



\$10,000 Amateur Champion Hollie Kucera



\$2,000 Limit Champion & Rookie of the Year John Primasing



\$3,000 Novice Non Pro Champion Somebods Mojo ridden by Jamie Taylor



\$10,000 Novice Champion A Whittle Relief

ride Scrupy into that pen, drop my hand two cow lengths off the cow, and in a couple of turns he'd have me right back in the center. I could feel him rolling his eyes at me every time I'd kick him wrong, cut him wrong, but thank God he always covered for me," she said.

While Parker-Burton has undoubtedly improved over the years, catapulting her lifetime earnings to just over \$40k overall, Scrupy is still there for her every step of the way.

"I can always count on him to make me laugh. And he has a huge heart," emphasized Parker-Burton. "Walking into the pen, I never doubt that he can hold anything put in front of him. Billy [Burton] loves the fact that he can count on Scrupy to pay the bills."

However, when Parker-Burton first decided to haul, Scrupy was still her husband's mount, leaving her with a new horse she had just purchased. That particular arrangement didn't last long.

"We started out the year in Scottsdale, AZ. I walked into the pen, cut a cow, and my horse quit. As I walked out, Billy hopped off Scrupy, handed him to me and I won the next class on him," she recalled. "Needless to say, Billy wasn't getting me off that horse!"

**\$10,000 Amateur Champion: Hollie Kucera**

For Cal Poly freshman, Hollie Kucera, riding began in the High School Rodeo arena, as she successfully competed in all six girl's events offered. Scoring such titles as 2008 Challenge of Champions All-Around Champion and 2008 California State Finals All-Around Cowgirl Champion, Kucera made a name for herself.

When she decided she wanted to go for the All-Around title in High School Rodeo, it made sense that she would need to learn how to ride cutting horses. But for Kucera, her cutting experience only began there.

"It was at State Finals in 2007 that I met the Pridmore family. Cathy and Joe watched me cut and said my horse was good enough to compete at PCCHA's," recalled Kucera. "I decided to try it, and they were right."

Kucera then decided to take Ci Ci Slippin, a Peppy's Deliverance mare, from the High School Rodeo arena into PCCHA

events, curious to see how she would fair.

"Joe Pridmore and his mom were the ones that convinced me to make a run for a cutting title. Originally, my plan was to show a couple of times and just see how I did. When I realized that I was truly competitive, I decided to go for it," she said.

The mare affectionately known as CiCi took the transition in stride, thriving in the new environment as Kucera and her clinched the title with over \$12k in final earnings.

"CiCi seems to have a passion to cut. She hardly ever loses a cow, and when she does she takes it very personally, and works the next one even harder," she said.

And with their share of accomplishments, the cutting industry can be sure to see more from this well-rounded duo.

**\$2,000 Limited Rider and Rookie of the Year Champion: John Primasing**

For \$2k Limited Rider Champion, John Primasing, winning the year-end title was never the original plan.

"I wanted to haul from the start but had some family health issues that precluded me from the early shows down South. I started hitting all the shows beginning in March," said Primasing.

With such a late start, Primasing didn't set his sights on the 2k Limited Rider Championship, but rather looked toward a different goal as he aimed for Rookie of the Year. However, with some luck and help from his Lenas Telesis gelding, Thane Gash, Primasing was able to slingshot his way up the standings.

"The best thing about this horse is he is honest and really great to be around," explained Primasing. "He gives his all."

Faced with one of the closest races of the year between Primasing and Devin Clinton, Primasing battled out for the title until the very end. The two talented riders coming down to the wire.

"I couldn't get much of anything done in Buckeye and the first two days in Brawley was more of the same; I finally put it together with a 74 on Saturday night to seal the deal," he said.

A newcomer to cutting itself, having only begun a few years ago, Primasing has already begun to rack up the buckles and titles, but for him, cutting is much more than just horses and cattle.

"The people are the best part about

cutting; everyone is there to help. It's just a great group to be associated with," said Primasing. "My wife, she has always been a fan of cutting and has pointed me in that direction for some time. I guess the old saying is true: behind every good man is a really good woman."

**\$3,000 Novice Horse Champion: Little Dirty Dancer and Gavin Jordan**

Gavin Jordan managed to not only snatch the prestigious Open Championship this year, but was also able to steer Little Dirty Dancer, a mare sired by Dual Pep, to a championship as well.

"Little Dirty Dancer was a fun horse to show. She was really cowy and had a very cute act," said Jordan.

For owner Suzy Silverberg, the mare known as Dede was always a bit of a chance, but one that has undoubtedly paid off well in the long run.

"Buying yearlings is always a gamble, but she was bred right and she was a beautiful black mare. Watching her grandmother sell for 250k about ten horses before her was the final thing that made me want to take a chance on her," recalled Silverberg. "It's taken a while to figure this mare out but Gavin really did a great job with her this year."

As the year progressed it became clear that Dede was a risk that had been worth it, as the mare managed to dominate her field.

"Not only was she very good for Gavin in the 3k Novice class but I was able to jump on her when I had to and show her in the Non-Pro. I never thought she would be capable of that at that beginning of the year," said Silverberg. "The best thing about Dede is her look on a cow. She has always had that. She likes to get down on her belly and trap a cow in the middle. It's a real cool thing to watch."

Jordan, who started the mare as a two-year old, is impressed with the mare's versatility and talent.

"She turned seven this year so she did double duty, showing in the Aged-Events plus being the back-up Non-Pro horse for Suzy. She certainly earned her keep," he said.

**\$10,000 Novice Horse Champions: A Whittle Relief and Cookie Banuelos**

It was a late in the game decision when Cookie Banuelos and Peptoboonsmal

mare, A Whittle Relief, decided to make a run for the year-end championship. In fact, it wasn't until the middle of summer that the pair even made a conscious effort to climb the ranks.

"Around July, after we went to Winnemucca and Reno we realized that even though we had only gone to like three or four weekend shows, we were in the standings," said Banuelos. "We didn't even go on to Ft. Klamath from Reno because we really hadn't decided to haul that much. We just thought top five would be nice."

However, despite a late start, they were able to quickly climb the standings, ending the year with more than a \$3k lead over the closest competitor.

"That mare never missed a check at a show between Katie [Gaughn] and I," he recalled. "I marked a 79 on her at Buckeye in October; that was pretty special."

Banuelos, who boasts over \$280k in earnings, and the mare simply known as Rosita have a long history together. One that goes back to her two-year old year in 2002, Banuelos' first year in Las Vegas.

"She was one of the best babies I have ever started. She was very fractious and tough, but I knew she was special," he said.

Owner, Katie Gaughn would have to agree, as she regularly shares the mare with Banuelos as they travel down the road together.

"She is so smooth. It is so nice to get on her after showing other horses," said Gaughn. "You just feel like you are floating out there and she is always in the right spot. You can just trust her and depend on her so much."

While the trio of Banuelos, Gaughn and Rosita might not have had the longest year down the road, they certainly had a successful one.

"It was fun to go to that many weekend shows. I had never had the opportunity to go and haul," said Banuelos. "It was a great experience and opportunity. It helped my showing, my training, and my confidence."

**\$3,000 Novice Non-Pro Champions: Somebods Mojo and Jamie Taylor**

Cutting for rider Jamie Taylor is very much a family sport. Combined with cutting enthusiast parents, Jim and Cheryl Tilton, trainer husband, Jason Taylor and kids that are somewhat of a fixture around weekend shows, it very much is a group