

Holman Earns Top Ten Ranking at NCHA Futurity

By: Jann Parker

It's right there on the tape of the 2006 NCHA Futurity Finals this past December and it goes something like this – never before has a Montana resident made it to the final go-around of the NCHA Futurity Finals. Enter Randy Holman riding Smart n Catty.

After a good first go marking a 213, an even better second go scoring a hot 219, and then to the semis where the pair marked a 215 – and with that run, an advancement to the elusive FINALS. He draws fourth in the first bunch – he scores a 214 – and when it's over, Randy Holman aboard the High Brow Cat daughter owned by David and Sandy Sabey of Bigfork, Montana, earns \$80,000 and a tenth place finish and – the title of the first Montana resident to qualify for the NCHA Futurity Finals!

What about Randy??? He grew up in Bigfork, Montana, where he continues to live today. Randy and his wife, Susan, have been married 32 years and have a son, B.J. who is a F16 Weapons Operator in the Air Force. A successful calf roper, Randy rodeoed for twenty years – even had a seven year stint riding bulls from '72-'79. Susan ran barrels – well, very well. All through their rodeo careers, Randy rode colts and started outside horses.

In 1997, cutters Kevin and Shari Mohl of Kalispell, Montana, hired Randy to break and ride colts for them. The Mohl's had purchased "Don Juan Dually", a son of Dual Pep, as a yearling in Fort Worth the winter of 97-98. Randy trained the horse for the Mohl's and went on to show some cutters locally for them.

Randy's father had recently purchased a two-year-old from Wayne Duncan – Skalkaho San Man – another horse for Randy! In addition, Randy's father had raised "Get A Quick Peep" that Deb Morris now shows. Randy started, trained, and hauled him to the small futurities the fall of 2001.

In June of 2000, Randy and Susan moved to Montana Ranch of Bigfork – owned by Dave and Sandy Sabey. Randy trained outside horses close to five years and kept quite busy. In 2005, Randy began riding exclusively for the Sabey's.

What about Smart n Catty??? Well, she's by the famous High Brow Cat and out of a Smart Little Lena mare – Smart Little Five. The Sabey's purchased the mare as a two-year-old at the Fort Worth Sale. Susan liked the mare right away and she was her pick of the sale. Randy liked how she was started that day and says she was all she looked to be – the goods! He's never had a battle with her and sums it up like this: "She has lots of natural talent – ask her to jump over the moon and she'll clear it." Randy says she came loaded with all "the stuff" you try to teach the other horses – all you had to do with Smart n Catty was show her what you wanted - one time – and bingo, she delivered. "Many times I only worked one cow on her. She knew where that cow was going before the cow did, very 'cat and mousey'. Gotcha," describes Randy.

Randy, Susan, and Smart n Catty are headed to Vegas the end of February, then on to the Superstakes, and then to the Summer Spectacular.

"I was glad to get her – the good one's don't come along all the time, there are a lot of things that have to come together at the Futurity to allow you to advance – I'm just happy I had the opportunity to show her to her ability", concluded Randy.