



Grady on his Foundation Quarter Horse Bueno Doc Hollywood.

The National Cutting Horse Association futurity is the last big western performance futurity of the year. In 2022 it ran from Nov 14 - Dec 10 in Fort Worth, Tx at the Will Rogers memorial facility, and all four weeks were packed to the brim with three rounds of cutting, some world finals classes, a Western Bloodstock sale, and the Best of the West trade show.

Big scores were posted in every round and new records were set at the sale.

Cutelsh Desire, a 2020 sorrel filly by Dual Reysih and out of Desires Kitty Cat, consigned by Alan Chappell brought \$1,150,000 breaking the 2 year-old record sale.

From the sale ring, many of the 2-year-olds head straight to a trainer and begin their preparation for the next year's futurity. Some of them may be shown sooner than Nov, but those entered in the NCHA futurity will show for the first time in Fort Worth. Their riders can be anyone,

NCHA FUTURITY

PROVIDES FOR NEW RECORDS AND NEW RIDERS

BY AMY OLSON

seasoned trainers, youth competitors and non-pros all throw their hats in the ring for nine futurity titles.

Amateur, Non-Pro and Open classes are all split into three levels by the rider's earnings. One of the hardest parts about the futurity is finding a horse that is right for the rider and the challenge.

Grady Dougless found his first futurity horse just three months prior.

"I started shopping for a futurity horse, not avidly, but looking in about May. The first time I rode her I was like, oh gosh, I didn't even know horses did this," Dougless said.

He'd previously ridden in foundation quarter horse shows and ranch horse versatility. Eight years ago he rode his stallion Bueno Doc Hollywood into their first Ranch Cutting, since then, he's been trying to improve on his horse and himself.

Although they'd won a few smaller shows, Grady's big gray horse stands at a heavy 15 hands and just isn't stylish enough to compete at the NCHA shows. Dougless had his stallion in training with Russell Harrison and was taking lessons from him as well. Grady's connection to Harrison led him to his first 'real' cutting horse.

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PERFORMANCE HORSE DIGEST



Grady Dougless has done ranch cutting on his foundation quarter horse.



Grady warming up BR Bet She's a Cat for the NCHA Futurity.



Grady riding Spice Girl into the herd.

BR Bet She's a Cat AKA Spice Girl was already in training with Harrison and luckily fit right into Dougless' budget. After his purchase it was a mad dash to prepare for the futurity. Dougless was riding with Harrison five days a week for the three months leading up to their Nov 30th debut.

"I would ride her a couple of times a week. Then I would ride my stallion and Russell would instruct me, you know, like it was her. So we were working every day on him. And sometimes I would work on him the same day I would work on her," Dougless said about the preparation it took to get himself ready.

When the time came for the Limited Amateur 1st go, the two were ready. They cut three nice cattle and marked a 205, enough to put them in the semi-finals.

The cattle in the semi-finals proved a bit tougher and although Grady cut a good first cow the second wasn't as planned. The cow they'd discussed was acting differently after three horses had worked through the herd and Dougless picked a cow that he and his trainer had discussed. They marked a 197 and weren't able to continue on.

"My trainer's taken care of me and had a plan of what we needed to do to get ready for the futurity, without him it wouldn't

have even been a possibility," Dougless said.

Thanks to Harrison and a little luck, Grady has a horse that showed massive promise and he has plans to continue showing her and improving his cutting skills like many of the other amateurs competing at the NCHA Futurity.



Grady and Spice Girl cut their second cow.

Some more horses that could have promising careers ahead of them are Playful Smoothtalker (Intermediate & Limited Open Champion), The Kindred Spirit (Int Non Pro Champ), Smooth as Rye (Ltd Non Pro Champ), Blondes Have More Fun (Int Am. Champ), Hashtag Desire (Ltd. Am. Champ), Stileto Tuff (Am. Champ), Ripp Tide (Non Pro Champ) and Phil N Dangerous (Open Champ, ridden by Lindy Thorn).