

# 2016 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.

## Semas Secures Futurity title, Lindstrom Finishes on top in Derby Division

by Jolee Lautaret-Jordan

It's been a very busy year for trainer Tami Semas. She and her family moved from their long time home in Oregon to central Texas and she enjoyed a boom in her new saddle business, marketing a saddle she designed and Jeff Smith Cowboy Collections built.

Semas was also just a little busy winning in the arena. In fact, she campaigned three horses at the futurities and derbies in 2015, taking home the WPRF World Championship in the futurity division as well as Reserve Champ honors in both the futurity and derby.

"It went by so fast," laughs Semas. "December 1st hits and the season gets started [for futurity horses] so we are nearly a year into it. I'm still just trying to soak it all in."

Smooth N Famous is a four year old son of A Smooth Guy and out of FC Peachfuzz Ta Fame by Dash Ta Fame. Perkins, as he is known around the barn, is double bred Frenchmans Guy; both his sire and



Tami Semas needed almost needed another trailer to take home all her championship hardware from the WPRF World Finals. Semas captured the world and reserve titles in the WPRF Futurity Division and was reserve in the Derby Division. WPRF photos by Peggy Gander



maternal granddam are get of the famous producer and member of the WPRF's Pro Elite Sire Incentive (PESI) program.

Semas bought the colt from the Myers Production Sale as a two-year old. She

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almost didn't make the trip that year, still reeling from the loss of another talented prospect in a freak accident and considering just going to rodeos. Her friends, Bill and Deb Myers who own Frenchmans Guy and A Smooth Guy, talked her into returning.

Now just two years removed from thinking about quitting young horses, Semas has added some impressive hardware to her resume.

"I feel so blessed and honored that all three of my horses are able to do that," she says. "It's a huge honor."

Semas and Perkins took the early lead for the WPRF's futurity title and never relented. His closest competition throughout the season was stablemate Guys Amberetto, aka Amber.

"Absolutely," Semas replies when asked if winning a WPRF World title was on her mind. "I thought, 'he can do this.' He is such a consistent horse so I kept it in my mind."

Perkins led the standings entering the WPRF World Finals in Waco, Texas October 22-25; as it was all season, his closest competitor was still Amber.

The winning continued in Waco.

"We were early in the draw in the first go and he handled everything really well," says Semas. Her 15.29 second run took third.

Perkins came back with another consistent effort, running a 15.32 in round two for fifth. Her total of 30.61 landed third in the average and her total earnings for the event were \$3,925.

Perkins claimed the WPRF World title with 465 points, 175 better than Amber, who finished 8th in the average in Waco. The gelding earned \$28,386 in WPRF approved events and has lifetime earnings of more than \$85,000.

"It's a cool honor to have on his resume," says Semas, not ruling out a run at the

WPRF Derby title in 2016. "I want to say thanks to the WPRF for giving such nice awards. There was a gift certificate toward a saddle, a beautiful buckle and lots of nice things that you'll use."

"He tries so hard every time I run him," says Semas, whose sponsors include Jeff Smith Cowboy Collections and 5 Star Equine Products. "He always finds a way to handle different situations."

He has maintained the same level all year long. I know when I go down that alley, I have a shot to win no matter the conditions."

Semas offered thanks to her family, husband Aaron and kids, Miles and Madi.

"It's their support that has put me into the position to be able to fulfill these goals."

With her new saddle business and the move, Semas is light on 2016 futurity colts and is eyeing a rodeo career for Perkins.

"I'm excited about the next phase," she says, noting that Perkins will compete in the JB Quarter Horses Futurity as well as the BFA World Championships in Oklahoma City to finish his futurity year. "He's gutsy and gritty. He's probably the first one I've had that mentally could handle things so easily."

## Duquette captures Futurity 2D Title

Dana Point, California's Jan Duquette is no stranger to winning titles in the WPRF's Futurity program. In 2009 she claimed a World title with her good horse Magico Fire Water.

Duquette returned in 2015 with Look Whose Firen Now, taking another title, this time the Futurity program's 2D year end title. The son of PESI stallion Alive N Firen out of Classy Nita earned 120 points in WPRF sanctioned events en route to the title.

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Jan Duquette captured the WPRF Futurity 2D world title after collecting 120 points and \$2,821 in earnings aboard Look Whose Fire Now. WPRF photo by Peggy Gander

### Lindstrom adds Derby World Title to Resume

Lynnzie Lindstrom grew up in the same part of eastern Idaho as well-known trainer Vauna Walker. Coming from a rodeo family (her dad Lynn Smith is a pro rodeo judge), Lindstrom admired the horses Walker churned out each year but was busy with school. She became a nurse and later married Matt Lindstrom, a professional baseball player, beginning the busy life of being married to a professional athlete.

Lindstrom craved getting back to barrel racing and began to build her herd of talented young horses. Eventually, she got one of Walker's into her trailer.

His registered name is Dan I Am Famous, a moniker he is certainly living up to, but he could just as easily have been called Dan I Am Fun. At least that's the word that both of his jockeys used to describe the five year old son of Dash Ta Fame out of Indebtedmiss.

"He's a fun horse; I love him," says Lindstrom.

"He's been a really fun horse. I was privileged to have him," notes Walker.

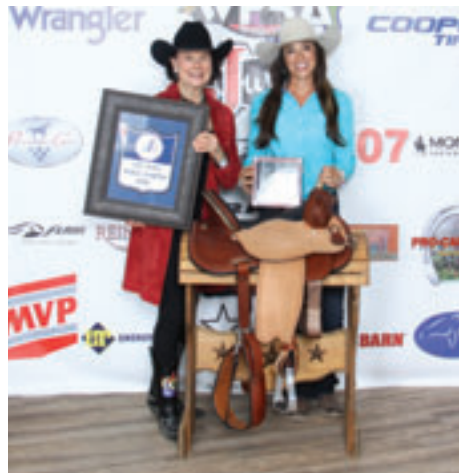
Dan was raised by Walker's mother-in-law Ruby. Cody Hyde started the gelding before Walker took the reins to train him to be a barrel horse at two years old. She campaigned the gelding in the futurities in 2014 and began a run at a WPRF Derby World Championship in 2015.

"I just had to show him what I wanted," says Walker of training the gelding. "He makes you feel like a really smart trainer. I have just been blessed with these horses."

Walker earned WPRF Derby points



Lynnzie Lindstrom jockeyed Dan I Am Famous to the 2015 WPRF Derby world title in Waco. Vauna Walker trained and started the gelding and turned over the reins to Lindstrom in mid-September so the title is a shared one. The talented gelding earned 182.5 points and \$3,648 in earnings during his 2015 WPRF Derby year. WPRF photos by Peggy Gander



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at the Greg Olson Memorial in Buckeye, Ariz., in January and placed at both the Sand Cup Derby and Barrel Daze in April in Washington. Dan continued to place steadily through the season, earning a win at the Barrel of Gold Derby in Silesia, Mont.

Then the reins on the talented gelding passed over to Lindstrom who made her debut on Dan at the Parker-Wood Memorial Derby in Heber City in mid-September.

"That was our second run together and we won third," says Lindstrom. "I didn't think I could get him; I'm so glad that Ruby and Vauna let me buy him."

Noting that she'd known Walker "forever," Lindstrom says that Walker does such a good job training her horses that it was easy to get on behind her and make good runs.

"He's pretty cool."

"It was exciting," says Walker of watching Lindstrom and Dan in Heber City. "She made it fun to watch."

"I love the way she deals with him," continues Walker. "He can get nervous and she cares for him. She gets and understands him and gets more run out of him."

That nervousness came out at the WPRF World Finals during Lindstrom's opening run in the Derby.

"It was still just about our fifth and sixth runs together," she notes. "Our first run was not as pretty. I was at the end, after a big drag, and everyone had left. I didn't bring a buddy up there for him. He got really strong and I didn't know if he was going to get over for the second barrel."

Dan would place seventh in that round with his run of 15.47 seconds. Lindstrom came prepared for round two.

"I brought a buddy the next run and he was so laid back, like it was no big thing,"

she laughs. "I was thinking, 'oh my gosh, will he fire?'"

The answer came swiftly when the scoreboard lit up with a 15.29 second run. The time was good enough for second in the round.

Dan had come to Waco ranked fourth in the WPRF Derby World standings and a World title was not on Lindstrom's mind.

"I took care of my horses and went and ate," she admits, laughing. "I didn't pay attention to the results so I had no idea until I walked back up there later."

Her two-run time of 30.76 seconds edged out UX Flit N Fabulous and Shelby Vinson by just four one-hundredths of a second for the average win.

Even more exciting, Dan earned enough points to jump from fourth to first in the Derby World standings. He claimed the title with a total of 182.5 points, 37.5 points ahead of Semas' Ninnakahs Guy.

"Vauna cried," says Lindstrom of the call to Walker. "We are good friends so it was so neat to do good on him."

"I just have to hold on and stay out of his way," says Lindstrom, who is hoping to hit more rodeos next year, although scheduling is tough with her husband's baseball career.

Lindstrom notes that she has a "good little support system" to help with her horses when she is gone on the baseball trail. In addition to help from her aunt Sue Smith, Craig Stritzke keeps her horses legged up so Lindstrom can fly back and forth between her current home and her home in Idaho.

With Dan and her nice futurity horse, Lindstrom is looking forward to the coming season.

"I have two that are fun and easy, ones that I really enjoy."

## WORLD CHAMPIONS

### FUTURITY:

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:

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.

## Mundy Makes Her Mark in WPRA, Wins 2015 Junior World Title

By *Kristen M. White*

Merrill Mundy gave herself a pretty great gift for her 13<sup>th</sup> birthday – the WPRA Junior World Championship title. The WPRA World Finals were held Oct. 22-25 in Waco, Texas, and then three days later Mundy celebrated her 13<sup>th</sup> birthday in great fashion.

Even now, the fact that she's won the ultimate Junior title is still sinking in.

"I almost didn't believe it at first. It was crazy!" she said. "I knew I was on the right horse, and have the right parents to be able to haul me around, but when I found out (I'd won) ... it was great."

Mundy was leading the standings prior to the WPRA World Finals, but she didn't have the deal sealed completely. Ahead by a couple of thousand dollars, Mundy said she was fully aware that girls behind her were still within striking distance of the title.



*Merrill Mundy gave herself a pretty memorable gift for her 13<sup>th</sup> birthday in the form of a WPRA World Title.*

"It was stressful going in, knowing that I was that close, but the girls behind me were so close," she said. "I knew if I placed in a round or two I should be okay."

So that was Mundy's goal. Her horse,

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Smoke More Money or “Silly” as she’s nicknamed, isn’t a huge fan of traveling long distances. So coming from Parrish, Fla., Mundy said she simply wanted to get out there and make good, clean runs that would place her in one round or more.

Mundy and Silly were fifth in the first round in a time of 15.54 seconds, a round won by Jaycie Cundall in 15.39 seconds. Mundy placed again in the second round, finishing fourth that time in a time of 15.34 seconds behind winner Dally Parker’s 15.14-second run. Combined, the nearly \$720 she won for those rounds was enough to cement her first place standing and bring home the title.

“Winning this feels really good, and I never knew I would be here,” she said. “There was no way I thought I’d get out of 3D and into 2D. I was bouncing off the walls when I got a 2D check – it’s crazy to think where I was just a couple of years ago.”

In the end, Mundy topped the standings with \$20,513 won at 25 rodeos. Behind her in the reserve champion spot was Karsyn Daniels with \$17,999 at 22 rodeos. Daniels captured the average title in Waco with a two run time of 30.62 seconds.

Reserve champion is a spot Mundy knows well – she was the 2014 runner up – and it helped fuel her for this year.

“I had a couple of goals this year. Last year I made \$18,000 in the standings and I wanted to hit \$20,000 this year,” Mundy said. “Plus I wanted to be the world champion since I was reserve champ.”



*Mundy captured the 2015 WPRA Junior World title after earning an astonishing \$20,513. WPRA photos by Peggy Gander*

Mundy said being the reserve champion last year, particularly behind 2014 Junior World Champion Jackie Ganter, lit a fire under her. This year, Ganter secured herself a spot at the Wrangler National Finals Rodeo, so to be in step with a now NFR-contender was great.

“Knowing that she was older than me and seeing her go to the NFR ... I knew I was right there behind her and now she’s in the NFR!” Mundy said. “If I was running with her, then wow.”

The problem for Mundy now – if you can call it a problem – is that at just 13, she’s got a few years before she can buy her WPRA card and join the pros. In the meantime,

she’s got school and future years of Junior rodeo to complete.

A couple of years ago, Mundy started homeschooling because missing days to travel to rodeos was becoming difficult in the traditional school setting. Now a student of Florida Virtual School, she can do all her schooling online no matter where she is.

Mundy’s parents are there supporting her every step of the way, making sure they’re there to support her two older brothers (15 and 17) as well. Her family plans out travel accordingly, also picking and choosing the rodeos she attends to maximize her efforts.

“We go to the places that have the added money, because I don’t want to run the wheels off of her,” Mundy said of her horse. “She’s the only one I have that runs and wins competitively, so I can’t run her heart out.”

Mundy and Silly have “grown up” togeth-

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er. Her family bought Silly five years ago, at a time that Mundy was considering quitting barrel racing.

“The horse I had got mad when I asked for more speed, gave me attitude,” she said. “After we bought (Silly), we both grew and got better and then two years later we started winning, and now we’re here!”

The future is a broad horizon for the

middle schooler, who says ultimate goals include making the American and eventually the NFR. For now, she can consider defending her Junior World Champ title next season.

“It would be crazy to win it again!” Mundy said. “I probably wouldn’t believe it.”

## WORLD CHAMPIONS

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

## 2015 WPRA FUTURITY/DERBY POINTS

Final standings as of Oct. 25, 2015

### FUTURITY

	NAME	HORSE	POINTS	MONEY
1.	Tami Semas	Smooth N Famous	465	\$28,386
2.	Tami Semas	Guys Amberetto	290	\$12,459
3.	Patti Hovland	Nicksdashingdiamond	250	\$3,631
4.	Jordan Bassett	Buggin To Be Fab	245	\$22,447
5.	Kathy Grimes	KG Blazin Nine Oh	230	\$14,972
6.	Molly Otto	SFW Wonder Woman	230	\$5,468
7.	Sharin Hall	Bulleva	170	\$16,466
8.	Stacy Nelson	TS Hussel Up	170	\$2,431
9.	Patti Hovland	Sheza Famous Bugs	165	\$2,657
10.	Kelly Bruner	No Miss Taken	140	\$6,553
11.	Lynnzie Lindstrom	Chasin Kars	140	\$5,540
12.	Nichole Mulligan	So Streakin Famous	130	\$12,910
13.	Buffy Walchli	JL Mark This Page	130	\$449
14.	LaTricia Duke	My Lady Bug Leo	127.5	\$6,619
15.	Vauna Walker	DTF Smoken Snapper	125	\$566

### 2D FUTURITY

	NAME	HORSE	POINTS	MONEY
1.	Jan Duquette	Look Whose Firen Now	120	\$2,821
2.	Patti Hovland	Nicksdashingdiamond	72.5	\$1,251
3.	Colleen Vondra	Ante Up Some Cash	70	\$622
4.	Vauna Walker	Nu Gold N Roper	70	\$0
5.	Buffy Walchli	JL Mark This Page	65	\$3,187
6.	Viki Friedrich	Take Em Down	60	\$192
7.	Vauna Walker	DTF Smoken Snapper	55	\$774
8.	Juli Miller	Hay Hay Ima Monkey	52.5	\$1,254
9.	LaTricia Duke	SR Packin Epic Gold	50	\$1,664
10.	Kari DeMarais	I Got Torque	50	\$0
11.	Brittney Barnett	The Best Idea	45	\$682
12.	Lacy Dunsmore	Watch Streak Go	45	\$519
13.	Kayla Ingram	Get On It	40	\$729
14.	Catherine Medlock	Eye N Easy	40	\$556
15.	Melissa Taylor	Oh No Shes Gone	35	\$1,154
16.	Kelsey Mackay	GEH Eye Talk The Bet	35	\$834
17.	Tonya Williams	Dr. Nick Bars Treasure	35	\$74
18.	Jennifer Sharp	Calfee Stormy Dash	35	\$0
19.	Kelly Neisius	PT Lil French Kiss	35	\$0

## 2015 WPRA FUTURITY/DERBY POINTS

### DERBY

	NAME	HORSE	POINTS	MONEY
1.	Lynnzie Lindstrom/ Vauna Walker	Dan I Am Famous	182.5	\$3,648
2.	Tami Semas	Ninnekahs Guy	145	\$5,144
3.	Kimberly Sanford	Fantastic News	140	\$1,952
4.	Amberleigh Moore	CP Dark Moon	110	\$3,182
5.	Billie Ann Harmon	Reign Girl	100	\$1,201
6.	Molly Otto	Carmans Fantasy	85	\$2,306
7.	Jan Duquette	Smart N Classy Reba	70	\$0
8.	Kelly Bruner	Fabulous Zone	60	\$3,585
9.	Kelly Bruner	Suzytreseis	55	\$8,584
10.	Heather Dunning	Savannahs Rosebud	55	\$1,563
11.	Janci Hannen	Streakin Tom Cat	55	\$1,312
12.	Cheri Graves	Too Smart To Shine	55	\$604
13.	Kathy Grimes	KG Katy Bar The Door	55	\$586
14.	Gayle White	Whatta Perks Angel	55	\$457
15.	LaTricia Duke	Happy To Run Em	47.5	\$6,221

## 2015 FINAL WPRA JUNIOR STANDINGS

Final Standings as of Oct. 25, 2015

1.	Merrill Mundy	Parrish, Fla.	\$20,513
2.	Karsyn Daniels	McKinney, Texas	\$17,999
3.	Laney Robinson	Mars Hills, N.C.	\$12,105
4.	Rylee Butler	Arcadia, Fla.	\$9,936
5.	Rylee Elliott	Williston, Fla.	\$9,272
6.	Dally Parker	Collinsville, Texas	\$7,307
7.	Mollie Brantley	Oconee, Ga.	\$6,535
8.	Elissa Johanson	St. Michael, Minn.	\$6,460
9.	Emilee Jackson	High Springs, Fla.	\$6,414
10.	Sydney Schleich	Kersey, Colo.	\$5,822
11.	Brookelyn Owens	Muldrow, Okla.	\$5,655
12.	Ava Antolik	Georgetown, Texas	\$5,498
13.	Caitlyn Wood	Petaluma, Calif.	\$5,327
14.	Cayla Melby	Burneyville, Okla.	\$4,990
15.	Hayley Tanner	Mansfield, Ga.	\$4,497