

COWGIRL TUFF TRI STATE FUTURITY

MN Equestrian Center – July 14-16, 2017 – Winona, MN

FUTURITY AVERAGE

1D

1. Heidi Gunderson, **TAKIN ON A STORM**, 30.388, \$773.00
2. Shawn Varpness, **WHISKEY KISMET**, 30.405, \$644.00
3. Alicia Gaarder, **SMASHIN EASY CASH**, 31.167, \$515.00
4. Chelsea Gilman, **BULLY FOR MOONSHINE**, 31.263, \$386.00
5. Lindsey Beech, **BREATHIN FIREWATER**, 31.278, \$258.00

2D

1. Annie Gerlach, **IMA SPICY NACHO**, 32.478, \$331.00
2. Sandra Highland, **RP DASH FOR FROST**, 32.497, \$276.00
3. MacKenzie Weber, **JEWEL TIME**, 32.524, \$221.00
4. Lolita Long, **JAGERITA LITA**, 32.787, \$166.00
5. Stacy Schultz, **LUCKY NINETY NINE**, 32.948, \$110.00

FUTURITY 1ST GO

1D

1. Heidi Gunderson, **TAKIN ON A STORM**, 15.039, \$497.00
2. Shawn Varpness, **WHISKEY KISMET**, 15.167, \$414.00
3. Kelly Gerber, **WHOS FAME**, 15.341, \$331.00
4. Hilary Van Gerpen, **JMS THISBUGS FOR YOU**, 15.431, \$248.00
5. Lindsey Beech, **BREATHIN FIREWATER**, 15.498, \$166.00

2D

1. Charity Seeger, **DAKOTAS CATALENA BOY**, 16.068, \$331.00
2. Sara Kottke, **CROSBY MODERN IRON**, 16.075, \$276.00
3. Chrystal Richter, **GMSPARKINTHEMOON**, 16.138, \$221.00
4. Mariah Kusilek, **LIL REY REY**, 16.183, \$166.00
5. Michelle Ellis, **FLIRTIN WITH SPEED**, 16.254, \$110.00

FUTURITY 2ND GO

1D

1. Shawn Varpness, **WHISKEY KISMET**, 15.238, \$497.00
2. Heidi Gunderson, **TAKIN ON A STORM**, 15.349, \$414.00
3. Jenny Born, **HOT LIL SCOOTER**, 15.380, \$331.00
4. Alicia Gaarder, **SMASHIN EASY CASH**, 15.555, \$248.00
5. Chelsea Gilman, **BULLY FOR MOONSHINE**, 15.652, \$166.00

2D

1. Allison Rigenhagen, **LACEYS LUCKY STRAIT**, 16.280, \$331.00
2. Stacy Schultz, **LUCKY NINETY NINE**, 16.393, \$276.00
3. Lolita Long, **JAGERITA LITA**, 16.403, \$221.00
4. Loretta Herbers, **ROSS CREEK LE PEARL**, 16.460, \$166.00
5. Morgan Meger, **IMA SPORTIN FRENCHMAN**, 16.558, \$110.00

Continue Tri State...

Futurity Champion

HEIDI GUNDERSON & TAKIN ON A STORM

Photo credit *High Point Photography*



Continue Tri State...

HEIDI GUNDERSON

I was very hopeful coming into the weekend. "Makin" felt great and the last time I ran him at this arena he had won the 2nd go of the June futurity posting the fastest time of the weekend. I knew if he could run like that we would have a good chance of winning some money. I ran in the Friday night open and hit the first barrel on the backside with a rider error, so I knew I was going to have to send him and ride him through his turns. The first go, I sent him to the first and he swallowed it; I knew after that I had it! He comes back so hard on the backside of the first, I know if I ride him right and get him past it we are good to go. He won the first go Saturday and I carried my time over to the Saturday open with a time of 15.039. He was 6th in the 1D with over 300 entries including the American Qualifiers from Saturday night. It was exciting to me to see him be able to clock at that level of competition. The 10th place American Qualifier was a 15.162, so I was super happy with the way he worked and clocked on Saturday.

I didn't sleep a lot on Saturday night; I kept playing my run through my mind. I knew if I could keep the barrels up we had a good chance of winning the futurity. On Sunday, I overrode him playing it safe; he clocked a slower time, but it was enough for 2nd in the go and to win the average of the futurity. It felt so good to have him earn that honor.

TAKIN ON A STORM is sired by Cartel Dancer and out of Highest Straw/Texas High Dasher

"Makin" as we call him is sired by Cartel Dancer, who is owned by Tom Maher of Pierre, SD. TAKIN ON A STORM was bred by Winner's Circle Ranch, Jim and Brenda Hughes of Osakis, MN. Jim and Brenda have bred a handful of winners in the barrel pen, including RC Back in Black that brought Jane Melby to the NFR and won 3 rounds in Vegas. I jumped at the chance to own a colt out of their program. Brenda told me that when she bred Highest Straw to Cartel Dancer, she want-

ed the run of Corona Cartel and the turn of the Texas High Dasher's. Well she got it! That is exactly what Makin is.

The opportunity to own him came early on in his 2 year old year. A friend of mine had bought him from Brenda and Jim. I had a barrel horse that she wanted to buy. When I asked her if she had any colts she would like to trade, she mentioned Makin. She told me he was one of the Winner's Circle colts and I told her 'done deal'. He had been lightly started under saddle; he is a late colt with a late June birthday, so when I got him in July he had just turned 2. We got on him a couple times in the round pen and turned him out till fall to allow him to grow up some. He was a spook (still is) and when we got on him in the fall he was a handful. The spring of his 3-year-old year my goal was to just be able to ride him outside the arena safely! My husband Mark has had to "top him off" several times for me-lol! I remember riding down the road and having to scratch my arm from a mosquito but not daring to move on top of him! I started hauling him to rodeos and let him stand tied to the trailer many weekends to acclimate him to the atmosphere and get him used to more people, sights, and sounds. It worked; he started to get less jumpy about everything and anything around him. His 3-year-old summer I started him on the barrels; he was a natural. I had sold my rodeo horse that summer in May, so my goal all along was to camp out on this colt and have him ready to go as a 4 year old. That's what I did. I rode him everyday, hauled him everywhere we went, and by mid summer decided I could take him and exhibition him.

His first barrel race I entered him in was March of 2017 in Verndale, MN. His first weekend ever entered, he clocked the fastest time of any horse I have ever run in that arena and ran 2nd in the 1D. If I didn't know by then, I now knew he was going to be something very special!

HURDLES, QUIRKS AND/OR SETBACKS...

He was/is a very spooky horse, he never was a buckner, but I don't think I ever rode a horse that can

spook from one side of the road to the other side of the road in the blink of an eye like this one. I have not ever come off him, but there have been some close calls! Getting him used to things around him was the biggest challenge. Hauling to the rodeos helped him a lot! I also have had Mark rope the sled off him several times, so he could get used to ropes and things up over his head.

Mark does all of the colt training at our house. He starts all our own and rides outside training horses as well. Makin had been lightly started when we got him. Mark rode him until he was safe for me, then I took it mostly from that point forward. There have been times when I have definitely asked him for a tune-up. This is a perk of being married to your colt starter--lol. It is a joint effort. We do a lot of everything with our colts. My strategy with them is to expose them to as much as I can. Since Mark works for a rodeo contractor, I have a great opportunity to bring my colts along to the rodeos and use them to run down cattle and shag calves from the arena. I like to rope off my colts, even if not live cattle, I have Mark rope the roping dummy on all of them. Learning how to deal with pressure in all sorts of environments gives them a better mind to be able to handle the high stakes pressure of being a barrel horse.

I don't work the barrels on him a lot; I keep him in shape just riding him, occasionally putting him in the round pen. There are some drills I do, but with him, he does them so perfect, I don't see the need to keep repeating things he has down. If I see a need for something, then we will work on that. He picks up on things fast, so there isn't really a need to work him often on the same thing.

Currently I am running him in a short shank 3 piece Carolina bit. It's one of my favorites in a light mouthed colt. I ride him during the week in several different Dutton bits. I have a G bar G saddle that I use on him. He is on Rein and Saddle-Well Being feed provided by All Around Equine and I use OE Align supplement daily. I run him on OE Composed as well.

TAKIN ON A STORM's style...

He's special--he has the run of a free-runner, but when he gets to the barrels he loves to turn. What I think is so special about him is that we have yet to put together that perfect run. There have been mistakes to clean up in our runs, and he's still clocking. That's how fast he is; he can make it up. I have made runs on him that I thought I was just cruising him through and he cuts the clock off. I have trained and rode some pretty cool horses, but Makin has all the tools to be that once in a life time horse. I am so excited for his future.

TRI STATE 2017... Shawn and Casey Varpness of SC Productions do an amazing job producing barrel races. I cannot say enough about the organization and hospitality that they offer to the barrel racers that come to their events. The Minnesota Equestrian Center is a beautiful facility and I will be running there later this fall in a couple more futurities. They sell out every barrel race they produce; I think that says it all.

GOALS... Of course, I have super high hopes and dreams for Makin. My goal for the end of the year is to end this year more solid than we started. I want to make quality lifetime horses. We will take each run one at a time! We will continue to go to futurities when they allow with our schedule. (My son Coy is in Junior High Rodeo, so that keeps me busy in that direction as well.) The next stop will be Verndale, MN for the JJ Classic the beginning of August. After coming off this win, I am excited for that weekend to come!

THANK YOU TO...

God, for blessing me with this amazing athlete and giving me the ability to train and ride him. I have always sold my "good" horses before I have another one going with the faith that if it's meant to be, God will send me another. He has never failed me. My husband Mark for helping me train and bring Makin to this level. I could never do it without him. My kids, cheering me on. Nothing better than having them run to the truck when I come in the

Continue Tri State...

driveway saying, "Mom, you WON!" (Seeing them be proud of me, I can't explain that feeling.) My dad, for teaching me to "make my own". I didn't realize at the time what a resource that would be. Without that I wouldn't be able to train

and ride my own from the beginning. My friends and family that love and support me daily, with encouraging words, compliments, and always cheering me on. I truly cherish their friendship and love.

DERBY AVERAGE

1D

1. Shari Taggart, **MARGARITA RED RITA**, 29.963, \$528.00
2. Molly Otto, **SFW WONDER WOMAN**, 30.106, \$440.00
3. Maddie Lijewski, **RIDICULOUS**, 30.287, \$352.00
4. Jimmy Bryant, **SIX FOLS CARTEL**, 30.341, \$264.00
5. Alexis Neese, **TQH SONITAS TIVIO**, 30.62, \$176.00

2D

1. Danielle Rouseiange, **FLIT MISS JAMIE**, 31.007, \$226.00
2. Katie Klungseth, **FRENCH GIRLS PROFIT**, 31.015, \$189.00
3. Jessica Beauvais, **DDPAL MISS SPEEDY**, 31.100, \$151.00
4. Angie Gardner, **WHISKEY AND DIAMONDS**, 31.106, \$113.00
5. Michelle Bogdonas, **FAMOUS BOUNCY BUGS**, 31.339, \$75.00

DERBY 1ST GO

1D

1. Carina Morris, **WASHAKIE JOE SPARKS**, 14.897, \$340.00
2. Shari Taggart, **MARGARITA RED RITA**, 15.056, \$283.00
3. Molly Otto, **SFW WONDER WOMAN**, 15.114, \$226.00
4. Jimmy Bryant, **SIX FOLS CARTEL**, 15.191, \$170.00
5. Alexis Neese, **TQH SONITAS TIVIO**, 15.242, \$113.00

2D

1. Donna Kalish, **NICKS SPECIAL K**, 15.398, \$226.00
2. Tonya Williams, **DR NICK BARS TREASURE**, 15.418, \$189.00
3. Callie Willie, **MI ICHI BOOMBA**, 15.440, \$151.00
4. Casey Varpness, **BOBS FAMOUS BIRTHDAY**, 15.454, \$113.00
5. Jessica Beauvais, **DDPAL MISS SPEEDY**, 15.481, \$75.00

DERBY 2ND GO

1D

1. Shari Taggart, **MARGARITA RED RITA**, 14.907, \$340.00
2. Maddie Lijewski, **RIDICULOUS**, 14.980, \$283.00
3. Molly Otto, **SFW WONDER WOMAN**, 14.992, \$226.00
4. Sarah Christensen, **HOLY OAK**, 15.106, \$170.00
5. Shawn Varpness, **SHEZASTREAKSUNFROST**, 15.149, \$113.00

2D

1. Tonya Williams, **DR NICK BARS TREASURE**, 15.430, \$226.00
2. Callie Willie, **MI ICHI BOOMBA**, 15.445, \$189.00
3. Angie Gardner, **WHISKEY AND DIAMONDS**, 15.449, \$151.00
4. Jessica Beauvais, **DDPAL MISS SPEEDY**, 15.619, \$113.00
5. Sue Ahlgren, **AS BAD AS CORONA**, 15.639, \$75.00

AMERICAN QUALIFIER

1. Cricket Gintner, **DIAL A LITTLE FAME**, 14.717, \$1,800.00
2. Cassidy Kohnhofer, **HIGHLIGHT EXPRESS**, 14.839, \$1,350.00
3. Carina Morris, **WASHAKIE JOE SPARKS**, 14.928, \$900.00
4. Tamie Jo Martin, **ZS SMASHED**, 14.932, \$450.00
5. Shannon Jensen, **FRENCHMANS DASHNISTA**, 14.995, \$0.00
6. MacKenzie Glab, **PACKIN FRENCH PONY**, 15.032, \$0.00
7. Molly Otto, **SFW WONDER WOMAN**, 15.079, \$0.00
8. McKenzie Alders, **TINY LUCKY SCOOTER**, 15.089, \$0.00
9. Sarah Christensen, **HOLY OAK**, 15.126, \$0.00
10. Ellie Johanson, **LB BOON**, 15.162, \$0.00

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