

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.

Three Trainers Collect World Titles in the Futurity and Derby Division

by Jolee Jordan

I daho barrel racer Sue Smith knows a great horse when she saddles one. The long time trainer has held the reins on many good ones in her career including Olympic Command Performance gold medalist JDC Best Efforts (who won in Salt Lake City under the saddle of Molly Powell) and two-time Wrangler National Finalist Real Claim Ta Fame.

So when Smith calls a horse one of the best one she's ever had, fans would do well to pay attention.

"I'm pretty proud of her," agrees Smith with a smile in her voice when asked about the comment given to the Barrel Racing Report's Tanya Randall back in July.

"Certainly as far as the futurities go, she has been the most consistent."

Dash Centerfold is Smith's latest winner, racking up over \$120,000 in overall earnings in her first season of competition.

A five year old mare by PESI stallion—and barrel racing legend—Dash Ta Fame out of the Proudest Effort Centerfold came to Smith's barn as a late two-year old.

"I have some friends who train race horses and they owned her mom and her grandmother," says Smith, adding that her dam had a speed index of 110 and set three track records in her race career. "They bred her



Sue Smith set out to win the Futurity World Title in the WPRF in 2016 and on Oct. 23 she achieved that goal. Smith accepted her title and awards from WPRF President Doreen Wintermute (left) and Futurity/Derby Director Marlene McRae. WPRF photo by Dudley Barker

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Sue Smith raced her way aboard Dash Centerfold to 650 points and \$45,811 to secure the 2016 WPRF Futurity World Title. WPRF photo by Peggy Gander

to Dash Ta Fame thinking she might make a barrel horse once her racing career was done."

After getting the call to come try her, Smith instantly liked the mare, calling her hot like a "typical Dash Ta Fame filly" but notes that she had a natural style, staying round in her turns without prompting. With impressive natural speed, as well as early training in running, Centerfold had more run than rate in the early going so Smith opted to wait until she turned five to hit the futurity trail.

Centerfold won the 1D in her first competition in December 2015 and placed in her first futurity that month as well. Smith set some lofty goals for the mare which included a World Futurity Championship in the WPRF, noting that foals raised via embryo transfer from the mare would be more valuable.

Smith is full of praise for the mare's focus and determination.

"She never looks around and it doesn't matter the conditions," says Smith, noting her first outdoor competition at the Colorado Classic futurity which she won.

"I train outside but she'd never run outside and she flat laid down a run on our second go round. She outran some wolfey horses, rodeo horses."

The Colorado Classic was one of several wins for Smith and Centerfold along with the UBRA Futurity in Utah and the Glacier Chaser Classic in Montana. The mare seemed to find the

pay window at every venue, something Smith attributes to her heart and effort.

"She tries so hard every time," continues Smith who is sponsored by Iconoclast, Three Forks Saddlery, Elliott Bits and Spurs, Seabuck, Wade Pads, Silver Bit Ranch and Rock N Roll Cowgirl. "She's easy to ride and hardly ever makes a mistake."

"She's tired after every single run," Smith adds. "She's pretty hot before but after she is like a plow horse. It's like she uses everything she has on every run."

"I really respect that about her."

Although they carried a commanding lead into the WPRF World Finals, Smith and Centerfold's quest for a WPRF championship hit a speed bump not long before the Finals kicked off in October when the mare came up sore from a suspected hot nail. Luckily, Smith was able to get her champion sound in time to compete in Waco.

During the opening go of the WPRF World Finals, the pair made a rare mistake: they caught the first barrel for a penalty, taking them out of the average.

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“It was my fault, I checked her and she rated,” says Smith. “She made a nice run on the second but didn’t cut off the clock like we needed to.”

Florida cowgirl Margo Crowther captured the average title at the Finals, also winning the card holders’ race aboard Shes Packin Fame. Crowther won second in both rounds to distance the field by two tenths and earn \$4,970.

In the end, the lead was insurmountable and Smith and Centerfold were named WPRCA Futurity World Champions after earning 660 points and \$45,811 in WPRCA sanctioned events. Her total points were doubled her closest competitor.

“I would like to thank all the producers that made all this happen,” notes Smith, who won a horse trailer for the Rodeo Rigs trifecta in September which was comprised of the Fizz Bomb, Parker-Wood Memorial and Copper Springs Ranch futurities, all WPRCA co-sanctioned events. “There’s so many great futurities out there. It makes it worth training futurity colts up here in the northwest.”

Mostly, Smith heaped praise upon her equine partner.

“She was fun to run this year,” says Smith, who made note of the many cool prizes the pair won during the season including a Tao Tao scooter, Circle Y saddle and a “pretty buckle” from a Montana Silversmiths just for winning the WPRCA World Championship.

“I was always smiling when I came out of the arena.”

Vondra Repeats in 2D

Three years ago, Colleen Vondra captured the WPRCA 2D Futurity title; the four-time Great Lakes Circuit Finalist had retired her main rodeo horse and gotten into the training side of the game.

Vondra was still on the futurity trail in 2016, running a four year old named Chainyoaks Flitfire, aka Bunny.

“I trained a full sister to this mare for a friend of mine and really liked her so when this horse came up for sale as a two year old, I bought her,” she says. “I wasn’t planning to run her this year but I had another horse that I was taking to the derbies so I decided to go ahead and enter her.”

Colleen Vondra collected her second 2D Futurity World Title this time aboard Chainyoaks Flitfire after collecting 135 points and \$1,081 for the year. WPRCA President Doreen Wintermute and Futurity/Derby Director Marlene McRae congratulated the champion. WPRCA photos by Dudley Barker (awards) and Peggy Gander (action)



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Bunny started the spring running three seconds off the pace but had closed that gap by the end of summer.

“I was questioning why I kept sending in the entry fees but by mid-summer she came into her own and has been running at the top of the 2D and bottom of the 1D, staying solid there,” notes the Union Grove, Wis., cowgirl.

Though her lead for the title was slim at the start of the World Finals, Vondra was able to secure her second 2D title, earning 160 points for the season.

“It’s definitely a nice incentive,” says Vondra of the WPRCA’s 2D division in the futurity. “They make it worthwhile to go to the events and it’s been an enjoyable way to season a horse.”

Roping a Derby Championship

California cowgirl Randee Hedrick spends most of her days chasing cows not barrels but she did manage to rope a WPRCA World Derby Championship. Hedrick runs a ranch on Avila Beach and spends a lot of time roping in World Series Team Roping (WSTR) events.

“I started riding at nine years old and did junior and high school rodeo but I quit running barrels after high school and spent most of my twenties team roping,” notes Hedrick. “When I got back into it, I bounced back and forth because I didn’t really have a horse who could take me to the winner’s circle.”

In 2016, Hedrick has found a horse to help her win at both her chosen disciplines in Colonel Cash Express. Hedrick bought the now six year old son of the First Down Dash stud First Down Express out of Colonels Lil Winner as a yearling through a horse sale.

“He had some race blood so we decided to see what would happen,” says Hedrick.

The colt spent time branding cattle and working as a ranch horse as Hedrick trained him for life inside the competitive arena. In his futurity season, Colonel won the WPRCA California Circuit Futurity title and finished in the top 20 of the WPRCA World Futurity standings.

The outstanding gelding also carried Hedrick to the WSTR Finals in Las Vegas that season, a feat the pair duplicated again in 2016.

“The first roping I took him to was at the start of his futurity season and I won the #10 and #11 on him that day,” she notes. “He is a super head horse, as good as he is a barrel horse. He likes cows.”

When Colonel’s derby year began in December 2015, Hedrick had no thought that she may finish as a WPRCA World Champ.

“I had no plans to go all over the countryside!” she laughs. “I took him to Chowchilla at the beginning of the year and my futurity horse won second. I decided to go, taking both horses on the road.”

Hedrick attended her first WPRCA World



California cowgirl Randee Hedrick won the 2016 WPRCA Derby World title aboard Colonels Cash Express, that also serves as her rope horse. Hedrick won the title after collecting 160 points. WPRCA photo by Peggy Gander

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Finals in October, clinching the WPRA Derby World Championship by just 10 points over Claire Roiland and MP Drift of Snow.

Kassie Mowry claimed the average win aboard her outstanding derby horse Firewatermakemehappy. Mowry was fourth in the first go and won the second go en route to earnings of \$4,849.

“I had to go a long ways from California [to win],” Hedrick laughed, adding that she met lots of nice people along the way.

As with the rest of the WPRA champions, Hedrick picked up a great awards package including the new Tao Tao scooter.

“I almost crashed the thing, getting it out of the trailer and trying to get it into the barn!” she says with a chuckle. “It was definitely worthwhile to go.”

Hedrick gave plenty of credit for her title to her fiancée—and roping partner—Frank Mello.

“He’s my rock and my support all year,” she notes while also thanking her mother, Jo Hedrick, and her entire family. “He kicked my butt to get me to go [to the events] and he helps me with the horses. We’re building them together.”

Colonel finished his season after the WPRA World title prepping for the huge



Randee Hedrick was congratulated in the winner's circle by WPRA President Doreen Wintermute and Futurity/Derby Director Marlene McRae. WPRA photo by Dudley Barker

WSTR Finals in Vegas and Hedrick notes that she is considering selling the gelding to the right home . . . meaning someone who wants to rope and run barrels and will give him a great home.

“He’s like my child but I really enjoy the futurities. It’s cool to start every year on a different horse; it’s a challenge to build these colts.”

WORLD CHAMPIONS

FUTURITY:

2016 – Sue Smith/Dash Centerfold
2015 – Tami Semas/Smooth N Famous
2014 – Cindy Baltezare/Famous Drifty Go
2013 – Lacey Kuschel/Western Goldmine
2012 – Sandra Hart/LM A Classy Design
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:

2016 – Randee Hedrick/Colonels Cash Express
2015 – Lynnzie Lindstrom & Vauna Walker/Dan I Am Famous
2014 – Fonda Galbreath/Frosted Cookies
2013 – Ashley Baur/Love Man’s Darling
2012 – Ashley Baur/Love Man’s Darling
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 WPRA history. Blonde curls bobbing, bat clinched firmly between her teeth, a barely teen-aged 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 WPRA followed suit and little girls no longer had a place in professional rodeo.

Beginning in 2007, the WPRA instituted the WPRA 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 WPRA Junior sanctioned races as well as co-sanctioned divisional races and rodeos to earn points for the WPRA World Finals. Juniors can only earn points in WPRA Junior Division races, in co-sanctioned rodeos, and in the 1D of co-sanctioned divisional races. Juniors do not compete against WPRA members for points are not eligible to enter WPRA events or rodeos.

Among the big name races co-sanctioned for the WPRA juniors is the world renowned Josey Junior World Championship barrel race. Hosted by legends RE and Martha Josey, the 1980 WPRA 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 WPRA.

Robinson Rakes in more than \$50,000 en route to Junior World Title

By Kristen M. White

Many Robinson set some lofty goals for herself this year. And she surpassed them.

Robinson is this year’s WPRA Junior World Champion barrel racer, and she claimed the title in spectacular fashion. She set out at the beginning of the year to win the title, and then decided she also wanted to hit the \$50,000 mark, which in turn would also help her surpass Jackie Ganter for the most money won in a season in the junior ranks.

Ganter earned \$27,024 in 2014, and Robinson eventually doubled that, earning \$55,816 by the end of the season. Missions accomplished.

“I worked hard for it all year,” the 16-year-

old Mars Hill, N.C., cowgirl said. “It was a lot of going. We were gone somewhere just about every weekend.”

Robinson said the Junior title is an award that’s been on her bucket list as something she always wanted to win. Knowing that part was doable, she added on the monetary goal as well.

Winning the title this year was really no contest, as second-place finisher Carly Taylor had \$24,082, and third place finisher Rylee Elliott totaled \$20,692.

“Really, this year was just good to me. I was lucky to not have any problems with my horses being sound,” Robinson said. “If one was having an off day, the other was usually

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in the money. They both worked really good all year long.”

Robinson said she realized how special her season might have been, having two powerful and healthy horses and the ability to race at a lot of rodeos throughout the season. She is home-schooled and travels around with her dad, Jeff, stock contractor and owner of Robinson Bucking Bulls.

She relies on two horses that are strutting their stuff – Perk (registered JM Alive N Perquix) and Kitty (registered Frosted Jet of Honor). Having more than one strong horse to pick from, and the ability to give each some time off, she said was very beneficial.

“Most of the places I’ve been to, I run them both, taking turns,” she said. “They’re pretty easy going – but they don’t like other horses at all. And if you tie them up next to each other, they’ll be kicking and biting each other. They’re crazy.”

Perhaps Kitty and Perk were jockeying to be the top horse for Robinson as she took her place in Junior WPRA history, but it’s clear they both have a headline in her story. Both horses qualified for the American this season, and just weeks apart.

Robinson adds Junior World Champ to her growing resume, which already touted a National Junior High Finals Rodeo barrel racing title and the youth title at the National Barrel Horse Association Dixie Nationals.



Laney Robinson set some lofty goals for herself in 2016 and thanks for some outstanding horses, she raced her way to her first WPRA World title in the Junior Division. WPRA photo by Peggy Gander

WPRA President Doreen Wintermute congratulates Laney Robinson on winning the 2016 WPRA Junior World Champion title. The 16-year old Mars Hill, N.C. cowgirl etched her name in the record books setting a new earnings record with \$55,816 on the season. WPRA photo by Dudley Barker



Although she didn’t try her hand in the National High School Rodeo Association this season, concentrating her efforts on traveling for the WPRA Junior competition, earlier this year she noted that she might still give it a shot at some point to try and claim a senior high level title too.

But after having the season she did in the WPRA Junior ranks, it’s easy to understand why she probably won’t be taking part in the NHSRA now. The call of the road, and good-paying rodeos, is just too much.

“I’m definitely going to keep doing the

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Junior WPRA. I’d like to win the title again, and even more money – that would be awesome!” Robinson said of breaking her own record.

Robinson will graduate from high school in 2018 and turn 18 that summer. She’s already got her plans made to wait for the new season to start that fall, fill her permit and then hit the road, perhaps looking for a rookie title to add to her list of accomplishments.

For now she’ll keep doing what she’s doing, riding hard at as many rodeos as she can and helping her dad. With lots of “big”

rodeos on the horizon she continues to gain experience under her belt. She’ll be at the Junior NFR barrel racing, the World Barrel Racing League finals, and she recently competed at the WPRA World Finals.

There at the Finals, Dally Parker of Pilot Point, Texas, captured the two-run average victory there in 30.533 seconds. She did it by putting together two top runs, first a 15.227-second run to win the first round, followed by a 15.306-second time in the second round, good for third place. She edged Karsyn Daniels, who finished the average in 30.671 seconds, for the title.

WORLD CHAMPIONS

- 2016 – Laney Robinson, Mars Hill, N.C
- 2015 – Merrill Mundy, Parrish, Fla.
- 2014 – Jackie Ganter, Abilene, Texas
- 2013 – Kylar Terlip, Frontenac, Kan.
- 2012 – Brookelyn Owens, Muldrow, Okla.
- 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

2016 WPRA FUTURITY/DERBY POINTS

Official standings as of Oct. 24, 2016

FUTURITY

	NAME	HORSE	POINTS	MONEY
1.	Susan Smith	Dashes Centerfold	650	\$45,811
2.	Kassie Green	Lenas Famous Blondie	325	\$7,121
3.	Nicole Ratkowski	SR Moonlites On Fire	320	\$4,728
4.	Taylor Miniatt	Shake Ems Hayday	315	\$16,709
5.	Donna Kalish	Nicks Special K	225	\$2,276
6.	Lacey Harmon	Guys Fame N Fortune	220	\$7,572
7.	Wendy Platts	JW Frenchmanicure	155	\$9,368
8.	Kayla Jones	Sadies Sassafras	150	\$1,433
9.	Randee Hedrick	Nics Shinig Plan	135	\$3,440
10.	Stacy Nelson	TS Broke but Famous	135	\$2,047
11.	MacKenzie Weber	First Smart Call	125	\$1,210
12.	Kathy Rush	Sadies Barbed YR	125	\$236
13.	Sue Ellen Laursen	Cashs Society Pearls	110	\$2,198
14.	Lacy Dunsmore	Agoin Frenchman	105	\$1,029
15.	Erin Ricotti-Hice	HG Buckshot Bill	95	\$0

2D FUTURITY

	NAME	HORSE	POINTS	MONEY
1.	Colleen Vondra	Chainy Oaks Flitfire	135	\$1,081
2.	Beth Leabo	Frost On My Fanny	107.5	\$657
3.	Christina Richman	JL Red Gypsy	85	\$1,293
4.	Kassie Green	Perks Got Lucky	80	\$837
5.	Kelly Neisius	Holy Famous Pie	70	\$569
6.	Toni Horkley	Crowns Royal Streakin	60	\$911
7.	Patricia Little Soldier	Buggin Perky	55	\$790
8.	Theresa Navrkal	Bid For Zahara	55	\$369
9.	Rylea Platts	JW Guys Ta Fame	52.5	\$373
10.	Mary Jo Camera	Night Out Willy	50	\$1,519
11.	Hilary Van Gerpen	Fancy Perks Alive	50	\$690
12.	Sharin Hall	Sun Fun N Fame	50	\$500
13.	Lacy Dunsmore	Agoin Frenchman	45	\$202
14.	Toni Horkley	Ima Easy Dun It	45	\$0
15.	Patricia Raine	DW Nics Little Joe	40	\$147
16.	Erin Ricotti-Hice	HG Mamas Boy	40	\$75

2016 WPRA FUTURITY/DERBY POINTS

DERBY

	NAME	HORSE	POINTS	MONEY
1.	Randee Hedrick	Colonels Cash Express	160	\$1,260
2.	Claire Roiland	MP Drift Of Snow	150	\$1,492
3.	Patricia Little Soldier	JRS On The Money	120	\$0
4.	Mackenzie Weber	Sadies Kami	115	\$2,222
5.	Patti Hovland	Nicksdashingdiamond	100	\$900
6.	Sandra Highland	Imma Be Famous	100	\$153
7.	Fonda Galbreath	Spotlite Ta Fame	95	\$428
8.	Amber West	All Warm N Fuzzy	85	\$268
9.	Lindsay Kruse	Ninnekahs Guy	75	\$2,844
10.	Patti Hovland	Sheza Famous Bugs	65	\$1,441
11.	Buffy Walchli	JL Staccato	60	\$3,559
12.	Ashley Worth	Be Assured Im Famous	60	\$472
13.	Stacy Nelson	TS Hussel Up	60	\$60
14.	Patricia Little Soldier	Famous Boston Party	55	\$0
15.	Lacey Lockard	Shameless Fame	50	\$1,353
16.	Colleen Vondra	Ante Up Some Cash	50	\$138

2016 FINAL WPRA JUNIOR STANDINGS

Official Standin gs as of October 24, 2016

1.	Laney Robinson	Mars Hills, N.C.	\$55,816
2.	Carly Taylor	Clinton, Tenn.	\$24,082
3.	Rylee Elliott	Williston, Fla.	\$20,692
4.	Karsyn Daniels	McKinney, Texas	\$17,312
5.	Caitlyn Wood	Cotati, Calif.	\$10,523
6.	Casey Mathis	Hollister, Calif.	\$9,799
7.	Patton Ann Lynch	Crawford, Texas	\$9,336
8.	Merrill Mundy	Parrish, Fla.	\$9,070
9.	Dally Parker	Collinsville, Texas	\$8,050
10.	Ellie Johanson	St. Michael, Minn.	\$7,808
11.	Georgia Mott	Okeechobee, Fla.	\$7,388
12.	Kylar Terlip	Frontenac, Kan.	\$7,332
13.	Sabra Moore	Mt. Villa, N.C.	\$7,225
14.	Emilee Jackson	High Springs, Fla.	\$6,561
15.	Madilyn Todd	Willcox, Ariz.	\$6,556