

Cover Story

DASH FOR DOLLARS

Golden Spike Events Center – June 9-11, 2017 – Ogden, Utah



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Futurity Champion
DARCEE SHEPHERD & TWO RUBLES

FUTURITY AVERAGE

1D

1. Darcee Shepherd, **TWO RUBLES** m by **Twoforthedough**, 27.730, \$1,617.00
2. Sara Cheeney, **PAINTED FLING** g by **A Streak of Fling**, 27.891, \$1,323.00
3. Maesa Kummer, **A SMOOTH BUNNY** m by **A Smooth Guy**, 27.911, \$980.00
4. Sue Smith, **TEENA TURNER** m by **Blazin Jetolena**, 28.059, \$637.00
5. Vickie Carter, **THE MASTER FRENCHMAN** g by **Frenchmans Guy**, 28.125, \$343.00

2D

1. Callie Van O, **JOJO PLAYS FOR CASH** m by **Peppy Plays For Cash**, 29.684, \$1,284.00
2. Kristi Brangle, **PABLINA STARLIGHT** m by **Jameens Wrangler**, 29.810, \$1,051.00
3. Kindra Thurgood, **SISSY SUE WHO PROM** m by **Ricochets Sue**, 29.929, \$778.00
4. Suzanne Thompson, **WHOOPEE GIRL** m by **Wave the Flag**, 32.952, \$506.00
5. Jessica Sampson, **SMART LENAS LUCINDA** m by **Call Me Peptolena**, 33.499, \$272.00

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FUTURITY 1ST GO

1D

1. Maesa Kummer, **A SMOOTH BUNNY** m by **A Smooth Guy**, 13.844, \$808.00
2. Darcee Shepherd, **TWO RUBLES** m by **Twoforthedough**, 13.897, \$661.00
3. Sara Cheeney, **PAINTED FLING** g by **A Streak of Fling**, 13.921, \$490.00
4. Shianne Shepherd, **SAILORS DEL LIGHT** m by **PC Redwood Manny**, 13.981, \$318.00
5. Jill Atkinson, **A VICTORY LAP** g by **Winners Version**, 13.999, \$171.00

2D

1. Dusdee Shepperson, **JAKAROGUE** g by **Streak a Dash**, 14.845, \$642.00
2. Whitney Davison, **BR GOLDEN LEADER** c by **Confederate Leader**, 14.851, \$525.00
3. Riley Spargen, **STREAKIN CLEOPATRA** m by **A Streak of Fling**, 14.857, \$389.00
4. Kristi Brangle, **PABLINA STARLIGHT** m by **Jameens Wrangler**, 14.892, \$253.00
5. Kindra Thurgood, **SISSY SUE WHO PROM** m by **Ricochets Sue**, 14.902, \$136.00

FUTURITY 2ND GO

1D

1. Whitney Davison, **BR SNOWWHITE** m by **A Streak of Fling**, 13.827, \$808.00
2. Darcee Shepherd, **TWO RUBLES** m by **Twoforthedough**, 13.833, \$661.00
3. Susan Hadley, **SH ESPECIALLY SMOOTH** g by **A Smooth Guy**, 13.944, \$490.00
4. Sara Cheeney, **PAINTED FLING** g by **A Streak of Fling**, 13.970, \$318.00
5. Autumn Keller, **NEMOS FURY** m by **Finding Nemo**, 14.019, \$171.00

2D

1. Kristi Brangle, **PABLINA STARLIGHT** m by **Jameens Wrangler**, 14.918, \$642.00
2. Kindra Thurgood, **SISSY SUE WHO PROM** m by **Ricochets Sue**, 15.027, \$525.00
3. Steven Housley, **RITZ**, 16.760, \$389.00
4. Suzanne Thompson, **WHOOPEE GIRL** m by **Wave the Flag**, 16.980, \$253.00
5. Jessica Sampson, **SMART LENAS LUCINDA** m by **Call Me Peptolena**, 18.939, \$136.00

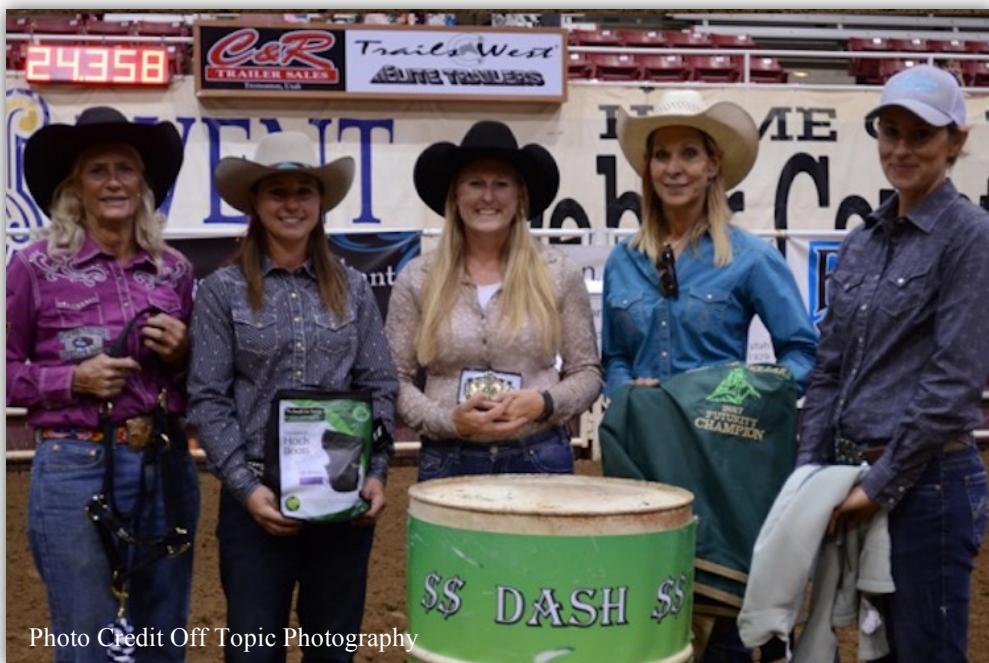


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"This mare is such a blessing to me; she has a huge heart and always gives 100%. I'm incredibly lucky to have her, and be the one who gets to swing a leg over her. She's made some dreams come true for me."

DARCEE SHEPHERD

My runs at Dash For Dollars were pretty consistent, which is what she has been all year long. In the first go, she ran a 13.891 which was second for the go round, and also placed in the open 2D that day. That run felt a little wild to me. She came running down the alley hard, and started to come back too hard on her first. I had to pick her up and ask her to move out, which made it feel like we were out of position in that little pen (the second comes fast there!). She worked a nice second barrel, and ran hard to her third and out of the pen. I honestly was a little surprised with her time; it just didn't feel that fast. Her second run, we were bottom of our drag and I will admit to being probably the most nervous on her that I have been all spring. I set her up a little different in the alley, because I had to come from the holding pen. When she left running, she left hard. She had a much better first barrel, and was in much better position going into her second barrel. On her second barrel she really snapped back and left it running hard. Her third barrel was just about the same as the day before and she really ran out of the pen. She ran a 13.833 on her second run, which was second in the go round again. It was a little nerve wracking being in the middle of the futurity, because I had to sit through some really nice horses to see how it turned out. She won \$2,939 here in the futurity and another \$209 in the open.



DARCEE SHEPHERD & TWO RUBLES

So far to date, Dee has won around \$10,000 for me. This is a combination of open jackpot money, futurity money and pro-rodeo money. She is such a blessing to me, and is hands down the biggest winner I've had to date.

The **Dash For Dollars** crew is awesome! I love coming to this race. The ground is great--the office is super nice. It is always a great race. They gave nice awards, it paid well, and the futurity winners got to choose a stallion breed, from donated stallions. I'm a little partial, and had to pick Dee's sire, *Twoforthedough*. I'm so impressed with the ones I have, it was a no-brainer to pick him. There was, however, several nice stallions that were donated and any one of them would have been nice to have. I'm incredibly lucky to have great races and rodeos so close to home, I appreciate the producers in our area so much. The group of people I get to compete with are great people. I enjoy competing with them--they make it fun to go to races.

The SW Desert arena is considered your home pen but you were very successful at this futurity as well...

There are so many differences between the arenas where we won our 2 futurities. Salina is a bigger more "open" type pen where as Ogden at the Golden Spike is a lot smaller tighter pen. I liken it to the Thomas and Mack a little bit. I've ran in this pen a lot over the years, so even

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though it isn't my "home pen" I still get around 10 runs a year there. For the barrel races, they bring you down from the warm up arena (nice long covered alley) and have you stand in a holding pen that is under the bleachers (where they would put stock during a rodeo--during the rodeos, we usually use a double alley like the Thomas & Mack but we run through the rope box). The holding pen can be scary; it echoes and isn't very tall, and is small. The alley from the holding pen to the arena is short, and your first barrel is blind there; it is super easy to get by it. For my first run, I was able to just stay in the alley because I was first out, so I sent her from outside of the building. In the second go, I had to wait in the holding pen, rather than just coming around the corner. I took her back up the alley a little bit and sent her from the same spot as the day before. I feel like my mare needs a little bit more of a run to the first barrel, so I probably sent her from farther back than most, which was probably the only thing that I changed on her. I really try hard to ride my horses as consistently as possible--I feel like that is what gives colts confidence. The ground at both arenas is so good, it doesn't matter where you draw, I feel you can win on it anywhere.

In the future, your intentions are to have a solid horse and run rodeos. How will you make this adjustment?

Well...honestly I handle this a little different than most probably do. Around my house, round pen and arena we have cows and sheep. If I need to I can load the bucking chutes in my arena as well. I joke that my horses are half seasoned before we get to a rodeo, because they see a lot around my house. I haul my colts a lot. Dee spent all last year on the trailer with me. I think even standing through the noise of the rodeos helps to season them, and if you can get on and ride around during a slack it helps. My ground at home isn't the greatest it can get hard. I think that between what I train them on, and the time that I spend riding on the mountain and in the pastures, I teach my horses early on how to get their feet under them, which is really important to me. I'm lucky that I get to run in the Wilderness Circuit, and most of our rodeos have good ground. Knowing most of the arenas and the ground helps a lot when you start to take a colt. I have already started the seasoning process on her, and will

continue with it through the summer and into next year. I will pick and choose which pens I think fit her and which draws on the ground I think will work for her. Once again, I'm all about trying to build her confidence. I opted to not enter the Red Desert Futurity, and stay home and go to a few rodeos. I knew that the ground in Herriman Utah is usually good, so when I drew first out in slack, I opted to run Dee. She handled it like a champ and won money at her first pro-rodeo, finishing 7th. Most of the time on colts, I try to just run them in slack. However, sometimes things happen and they get the call to run in a performance. This actually happened the Thursday before the Dash For Dollars futurity; my rodeo horse had some vet work done and needed another day to rest. The rodeo I ran her at was close to home, usually has deeper, sandy good ground. It is a quieter rodeo and doesn't have the sold out, loud crowds that several of them here do. This type of performance is what I try to run my colts in. She was a little unsure of running under the lights (her first time) and running into the bucking chutes. However, she came in looking to do her job, so we take that as a win. The seasoning process is different with every horse, so I try to look at each horse when I start taking them, and enter for that horse. Dee is very business minded and we have a lot of confidence in each other so that really helps with feeling confident to start seasoning her too.

"This mare is such a blessing to me; she has a huge heart and always gives 100%. I'm incredibly lucky to have her, and be the one who gets to swing a leg over her. She's made some dreams come true for me."

Horses you have been successful with in the past...

I've had a few horses that I feel like have been successful for me. I rode a Dunn stallion by the name of Hemps Red Wolf (aka Wolf). He was super honest and consistent, and a lot of fun to ride, and where my love for Hempen bred horses started. My mare Dee runs a lot like him, so I always tell everyone she is like being back on Wolf. I also had success with some of his colts: Miss Satin Bug (aka Snap), and Wolfs Easy Arnie (Arnie). Both of those horses I sold after I had my son. I also have had success on my current rodeo horse Headrush (Shorty). Each of these horses, plus several others I've rode over the years have taught me so much and shaped what I do today.

Darcee Shepherd

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