

Cover Story...

TUFF ARENA FUTURITY AND DERBY

Tuff Arena – August 12-13, 2017 – Litchfield, MN

FUTURITY AVERAGE

1D

1. Shawn Varpness, **WHISKEY KISMET** m by **VF Moon Fire**, 31.401, \$682.00
2. Heidi Gunderson, **TAKIN ON A STORM** g by **Cartel Dancer**, 32.329, \$512.00
3. Alicia Gaarder, **SMASHIN EASY CASH** m by **Such Easy Cash**, 32.418, \$341.00
4. Abbey Wudtke, **ICHIS WARRIOR** m by **Cat Ichi**, 33.179, \$171.00

2D

1. Jenna Johnson, **VF FAST N FAMOUS** m by **Viva La Zoom**, 33.416, \$292.00
2. Lindsey Beech, **BREATHIN FIREWATER** m by **Firewater On Ice**, 33.452, \$219.00
3. Chelsea Gilman, **BULLY FOR MOONSHINE** m by **Firewater On Ice**, 33.49, \$146.00
4. Allison Rigenhagen, **LACEYS LUCKY STRAIT** m by **Strait Firewater**, 33.587, \$73.00



Photo credit... LNIPhoto

Futurity Champion

SHAWN VARPNESS & WHISKEY KISMET

Shawn and Whiskey Kismet have entered 10 futurities this year. They currently have 6 Futurity Championships and 1 Futurity Reserve Championship from 8 NRF Tour events held so far this year. The team also placed 4th in the average at the Dash AND Dance Futurity and 13th in the average at the Cornhuskers Futurity placing 6th in the 2nd Go.

Continue Tuff Arena...

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SHAWN VARNNESS continued...

CURRENT WINS THIS YEAR...

Double F Arena Futurity Champion
MN Futurity Open & Breeders Champion
Iowa Reserve Futurity Champion
Cowgirl Tuff Tri State Futurity Champion
JJ Classic Futurity Champion
Tuff Arena Futurity Champion
Go For Broke Big 8 Futurity Champion
4th Average Dash and Dance Futurity with over 80 entries
13th Average Cornhuskers and 6th in the 2nd Go with over 70 entries

We won over \$20,000 in winnings this year on Whiskey Kismet. We plan to enter the last 5 futurity's this year in the NRF Tour, and also head to the Fizz Bomb Futurity in Gillette, Wyoming.

WHISKEY KISMET

She is very sweet to be around, easy going mare. She loves to run barrels and loves attention.

My wife (Casey Varnness) and I like to use a lot of different exercises using barrels and cones. We set them up to work our colts on to keep it fun and challenging for them. We don't actually work the pattern all the time. The days we work the pattern it's pretty much just slow work on the pattern to tune or fix things. I feel the trick to keep this mare so solid on the pattern is to know when to back off the pressure. She loves her job and I want her to continue to crave it.

I ride in a Tami Semas barrel saddle, run in a Sherri Cervi short shank bit (no tie down) and haul her in Back On Track Quick Wraps. We use Hay Chix Hay Bags--we like to keep a full bag of hay in front of her at all times in her stall and in the trailer. The slow feed bags control the amount of hay she consumes each day and keeps her busy. We use the Respond Systems Therapy Blanket before and after her runs which helps with muscle stiffness and any body soreness.

Love the blanket before and after her runs. We also use the Equi-Resp to help promote easier breathing and we put a Flair Nasal Strip on before each run. She is fed Triple Crown Feed & Exceed 6-Way from MVP. And we have her checked & adjusted by Back in the Game Animal Chiropractic, Dr. Hal Brown.

THE PREPARATION YOU TAKE WITH THIS FILLY JUST PRIOR TO A WEEKEND RUN?

Right now with going to barrel races every weekend I have been doing a lot of slow work on the pattern making sure I'm placing her feet around the barrel and not letting her crowd the barrel. I have to work on this mare's head set all the time.

The days I don't ride her I bit her up and put her on the Free Style Exerciser about 30 minutes to keep her legged up and not adding additional pressure and stress. The Free Style Exerciser is great for keeping them legged up and working on their head set. This piece of equipment has been so great to have for many different colts but for this filly I love it to help set her head.

ANYTHING SPECIAL OVER OTHER HORSES YOU HAVE RUN IN THE PAST?

She has a big heart; a very gritty mare. She loves her job. She has her own style in the turns that can be hard to ride. She is very setty and I have to really push her up in the hole and stay out of her way on the back side so she doesn't come back. I have to use a lot of leg and stay off her face—the more leg I use, the better with her.

CASSANDRA (owner) – HISTORY ON THIS FILLY?

I saw the horse for sale on Facebook. She was a 3 year old with 60 days of riding. I told Cassandra about the horse and she bought her. At the time Cassandra bought the mare, she was trotting a pattern. Cassandra kept the mare and trained her for the first 8 months before sending her to me to finish and compete on.

Continue Tuff Arena...

HORSES YOU HAVE EXCELLED ON IN THE PAST FEW YEARS...

I have been training and competing on barrel futurity horses for the past 18 years. I'm not like most trainers where I get sent 10-20 prospects and I get to pick the best 5 or 7 horses. My wife and I buy yearlings and 2 year olds or raise 1 or 2 colts a year and that is what we have that year to compete on. We have to make the best of what we have. We have been lucky to have been able to train and ride for some great customers that have sent us super nice horses to train. I'm a full-time power lineman so my job keeps me from being able to compete at a lot of the big futurities down south. We pick 2 or 3 of those big winter early spring futurities and go to them and a few big ones in the fall out west, but it's hard to be gone from the ranch and our jobs for weeks at a time.

We can only take in 2 or 3 outside horses a month due to our busy schedules. We have a waiting list; people want to get horses in for training right now. My wife and I both work full time jobs, we have boarding horses, our own horses to train, outside horses to ride, we hosted 6 of the biggest barrel races, futurities and slot races in the Midwest and this year hosted an American Qualifier. Keeping up with all the ranch work of fixing, cleaning pens, feeding, getting hay, etc. keeps us both very busy...plus a 4 year old son that wants to help with everything we do. We are lucky to have great friends to clean and do chores for us when we are gone on the weekends. We have some really nice colts coming up the next couple of years we are very excited about.

Shawn

ACCOMPLISHMENTS...

Cash In your Pocket – 2006 NRF Futurity Champion
Mr Blackjack Cash – 2007 NRF Futurity Reserve Champion
Caine The Chief – 2007 NRF Derby Reserve Champion
Skylers Birthday – 2008 NRF Futurity Champion
Back of Beyond – 2008 NRF Derby Reserve Champion
Flirty Ways – 2009 NRF Futurity Champion
Easy Dash N Spirt - 2010 NRF Futurity Reserve Champion
Fire In The Diamond – 2011 NRF Futurity Champion
Arrabella – 2012 NRF Futurity Champion
Smooth Catawbacat – 2013 NRF Futurity Champion – Owners Laurie and Robert Viaene
One Lucky Fling – 2014 NRF Futurity Champion – Owners Laurie and Robert Viaene
SC Smoke N Rings – 2014 NRF Reserve Futurity Champion
Chicka WowWow – 2015 NRF Reserve Futurity Champion – Owners Laurie and Robert Viaene

FUTURITY 1ST GO

1D

1. Shawn Varpness, **WHISKEY KISMET** m by **VF Moon Fire**, 15.435, \$438.00
2. Anna Brezina, **WELIKA SPEED** g by **Graves Pepper Twist**, 15.993, \$329.00
3. Alicia Gaarder, **SMASHIN EASY CASH** m by **Such Easy Cash**, 16.04, \$219.00
4. Heidi Gunderson, **TAKIN ON A STORM** g by **Cartel Dancer**, 16.052, \$110.00

2D

1. Anna Carr, **BACKSTER BLAK** g by **Darkelly**, 16.481, \$292.00
2. Jenna Johnson, **VF FAST N FAMOUS** m by **Viva La Zoom**, 16.536, \$219.00
3. Savanna Paddock, **LADIES DASH OF HOPE** m by **Special Smooth Man**, 16.619, \$146.00
4. Sheila Hendricks, **FRENCH FLIT SHOWDOWN** g by **French Flit**, 16.663, \$73.00

FUTURITY 2ND GO

1D

1. Shawn Varpness, **WHISKEY KISMET** m by **VF Moon Fire**, 15.966, \$438.00
2. Abbey Wudtke, **ICHIS WARRIOR** m by **Cat Ichi**, 16.142, \$329.00
3. Denise Lecy, **TATOOED WITH FIRE** m by **Ring Afire**, 16.187, \$219.00
4. Heidi Gunderson, **TAKIN ON A STORM** g by **Cartel Dancer**, 16.277, \$110.00

2D

1. Savanna Paddock, **LADIES DASH OF HOPE** m by **Special Smooth Man**, 16.971, \$292.00
2. Lindsey Beech, **BREATHIN FIREWATER** m by **Firewater On Ice**, 17.019, \$219.00
3. Lydia Roberts, **CHICS BLAZIN GUNS** g by **Chics Playgun**, 17.128, \$146.00
4. Amanda Nash, **FAMOUS ILLEGAL SMOKE** g by **Dash Ta Fame**, 17.151, \$73.00

DERBY AVERAGE

1D

1. Sherry Wyffels, **BLAZIN U TURN** m by **Blazin Jetolena**, 32.006, \$428.00
2. Molly Otto, **SFW WONDER WOMAN** m by **Sun Frost Wonder**, 32.417, \$257.00
3. Lisa Bruley, **NRR STYLISH KITTY**, 32.484, \$171.00

2D

1. Emmy Zimba, **RNR SMART POCO**, 33.028, \$184.00
2. Shawn Varpness, **SHEZASTREAKNSUNFROST**, 33.181, \$110.00
3. Sue Ahlgren, **AS BAD AS CORONA**, 33.354, \$73.00



KEEPING IT IN THE FAMILY...

***BROTHER & SISTER WIN BOTH
THE FUTURITY & DERBY
AVERAGE CHAMPIONSHIPS!***

Derby Champion

**SHERRY WYFFELS &
BLAZIN U TURN**

DERBY 1ST GO

1D

1. Sherry Wyffels, **BLAZIN U TURN** m by **Blazin Jetolena**, 15.727, \$275.00
2. Molly Otto, **SFW WONDER WOMAN** m by **Sun Frost Wonder**, 15.858, \$165.00
3. Shawn Varpness, **SHEZASTREAKNSUNFROST**, 16.024, \$110.00

2D

1. Stella Hillmann, **HOT WINTER FLING**, 16.28, \$184.00
2. Lisa Bollin, **LIL LUCKY STRAIT**, 16.423, \$110.00
3. Colleen Vondra, **ANTE UP SOME CASH**, 16.424, \$73.00

DERBY 2ND GO

1D

1. Tammy Rudningen, **JANGLE TA FAME** m by **Tac Ta Fame**, 16.052, \$275.00
2. Sherry Wyffels, **BLAZIN U TURN** m by **Blazin Jetolena**, 16.279, \$165.00
3. Lisa Bruley, **NRR STYLISH KITTY**, 16.311, \$110.00

2D

1. Krista Rae, **SALLY GOT WINGS**, 16.553, \$184.00
2. Stella Hillmann, **HOT WINTER FLING**, 16.553, \$110.00
3. Molly Otto, **SFW WONDER WOMAN** m by **Sun Frost Wonder**, 16.559, \$73.00

TEAM SLOT RACE

1D

1. Erin Bayer, **BENANNA GOLDSTREAKER**, 15.877, 31.681, \$412.50
1. Natalie Moen, **FIREWATER STRAIT LACE**, 15.804
2. Nikki Duevel, **DAKOTA OAK FROST**, 16.162, 32.030, \$247.50
2. Erin Ring, **CAN WHITCH**, 15.868
3. Hailey Sheldon, **CB DAY**, 15.974, 32.296, \$165.00
3. Crystal Helmin, **RARE MOON RISING**, 16.322

2D

1. Alyssa Fleming, **IMA SMOKIN DUN**, 16.784, 32.835, \$275.00
1. Stephanie Wall, **HICKORYS BABY**, 16.051
2. Amanda Nash, **DH CLINES SONOITA**, 16.631, 32.901, \$165.00
2. Natalie Zuccone, **BAILEY H KING**, 16.270
3. Deb Smith, **MOR MORS GEM**, 16.489, 32.978, \$110.00
3. Denise Lecy, **TATOOED WITH FIRE**, 16.519

INDIVIDUAL SLOT RACE

1D

1. Sue Craig, **LACEYS XXX CASH**, 15.743, \$412.50
2. Natalie Moen, **FIREWATER STRAIT LACE**, 15.804, \$247.50
3. Erin Ring, **CAN WHITCH**, 15.868, \$165.00

2D

1. Natalie Zuccone, **BAILEY H KING**, 16.27, \$275.00
2. Crystal Helmin, **RARE MOON RISING**, 16.322, \$165.00
3. Isabella Cannustraci, **FABULOUS RIPPLE**, 16.331, \$110.00