

SOUTH DAKOTA HEARTLAND FUTURITY

State Fairgrounds Complex – October 21-23, 2016 – Huron, SD

Cover Story
NRF TOUR
CHAMPION



SD Heartland Futurity Champion & NRF Tour Year End Futurity Champion

ROB BLOHOWIAK & GLORY GLORY HALLELUJAH

FUTURITY AVERAGE

1. Rob Blohowiak, **GLORY GLORY HALLELUJAH** m by **Stratospheric**, 29.886
2. Hilary Van Gerpen, **THREE TYMES A LADY** m by **Tres Seis**, 30.573
3. Hilary Van Gerpen, **BRATZILLA** (ApHC) m by **Firewater Finale**, 30.620
4. McKenzie Jendersee, **DASHN TO FEINISH** by **Feintastic**, 30.668

Rob not only won the SD Futurity Championship Average but he also captured the Year-End NRF Tour Futurity Championship riding his gritty little mare Glory Glory Hallelujah. The NRF Tour consists of a group of futurities in the Northern States that run for points throughout the year. The NRF Tour is about *Promoting Northern Region Producers, Contestants and Breeders*. The producers work very hard putting together such great events and the contestants work hard at training and competing at these events making it fun to watch these young pro-

spects grow and change throughout the year. Many hours go into the NRF Tour trying to make it bigger and better each year. The NRF Tour is known for giving out amazing awards every year! Nicole Ratkowski was the Reserve Year-End Futurity Champion riding SR Moonlite On Fire. The Derby Year End Champion was none other than Lonnie Kuschel riding Famous Three Bugs while Reserve Championship went to Sherry Johnson aboard Skip Cash Ta Leroy. Congratulations to all of the winners! Find out more at www.NRFTour.com.

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Glory rode great all week and felt ready. I was a bit over excited because this was the final futurity for points in the NRF tour and second place was only 12 points behind me. I needed to place ahead of Nicole Ratkowski or only a few riders behind her to win the tour. For the first go, Glory felt quiet and relaxed. She eased up the alleyway and exploded when I let her go. She goes to the left barrel first and inhaled it. Her second was a bit wild and her third was good. She flew home and ran the only 14 second run of the go. Unfortunately, Nicole had some bad luck, allowing me to take a big enough lead in the standings to win the year end championship. The second go, Glory was more up but I was relaxed. She got deep on the first but really made it up on the second two and ran another 14 and the fastest time of the futurity.

I want to thank Elaine and Della for a great event and wonderful prizes. I had never been to Huron- they made it easy to get stalls, camping and warm ups. It was a great weekend! Another huge shout-out to Shawn and Casey Varpness and the NRF tour. It was my goal to win the tour this year. They offer such great prizes and the competition is tough but everyone is super friendly. The tour gives us an opportunity to campaign young horses at great facilities without extensive travel. We had a blast.

Glory Glory Hallelujah... I bought Glory from Chris and Stefanie Duke of Duke Racing in Whiteland Indiana. I have known Chris for over 25 years. I saw Glory on facebook as a 2 year old and immediately recognized the name of her dam, Tejereta. She was a great mare that Chris

Rob & Glory putting a run together at the MN Equestrian Center in Winona, MN



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rode and kicked my butt and everyone else's in the 1990's. Tejereta won well over \$100,000 and I was excited to have one of her foals. Then I looked up her sire, Stratospheric. He was gorgeous. Owned by Vicky Adams but I believe he died as a young stallion and only has about 15 foals on the ground. He is a son of First Down Dash out of a Mr. Jess Perry mare.

Glory is very sweet on the ground and quiet to ride. She is gritty when it comes to competition and really seems to enjoy it. She is only 14.3 hands but when she gets ready to run she seems 16.1. Her warm up is usually quiet exercise to loosen her up and when we get closer to running, I gently set her a few times and get her responsive and a bit on the muscle.

She runs in a medium twisted wire Jim Warner lifter bit. I work her in a Loomis or a light hackamore. She eats Nutrena Safe Choice original with Vitamin C and K powder, Healthy Coat and Arthrisoothe - Gold (joint supplement). When we haul, she gets Ulcergard for ulcer prevention and some electrolytes. I also use the Equiresp nebulizer prerace. She also gets routine VSMT (veterinary spinal manipulation therapy or chiropractic) and acupuncture. As an equine veterinarian, I make sure she is sound, healthy and happy.

Glory is successful for a number of reasons. I am convinced that the "mare power" behind her has been a great influence. In fact, I just bought her 2 year old maternal sister. Although she is little, her conformation is wonderful. She is a compact bullet. I always thought she was super quick in her turns and she is, but we recently did the interval timing at the JJ Classic and found out

that she is actually out running most of the horses on the run home. There were really no major setbacks in her training. My only complaint was that she liked to drop her head and therefore her front end in her left turns. It was very frustrating for a while. She was placing but not winning. I switched her to the left barrel first to get in 2 right hand turns and it has made all the difference.

We are a team. She really likes me. I don't over work her on the pattern, she gets lots of turn out, beautiful hay and I don't haul her wheels off. It's a combination of breeding, care and training. Her *it* factor is her try. She always gives it her all. Even if it is in the wrong way she does everything full-out. I never say "she didn't run or try in a certain competition" She is consistent. I went to 9 of the 10 futurities and she placed in the average in all 9 and won two of them.

Conditioning~ I believe in a lot of cross training. I work her in the arena off pattern and on pattern; then the next day we may ride down the road. I use the equicisor for light walk/trot days. Mentally I want her focused and filled with try. I do this by maintaining my relationship with her. She knows that she can count on me to be there for her every need; all she needs to do is go around 3 barrels faster than anyone else and her extensive benefit package will stay in place. I also keep hay in front of her all the time and use Ulcergard. EGUS or equine gastric ulcer syndrome is very prevalent in show horses and can cause a multitude of performance and health problems.

Keeping her fresh~ I love to arrive early, especially for long hauls. Whenever we can, we

travel close to the arena and stay with a friend overnight so we can break up the trip and get on the grounds early the morning of arrival. Glory loves her shavings and laying down in her stall so I make sure she gets enough down time to refresh and rejuvenate.

Therapies for prevention~ Again Ulcergard. Arthrisoothe-Gold as a joint supplement not only has traditional glucosamine and chondroitin sulfate but also the Indian herb Boswelvia for inflammation and yucca. She occasionally gets a little back sore so mesotherapy and shockwave therapy really help along with chiropractic. Back on Track blanket.

Future plans~ We are headed to the BFA in December and I would really love to make the short go. I will derby her when I can but plan to stay a bit more local next year and season her little sister. We would love to get a foal or two, maybe ET. I have been considering possible stallions to cross her on.

Thank you~ A huge thank you to my wife, Mary and our three sons, Noah, Jonah and Fin. I traveled a lot this year and they could not go with me very often because of involvement in other activities. They are always generous and loving with their support. To my parents, Ralph and Bonnie, they got this whole ball rolling when I was only 8 years old. My dad is my partner in all these horses and to see him so happy and proud was a wonderful thing. I don't have any sponsors but I would like to thank my staff at Great Lakes Equine for helping me keep Glory healthy and sound and for holding down the fort when I was gone. To all of the NRF tour participants and Casey and Shawn, thank you for a fun year and for all of the compliments and encouragement along the way.

Rob

FUTURITY 1ST GO

1D

1. Rob Blohowiak, **GLORY GLORY HALLELUJAH** m by **Stratospheric**, 14.985, \$411.00
2. McKenzie Jendersee, **DASHN TO FEINISH** by **Feintastic**, 15.160, \$308.25
3. Kristen Zancanella, **ITS MISTER FAME TO U** g by **My Fames Frosted**, 15.208, \$205.50
4. Hilary Van Gerpen, **BRATZILLA** (ApHC) m by **Firewater Finale**, 15.274, \$102.75

2D

1. Hilary Van Gerpen, **THREE TYMES A LADY** m by **Tres Seis**, 15.491, \$363.00
2. Shawn Varpness, **SHEZASTREAKNSUNFROST** m by **A Streak Of Fling**, 15.515, \$272.25
3. Cody Holmes, **MS STREAKIN BRIANA K** m by **Streak Of Fling**, 15.576, \$181.50
4. Molly Otto, **FIREWATERINTHESKY** m by **Firewaterontherocks**, 15.592, \$90.75

FUTURITY 1ST GO

3D

1. Tammy Rudningen, **JANGLE TA FAME**, 16.012, \$267.00
2. Sherry Wyffels, **BLAZIN U TURN**, 16.103, \$200.25
3. Cortney Haugen, **CORONA FLASHN PISTOL**, 16.169, \$133.50
4. Terra Mitzel, **FRENCHMANS CHICI BUG**, 16.191, \$66.75

4D

1. Amber Garrett, **MS HASTA PASS**, 17.050, \$219.00
2. Jen Martin, **TQH SMART RANSOM**, 17.077, \$164.25
3. Kalie Anderson, **WHATCHA LOOKN AT**, 17.257, \$109.50
4. Stacy Schultz, **FIDDLE AROUND LUCK**, 17.399, \$54.75

FUTURITY 2ND GO

1D

1. Rob Blohowiak, **GLORY GLORY HALLELUJAH** m by **Stratospheric**, 14.901, \$411.00
2. Hilary Van Gerpen, **THREE TYMES A LADY** m by **Tres Seis**, 15.082, \$308.25
3. Nicole Ratkowski, **SR MOONLITES ON FIRE** g by **Frenchmans Moonlite**, 15.315, \$205.50
4. Hilary Van Gerpen, **BRATZILLA (ApHC)** m by **Firewater Finale**, 15.346, \$102.75

2D

1. McKenzie Jendersee, **DASHN TO FEINISH** by **Feintastic**, 15.508, \$363.00
2. Chelsie Cunningham, **REININ FIREWATER** c by **Rare Bar**, 15.579, \$272.25
3. Sue Ahlgren, **AS BAD AS CORONA** g by **More Nachos**, 15.602, \$181.50
4. Cody Holmes, **MS STREAKIN BRIANA K** m by **Streak Of Fling**, 15.634, \$90.75

3D

1. Theresa Navrkal, **BID FOR ZAHARA**, 15.904, \$267.00
2. Lindsey Brewer, **EXTRA FEINTASTIC**, 15.911, \$200.25
3. Danielle Rousselage, **FLIT MISS JAMIE**, 15.983, \$133.50
4. Shawn Varpness, **WHISKEY AND DIAMONDS**, 16.007, \$66.75

4D

1. Haley Hinker, **SAKEN SAN SOCKS**, 16.947, \$219.00
2. Dawn Cable, **CRUISING ON BY**, 16.997, \$164.25
3. Bailey Webb-Olson, **LITTLILBIT SMASHED**, 17.144, \$109.50
4. Cotie Suter, **STASH N DASH**, 17.651, \$54.75

DERBY AVERAGE

1. Lon Kuschel, **FAMOUS THREEBUGS** m by **My Stud Leroy**, 30.100
2. Sarah Christensen, **HOLY OAK**, 30.143
3. Michele Harrison, **FA FIRESTEEL DUDE**, 30.494
4. Stacy Nelson, **TS HUSSELUP**, 30.591
5. Jessica Beauvais, **SIX**, 30.610

DERBY 1ST GO

1D

1. Trinity Beauvais, **WASHAKIE JOE SPARKS**, 14.733, \$427.50
2. Michele Harrison, **FA FIRESTEEL DUDE**, 15.104, \$320.63
3. Sarah Christensen, **HOLY OAK**, 15.108, \$213.75
4. Lon Kuschel, **FAMOUS THREEBUGS**, 15.154, \$106.88

2D

1. Cody Holmes, **MS STREAKIN KELLY**, 15.241, \$372.50
2. Stacy Nelson, **TS HUSSELUP**, 15.257, \$279.38
3. Amber Garrett, **SHOWMETHESUGAR SOS**, 15.363, \$186.25
4. Sarah Rheinbolt, **LSR TONTO FANCYFROST**, 15.384, \$93.13

3D

1. Mary Griffith, **LR FRENCHMANS OLIVER**, 15.745, \$262.50
2. Coly Blake, **BO BE FAMOUS**, 15.756, \$196.88
3. Val Kamen, **TM DRIFTIN BREEZE**, 15.885, \$131.25
4. Hailey Beauvais, **CATS LITTLE SECRET**, 15.969, \$65.63

4D

1. Joanie Halls, **MR HICKORY SAN PEPPY**, 16.825, \$207.50
2. Shasta Buss, **BELLAS BRIO LEGACY**, 16.894, \$155.63
3. Bobbi Jo Williams, **STEEL GREY CODY**, 17.147, \$103.75
4. Hope Andal, **MAGNOLIAS FIREWATER**, 17.217, \$51.88

DERBY 2ND GO

1D

1. Lon Kuschel, **FAMOUS THREEBUGS**, 14.946, \$427.50
2. Sarah Christensen, **HOLY OAK**, 15.035, \$320.63
3. Cindy Jons, **DOX MEGA MAGNOLIA**, 15.110, \$213.75
4. Trinity Beauvais, **DDPAL MIS SPEEDY**, 15.246, \$106.88

2D

1. Tera Moody, **NO WAY HOSAY**, 15.498, \$372.50
2. Jodi Theisen, **SHE'S FROM HEAVEN**, 15.526, \$279.38
3. Jessica Sandbulte, **UUU TWO BIT WHOA**, 15.532, \$186.25
4. Jena Garwood, **KK JET FROST**, 15.544, \$93.13

3D

1. Val Kamen, **TM DRIFTIN BREEZE**, 15.947, \$262.50
2. Mary Griffith, **LR FRENCHMANS OLIVER**, 15.966, \$196.88
3. Maggie Smith, **BLAZIN MOON JET**, 15.979, \$131.25
4. Joni Laska, **MBAR RUBY BELLE**, 15.993, \$65.63

4D

1. Shasta Buss, **BELLAS BRIO LEGACY**, 16.970, \$207.50
2. Bobbi Jo Williams, **STEEL GREY CODY**, 17.125, \$155.63
3. Lori KJose, **FASTSMASHIN FRENCHMAN**, 17.139, \$103.75
4. Stacy Kraabel, **LITTLE JOHN ROSTER**, 17.153, \$51.88