mehalic



Kylar Terlip jockeyed her 17-year old Firepowered Jet to the winners circle at the WPRA World Finals in Lincoln, Neb. Terlip captured the average title and world title with her performance in Lincoln. WPRA photo by Kenneth Springer