

# 2008 PCCHA FUTURITY

**Bearly Nuf Taz & Morgan Cromer Win Open Futurity**  
**Mary Ann Rapp & Twice Is Right Capture Non-Pro Futurity Title**

By Sheri Forrest

The fall colors of the Paso Robles, California region once more ushered in the PCCHA Golden Hills Auto Center Futurity & Gelding Stakes October 22 – November 2 at the Paso Robles Event Center. Sunny days and chilly nights were the back drop to another stellar event that paid out nearly \$1m and featured the most extensive slate of classes available to cutters today.

### Open Futurity & Gelding Stakes

Bearly Nuf Taz and Morgan Cromer were the stars at this year's Futurity when the pair cleared the Open Futurity Finals with a 219 to take home the 2008 Championship. The mare by Pepto Taz and out of Bearly Nuf Cash, by Miss N Cash, is owned by John and Brenda Stephenson, of the San Juan Ranch in Shandon, California.

Originally on her way to the reined cow horse show pen, Bearly Nuf Taz made an early career change during her two-year-old year and wound up in Cromer's barn. "I got her in the middle of her two-year-old year. She came from Ted Robinson's (program)," Morgan explained. "They said she was a little hot for the cow horse deal, and (wanted me to) try her on a cow and see if I like her." The filly seemed to have found her calling, and has been in Cromer's program ever since. "I've really liked her all along. She's been one that has never been an over-doer, but she thinks through everything. She really, really tried tonight and has been getting stronger."

The Stephensons, who watched their mare's big win on the internet while on business in Hong Kong, purchased her and her dam from Don Lester, the owner of Pepto Taz. Bio-technology scientists by profession, the Stephensons are primarily involved in the reined cow horse industry, but have ventured into the cutting pen on only a few occasions. "They've tried a few cutters here and there, trying to change a few over from cow horses; but this is the first one they've had from a three-year-old (year)," stated Morgan. "I hope to ride a lot of horses for them!"

The pair's final's performance saw them to the top in a herd of mostly cooperative bovine early on in the draw. "The cows we wanted to cut were just there," added Cromer. "The yellow-horned cow I really liked was on top. Andrew (Coates) and Scott (Weis) just put it up there and it was easy to get cut. That cow was a really good start. The second cow got a little tough, but she kind of needed that. She needs that to get serious, so it was good

for her. That third cow wasn't really a pick, but it was one we liked."

Cromer, who rode three of her five futurity entries to finalist positions throughout the preliminaries, was fourth out in the draw on Bearly Nuf Taz. She admitted, however, that she wasn't sure the 219 they earned would be strong enough to take the win. "I thought it was a pretty clean run, and I liked it a lot and it was a nice run at the beginning. But there were still a lot of nice horses to go and (the score) was definitely threatened by a few of them. I just went on to focus on showing my other horses too. Cattle got a little tough down at the bottom (of the draw). It was a little tough after the fifth or sixth (draw) to get anything you liked."

Morgan and Bearly Nuf Taz rode to a third place at Fort Klamath this summer in the Northwest Futurity. "She's been my number two horse all year long. But now she's my number one horse," she laughed. "She's been really consistent. The Sweet Lil Pepto mare I did well on in Vegas has been just like her: real mature, real level. This mare is real consistent. That just goes to show how much that (trait) pays off. She's an easy mare to work, just an easy mare to get along with."

Morgan, who turned 25 just days before the 2008 PCCHA Futurity, received her start in the cutting business working for trainer Russ Westfall, where she spent over five years as an assistant trainer. She had spent her childhood showing hunters and jumpers, since her mother was a trainer in the business, then in high school spent a few summers riding with Scott Weis and Westfall. She ended up taking her first job out of high school working for Westfall. She won two major cutting futurities in 2005, before venturing out to her own training business in 2007 in Santa Maria, California. In the short two years since she has been on her own, she has accumulated the majority of her \$247,840 in NCHA earnings. Bearly Nuf Taz and Cromer put another \$29,542 toward their collective earnings for the PCCHA Open Futurity win.

The Open Futurity Reserve Championship went to Chatty Lil Kitty and Grant Setnicka for the Black Rock Ranch of Harrison, Idaho who received a payout of \$26,187 for the achievement. Chatty Lil Kitty is by High Brow Cat and out of SR Instant Jazz, by SR Instant Choice. Setnicka and the mare have proven a team to contend with this futurity season and were fresh off their open 3-year-old victories at both the El Rancho Futurity and West Texas Futurity events.

Smokin Cat Wacky and California trainer, Tim Smith, took ownership of the Open Gelding Stakes division of the Futurity this year when they topped the first round and then the finals with a 223 performance that earned a check for \$15,018 for owners Ross and Carol Jenkins of Brawley, California. Smokin Cat Wacky and Smith also finished 6th in the Open Futurity finals to earn an additional \$12,770. The gelding is among the first foal crop by the Wagonhound stallion, WR This Cats Smart. He is out of Bobs

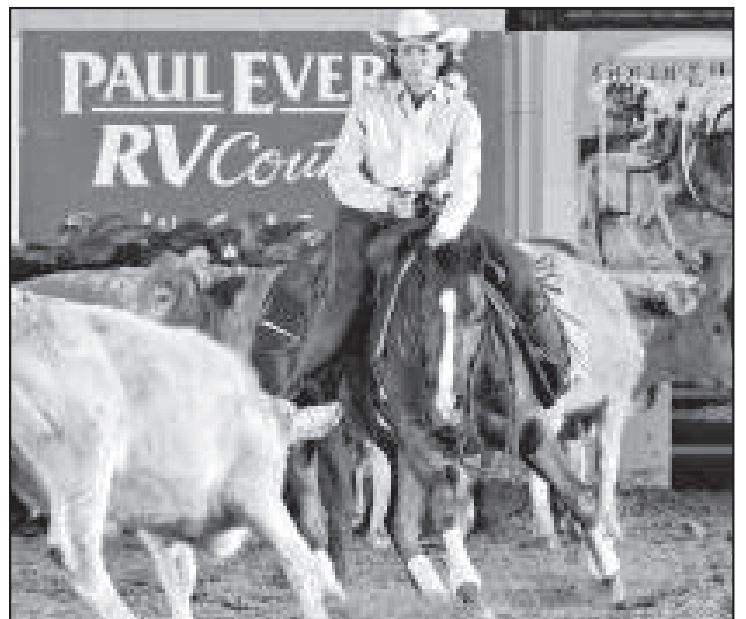


Open Futurity Champion - Bearly Nuf Taz & Morgan Cromer

Smokin Spook, by Bob Acre Doc. Owned by Ross and Carol Jenkins, Brawley, CA he had already earned over \$16,000 during this futurity season prior to arriving in Paso Robles, after making the finals at Fort Klamath and splitting fourth during the El Rancho Open Futurity.

Tim actually won the very first PCCHA Gelding Stakes held back in 1986, when the event was for five-year-olds. He says the gelding stakes concept has been both unique

and successful as it has evolved through the years. "There have been so many changes in it over the years," he pointed out. "It went from a (nomination) sale as a two-year-old to a sale as a three-year-old, flat-fees to enter and things like that. Both of my geldings here were flat-fee entries. Ross and Carol Jenkins gelding, Smokin Cat Wacky, was flat-feed as a two-year-old; Tommy Manion's gelding, Be Smooth, was flat-feed two days (before the show). I think that (option for entry) is a



Non-Pro Futurity Champion - Mary Ann Rapp & Twice Is Right