

2009 PCCHA FUTURITY

By Sheri Forrest
Photographs by Midge Ames

Open Futurity

This year's Open Futurity Champion was crowned November 1st when Flo Like A Cat and Tim Smith, Temecula, CA delivered the winning 222 run as the first horse out in the 17-horse finals of the 2009 Golden Hills Auto Center PCCHA Futurity. Flo Like A Cat (Cats Merada x Flo N Ethyl x Mr Peponita Flo) is owned by Bill Banner, Galt, CA.

"Last night, when Bill drew the first place slot, I told Diane as we were sitting there at dinner that I think we're going to win," said Smith. "I've had a lot of luck going first in this arena. First is a good draw here. A lot of people have won in a first place draw in this arena." He added, "She is very mature for a young horse. You can show her very aggressively. The run started good and stayed good and the last cow was phenomenal. She was dead on. Russ (Elrod) and Double Smart Cat had a really good run in the second set and Michael (Cooper) and Make My Day TR had a good run at the end; but, she just has an extra gear and I just think she was the best tonight with that draw. I was fortunate to get to ride her." Smith and the mare had scores of 219, 215, and 214 respectively in the preliminaries. "Last night in the semi-finals I cut like a \$2k Limit rider and darn near took her out of the cutting," Tim added. "But she was right there the whole way, I think she is head and shoulders the best colt at the show."

Smith, who has NCHA lifetime earnings of over \$4.3m, is the highest money-earning rider at PCCHA major events, having won over \$1m at the venue over the years. Flo Like A Cat and Smith earned \$28,879 for this year's Open Futurity Championship.

The Open Futurity \$50k Limited title was had by Cameron Verstegen, Eagle Point, OR who rode Mia Bossy Cat for Bonnie Verstegen and earned \$1,572.

Open Futurity Gelding Stakes

The Open Cutting Stakes concluded in a tie for the Championship between horses that are half-brothers...Sting Cat Sting, with Gavin Jordan, and Smart Exactacat and Scott Weis when both teams marked a 219 in the Finals and declined a work-off.

Sting Cat Sting (WR This Cats Smart x Stingers Sugar Bar x LPLS Stinger), owned by Nicole Carson, previously carried Jordan to the finals this season at Fort Klamath, and won both the Echeta Ranch and the Mebane Ranch Futurities. "He's been a real strong horse this fall," said Jordan. "He was in the Open Futurity

Finals last night, but I didn't have a very good run on him, which was my fault. I just cut a bad cow trying to win, I think." Gavin, who has had the horse in his program since December of 2008, said Sting Cat Sting has a lot of potential. "He has a lot of feel to him and a lot of look," he described. "He's always been a good horse with a lot of stop; and I think when he matures a little more, he'll be a lot like his dad." Before yesterday's win, the gelding had accrued earnings of \$13,294. Jordan, who is a NCHA Judge, also has lifetime earnings exceeding \$1.1m. Having ridden many offspring of WR This Cats Smart, Gavin said they have something in common. "They are all very, very cow-y," he said. "And they've all been very trainable."

Smart Exactacat (WR This Cats Smart x As Smart As Lindy x As Smart As The Fox) and Scott Weis marked the first 219 of the Open Gelding Stakes Finals for owner Julie Sandford of Orange, CA. Weis said it's been a bit of a rocky road for the gelding this season, but is very glad to end it back on a good note. "At Klamath, we marked a 219 in the first round and thought I could win it; but, it just seemed to go downhill from there," explained Scott. "He got tired and he got body sore. He went to the El Rancho and didn't do any good, and went to Vegas and got run over. I got here and felt that horse was really not engaging; so I changed the program a little bit on him and each run he got a little better. He kind of peaked back in June, and it was hard to keep him peaked.

But this week, we went from a 213 to finishing with this 219 today. This is the best he's been. I just needed to get his physical energy back. I knew he had it in him."

Weis says he is a staunch supporter of the PCCHA Gelding Stakes program. "The best thing I can say about this Gelding Stakes class is that if you don't have a 3-year-old gelding for this event, you're missing the boat," he stressed. "I won over \$21,000 in one show with this horse here. That gelding stakes program has supported and proven itself over and over and over again that it works. I can tell you that every year I'll have a gelding for it."

Non Pro Futurity

The 2009 PCCHA Non-Pro Futurity Championship was dominated by Dustin Adams, of Western States Ranches in Dublin, TX, who garnered both the Champion and Reserve Champion titles. Adams rode his gelding WSR Clays Freckles (San Tule Freckles x Clays Little Peppy x Peppy San Badger) to a 217 performance in the Final round to earn the Championship title and payout of \$11,286. Adams took the Reserve Championship aboard

Palefaced Hickory (Pale Face Jose x Janas Little Hickory x Docs Hickory) with a solid 216 run that earned the pair \$10,105.

Adams came to this year's event with six horses in tow...and advanced all six to the final rounds in various divisions, including his three Non-Pro Futurity entries. The champion of the bunch, WSR Clays Freckles, holds a special place with his owner. "He was his dam's last baby," he explained. "She was one of the better Little Peppy mares there is and she died this year; so it was pretty bitter-sweet." WSR Clays Freckles was trained by one of Western States Ranches' resident trainers, Zack Henning. "This horse has been real good and real consistent all fall," added Dustin, who previously rode the gelding to finalist positions at the Brazos Bash, West Texas Futurity and Music City Futurity. "Chad Bushaw's horse has been good all fall; and Jimmy Kemp had a good horse in there tonight, too. It's been a good group of horses competing this fall." Prior to the win last night, Adams had accrued NCHA lifetime earnings of \$2,649,190.

Jimmy Kemp, Eastland, TX rode Dual Rey N Play to the top of the Senior Stakes division of the Non-Pro Futurity which earned the pair \$1,179.

Non-Pro Futurity Gelding Stakes

Chad Bushaw, of Crown Ranch LP, Weatherford, TX and Will You Play (Playdox x Nurse Dualin x Dual Pep) earned the Non-Pro Futurity Gelding Stakes Championship when they delivered the winning 217 run in the Finals worth \$4,976. "I've had great help here with me taking care of the horses and when I'm down there showing," said Bushaw. "Finally, I feel like I've got the feel for these steers and how to work my way through them and get my cuts made clean and kind of read them a little bit and figure out what I want to cut."

Bushaw's resident trainer, Clay Volmer, trained his horse and was the only one to ride him until last month. "He wasn't one of my favorite colts early in the year," said Chad. "Generally I pick my two or three favorite ones and train them myself and Clay trains two or three others for me. I tried him a few weeks back and it was a good news bad news thing. The good news is that he did a great job training him. The bad news is that I stole his horse from him." Chad and the gelding won the Music City Non-Pro Futurity and the Reserve win at the West Texas Futurity earlier this fall.

Originally from Long Creek, OR, Chad is a financial advisor for Morgan Stanley in Fort Worth. He first saw a cutting horse on a 3rd grade field trip to the Oxbow Ranch. One of his

first belt buckles was a PCCHA Youth buckle he won in 1987. "That was my favorite buckle that I wore for about ten years," he smiled. "I used to go spend my summers in Junior High with Phil Hanson, Jr. in Bend. He helped me a whole lot." Chad moved to Texas in 1991 and went to college at the Texas Christian University (TCU). "About the luckiest thing that's ever happened to me in the horse business, is I got to start training with Paul and Winston Hansma when I moved to Texas. I kept a horse at the Bar H Rancho the very first year Paul and Winston came there." He added, "They're about the greatest men and horse trainers that you'll ever be around. They were good role models in a lot more important ways than on horseback. They're good men."

Chad has accrued NCHA lifetime earnings well over \$1.9m. Will You Play has over \$20,249 to his credit.

Reserve Champion went to Mary Ann Rapp aboard ARC Catmando.

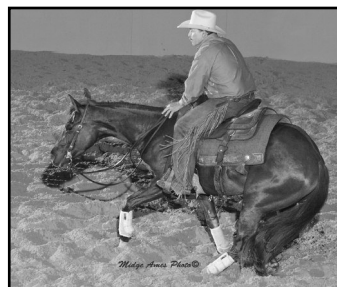
\$200K Non Pro Futurity

With a score of 218, Hayden Upton, an equine chiropractor from Wilton, CA and Shez Cat Actin took home the \$200K Non-Pro Futurity Championship. Upton, 28, is a first-year cutter and trained Shez Cat Actin (Highbrow cat x Smart Lil Till x Smart Lil Lena) on his own. Originally from Australia, the extent of Upton's show ring experience prior to his debut this futurity season had been in the reined cow horse and reining venues. "She's been fun the whole time and real easy to train," he said of his mare. "She has been a great one for me to learn with." said Upton, whose profession keeps him traveling between 6-9 months out of the year. He and his wife, Summa, who helps him with his business, travel from San Diego to Redding and then on to Texas three times a year. Because of this, he has had to train his mare on the road, which he says has actually been a plus. "I've been very fortunate," Upton explained. "With my business taking me on the road, it's allowed me to be able to get help from so many different trainers that I work for...really the top people in the business. I've been very lucky." He added, "I've never trained a cutter before and I'm just tickled by the way she cuts." Hayden purchased Shez Cat Actin as a yearling from Cam Essick. "I don't really ride with anyone in particular," he admitted. "John Mitchell and all those guys are a lot of help. I just try to pick everyone's brain as much I can." The championship title paid Upton \$5,982.

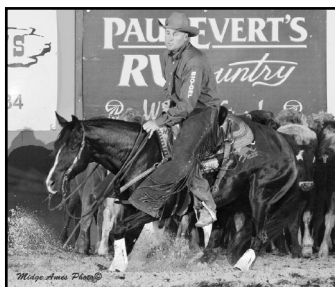
Brian Postill, Coldstream, BC rode Levon The Light to the Reserve Championship in the



Open Futurity Flo Like A Cat
ridden by Tim Smith, owner: Bill Banner



Open Futurity Gelding Stakes
Co-Champion Smart Exactacat
Scott Weis / Julie Sandford



Open Futurity Gelding Stakes
Co-Champion Sting Cat Sting
Gavin Jordan / Nicole Carson



Non Pro Futurity WSR Clays Freckles
Dustin Adams
Dustin/Deena Adams



Non Pro Futurity Gelding Stakes
Will You Play
Chad Bushaw / Crown Ranch LP