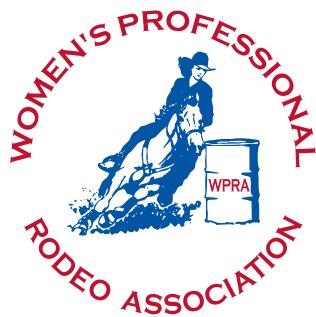


2013 FUTURITY/DERBY AND JUNIOR DIVISION



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Futurity/Derby Program

The WPRA 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 nabs second straight futurity championship

By Julie Mankin

One trainer managed almost a clean sweep of WPRA world championships in aged events this season. In fact, only 5 measly points separated Sandra Hart from claiming bragging rights in both the futurity and derby divisions.

Winning her second straight futurity world championship was big kudos for the South Dakota trainer. She earned 123 points this season on a 5-year-old bay mare named LM A Classy Design.

"Classy" was bred by J.R. and Lauren Magdeburg Performance Horses and is owned now by Hot Diamond Performance Horses, or Branden and Delaina Sievers of Rutland, S.D. The mare really stretches her nose out and pulls with her front end, hustling the entire way.

"She has a neat style of turning; she literally peels the paint off the barrels," said Hart. "And she runs more on top of the ground."

When Hart first saw Classy in July of her 4-year-old year, she'd had 30 days riding and was so tiny and scrawny that Hart figured she'd be lucky to place in some 2D

divisions at futurities.

"I guess she showed us," laughed Hart. "She's a neat, neat mare."

Aside from some trouble trusting her rider on the approach to first (a right-eye injury affected her vision), Classy was immediately a diamond in the rough. She's by Designer Red – the 2002 AQHA world champion in senior barrel racing who was sold four years ago by Victory Farms to a breeder in Brazil. Incidentally, Designer Red's full brother was Speed Money, on whom Sharon (Smith) Davis earned more than \$700,000 before he was injured at his third NFR and euthanized.

Their sire is On The Money Red (speed index 103), a former Florida racehorse that, according to EquiStat, was the nation's leading sire of money-earning barrel horses six different times between 1991 and 2002. And they're out of Pin A Rose On Me – a mare that carries the lines of the thoroughbred Jetalong and of Vandy, and on the bottom carries Joe Reed and Oklahoma Star.

Classy's bottom side is interesting – she's out of a mare named Blues Doc Annie, whose sire, Joanna's Prince, goes back to Doc Clabber, King and twice to Hollywood Buck (Hollywood Gold crossed on a Joe Hancock mare).

Classy is back with the Sievers family this winter. They've purchased a breeding for her by Dash Ta Fame and hope to raise a baby this spring and perhaps run Classy at the derbies in 2014.

As for Hart, she had never ridden a

Futurity/Derby Program

Designer Red baby, but she's obviously fond of his sire, On The Money Red. Watch for her to attempt a three-peat WPRA Futurity World Championship in 2013 on a 5-year-old daughter of Firewater Finale out of an On The Money Red mare – or maybe on her other 5-year-old filly by Redlight Greenlight (On The Money Red crossed on a Firewater Flit daughter).

"I prefer mares," said Hart. "They're a little grittier. The geldings that I've ridden in the past may have been the same every day, but they didn't have that heart and that try."

Hart lives and trains in Centerville, which is in the eastern part of the state between Sioux Falls and Yankton. In the winter, she bundles up and rides as much as possible to keep her horses legged up. Luckily, she said there are several indoor barns within a two-

hour drive that give her somewhere to take colts a couple of times a month.

"Up north, it's really hard to get 4-year-olds ready," she said. "Plus, a lot of the colts I'm running against are 5, so why not take use that extra year?"

Hart is the mother of two grown children. Her daughter, Katie, is a nurse who will make Sandy a grandmother in February, and her son, Sid, is a kicker for Southwest Minnesota State University's football team. Plus, he starts all Sandy's colts on his downtime.

Twenty years ago, when Hart decided to try training horses, she went to a couple of clinics by Jimmie Munroe, whom she says pointed her in the right direction.

"I finished that first horse and sold him and I was hooked," she said. "It's been fun."



Sandra Hart collects her second consecutive WPRA Futurity world title, this time aboard a 5-year old bay mare named LM A Classy Design. WPRA photo by Kenneth Springer

Futurity/Derby Program

Hart had won the 2011 WPRA futurity world championship aboard a big sorrel mare named Hart Ta Fame (“Fergie”) – and was reserve derby world champion this year on the same mare.

Fergie is by the Dash Ta Fame son Holy Bart (an On A High grandson) and out of Skippa Rudy Ashley. The broodmare sire is triple-bred Skipper W with a little thoroughbred mixed in, and on the bottom, is out of an own granddaughter of Three Bars that’s also Midnight, Joe Hancock, King and Flit-bred. Skipper W bloodlines were pioneered for excellence in conformation and ability; the horses are known for being heavily muscled and easygoing.

“I’ve turned Fergie out for a while, but I’ll take her to the derbies again in 2013,” said Hart. “She’s still eligible and I’ll be there with futurity colts, anyway. I really want to get her used to rodeo ground and be able to make our circuit finals on her.”

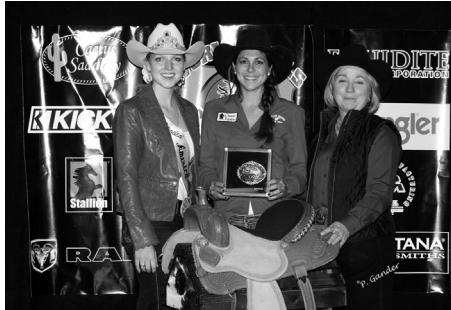
Hart rides from four to eight horses a day and attends mostly futurities in Minnesota.

“I follow those WPRA events; their year-end awards are wonderful,” said Hart. “I got a beautiful buckle for reserve derby champion and a really nice vest, and in the futurity a saddle and saddle stand with hair-on hide, plus a jacket and halter with a tooled-leather noseband; new boots; new jeans; supplements and a bunch more. They did a heck of a job on prize packages.

“I have a lot of fun going to their futurities and I love the system; it works for me. I’m glad they got that futurity and derby system implemented so we can showcase those young horses a little,” added Hart, who can be reached via her Facebook page.

In 2012, Wisconsin’s Lynette Beckman took home championship honors in the 2D aboard 5-year-old Fame Ta Burn, by Bobbiesdashtafame and out of the Bold Episode daughter Bold Coed.

And the average winner of the futurity at the World Finals was Hallie Melvin aboard French StreakoVegas on two runs,



Although the Wisconsin cowgirl Ashley Baur didn’t get to compete on Love Man’s Darling at the WPRA World Finals, the duo had done enough during the season to give Baur, her first WPRA Derby World Title. Photo by Peggy Gander

with Latricia Duke taking second and third aboard LK Watch Me Rock and Bobbie Gene, respectively.

Baur and her Darling win Derby title

Wisconsin cowgirl Ashley Baur unfortunately had to sit out the WPRA World Finals after her cow-bred granddaughter of Hollywood Dun It suffered what looked like a career-ending affliction. But the duo had done so well prior to the Finals that they hung on to win the world championship with 54 total points.

Baur, just 23, had only gotten into riding at about 12 and barrel racing at 16. She’d always wanted a horse, and began with trail riding before advancing to gymkhana. She moved out to Colorado a few years ago to work for some reining cow-horse trainers, and that’s where she found Love Man’s Darling, now 6.

“She was one of the horses I was assigned to ride every day, and I didn’t like her,” said Baur. “She was a spitfire; we didn’t get along because she always had to have everything her way. When they were about to haul her to a sale, I tried her on the barrels and ended up buying her from Julie Scott on a whim.”

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Darling is extremely thick but barely 14-2 hands tall and runs a little downhill – not so perfect for judged events.

“She was snappy and had a real natural movement about her,” said Bauer. “She just has a natural snap to how she does everything.”

In late July, Baur noticed she was having trouble moving and thought she was tying up. It took a second veterinarian a week to finally find a deep abscess in her shoulder. It’s assumed that a bad vaccine injection led to the infection, but the cause may never be known for sure. In August, they cut Darling’s shoulder open and after a rocky stretch of time, she made it through – but then was diagnosed with permanent laminitis.

Baur, however, proved that diagnosis wrong and the mare had recovered by November. She’d been under the care of Baur’s friend Lauren Schild while Baur attends college to become a dental hygienist.

Putting Darling and barrel racing on the backburner hasn’t been easy, but Baur’s determined to keep her priorities “somewhat straight.” And when Schild’s horse went down with a broken ankle, she stepped on Darling at the Great Lakes Circuit Finals Rodeo with Baur’s blessing.

“A lot of it truly comes down to her heart and how much she wants to compete,” said Bauer of Darling. “She’s always eager to go in the gate; you can’t even hold her back. She wants to win just as much as you do. She’s really fast for as small as she is, and

she’s thick so she’s got a lot of power.”

Ironically, both the futurity and derby world champions this season have Hollywood Gold breeding.

Darling is by The Love Man – an own grandson of Freckles Playboy (crossed on a Doc O’Lena mare) and Doc Quixote (crossed on a Triple Chick granddaughter). On the bottom, he’s out of a daughter of Doc O’Lena crossed on a Gay Bar King granddaughter.

And the scrappy little Darling is out of Darlin Dun It, by Hollywood Dun It and out of a granddaughter of Colonel Freckles that also goes back to Boon Bar. Doc Bar is on the papers of this 6-year-old mare no less than five times, and she also has a healthy dose of Sugar Bars crossed on a Leo daughter further back.

“I’m definitely going to do more WPRA futurities and derbies as I keep rolling with barrel racing,” said Baur. “It’s a good target program; they’re close enough to home that they’re worth my time. They’re just a fun way to make yourself excel and work at it.”

Baur has seen videos of Darling’s full brother, a cutting horse that she says moves just like Darling, and that means she’ll look for more babies by The Love Man and perhaps with Hollywood Dun It breeding, she said.

The average winner in the two-run Derby at the World Finals was Texas’ Ryan Pedone on Kiss This Guy, followed by Wyoming’s Lonnie Farella on Miss N Chablis.

Champions

Futurity:

- 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/MNM’s Vanilla Sky
- 2006 – Kay Blandford/Talents Dark Angel

Derby:

- 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 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 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.

Owens wins Junior world title, Witt captures average title

By Kristen M. White

Brookelyn Owens set out to win the Junior World Championship this season, and at age 12, she's done just that. In just her second season in the WPRA Junior ranks, she took home the coveted title and is excited for what is to come.

"Winning the junior title is a great accomplishment," Owens said. "It feels really great, especially because it's my first big title. It's neat for me, a great experience."

Owens finished out the year with \$16,261, putting her at the top of the heap. Kylar

Terlip, who won the Junior World Title and the average at the WPRA World Finals last year, was second with \$7,011, and Channing Witta finished third with \$5,338.

Owens had a couple of great weekends, back-to-back, that helped set up her successful year and got her really excited. First, it was at the Lucky Dog Race at Texarkana, Ark., in April.

"My horse, Kans of Firewater (Molly), ran the fastest time of the weekend, and she was also the average champion and we had the youth high money. It was great!" Owens said.

The following weekend, the duo went to Hutchison, Kan., where they won the average and had the high money again.

"I just tried to do my hardest, honestly," Owens said simply. "If I worry too much about it, I get really nervous and then I don't do well."

Although she's just 12, she's already quite wise about rodeo. She said she's learned a lot in her two seasons so far — mainly, to

Junior Division



Brookelyn Owens, 12, set out to win the 2012 WPRA Junior World Title and she did just that. Owens, of Muldrow, Okla., won her first big title after winning a \$16,261 on the season. Her next closest competitor was 2011 Junior World Champion Kylar Terlip with \$7,011. WPRA photo by Peggy Gander

have fun.

"I learned to keep my head up, and whatever goes wrong, it goes wrong," she explained. "You mainly just have to have fun. If you don't have fun, then you won't do well."

Owens did the bulk of her winning on Molly, but has a couple of other back-up horses including one she bought mid-year and is just starting to work with. For now, Molly is getting a good rest before the next season begins.

When it does, Owens said she'd love to repeat as Junior World Champion, but also has other goals in mind.

"I want to hit a lot of IPRA rodeos to start getting me ready for the big ones when I turn 18 so I can go to the National Finals Rodeo," she said. "I want to make sure my horses can handle the atmosphere."

Owens, who got hooked on the sport after watching her aunt and cousin when she was just six, is obviously thinking ahead. She said she knows she has to keep her horses healthy to continue her success in future seasons.

The Muldrow, Okla., girl attends Liberty Online Christian Academy, so she's able to do schoolwork and spend time with her horses each day, which she definitely appreciates. And she's learning how to juggle responsibilities, a trick that will no doubt come in handy in future years as she hits the road more and more.

Another young cowgirl, Bailey Witt of Valentine, Neb., also has much to celebrate after winning the two-run average in the Junior competition at the WPRA World Championships.

Witt won the average with a time of 32.50

Junior Division

seconds on two runs. She ran a 16.35-second run, then shaved off a chunk of time to put up a 16.15-second run the second time around.

"I think I just had two really nice runs, and really put it together that weekend," said Witt.

She's been competing in the Junior ranks for just about a year, and said she'd set the goal of "doing really well" at the championships in Lincoln, so she was excited to have attained that goal.

Witt has been competing in Little Britches Rodeo for three years, and just started Junior High Rodeo, so she has a lot of competitive experience under her belt. Still, performing

at the WPRA Junior Championships was different and exciting.

"It's a little nerve racking," she said. "I don't want to mess up in front of a lot of people! So when I looked at the times and my Mom told me I'd won, I was really excited."

The victory was a nice early birthday present for Witt, who turned 12 on Nov. 6.

With the win on her resume, she said she's hoping the next big thing will be to make the National Finals in the Junior High ranks. She's unsure yet what next year's season will bring for WPRA, since rodeos aren't always close to her home.

For now, both 12-year-olds are enjoying their victories and looking forward to more

World Champions

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