

JESS BEING VALIANT & 4N RANCH *With Dan & Kasey Etbauer*

Performance Horse Stallions contacted the owners of Jess Being Valiant to ask them a few questions so our viewers can get to know them better...

4N RANCH BY KASEY ETBAUER...4N is located in the small Oklahoma panhandle town of Goodwell. 4N is an old Nichols family brand belonging to my grandfather Gilbert Nichols. My husband Dan and I operate a small training and breeding program for ourselves, my parents, Howard and Laurie Nichols, as well as Elyse and Tony Cullum and Dallas and Valerie Howell. We also manage a small cattle operation for the Howell's. In 2015 we integrated Jess Being Valiant, a 2010 stallion owned by my parents into our program. We manage the barrel racing & arena business end, while Burns Ranch stands him and handles all breeding and horse racing business.

The ranch is primarily Dan and I (which is why we try to keep it small); we hire a few college kids from OPSU (Oklahoma Panhandle State University) each year to help out with chores and basic upkeep. We have a couple young men that help Dan start the colts. My parents live in AZ, but they are a big part of the program. Modern technology allows my parents to follow along with the training, help with ideas or give advice. They have a lot of experience under their belts!



JESS BEING VALIANT
Sired by Valiant Hero and out of Jess Sass Me

Dan & Kasey Etbauer



I grew up in AZ in a farming/rodeo family. I'm a Turquoise and Prairie Circuit finalist in barrels, 2008 WPRA World Champion Heeler, and have qualified for multiple amateur rodeo finals. I've also had some success in the futurities and derbies. My parents are also very involved with horse racing and my great grandfather, Abe Nichols owned Clabber, the first AQHA World Champion race horse. Dan grew up in SD in a ranching, rodeo family. He is a 10x NFR qualifier in Saddle Bronc Riding, Reserve PRCA Saddle Bronc Riding Champion, multiple Prairie Circuit champion, Calgary Champion, National Circuit Champion and NFR pick up man.

Continue Jess Being Valiant...



Dan & Kasey – ESTRC Finals



**Kasey & Miss Julie X
Beth Cooper Maturity Champion**



Dan & Kasey – NFR 1992

Our life and program was sidelined for a bit a couple years ago, Dan was airlifted to Amarillo, TX for emergency surgery to remove a blood clot in his small intestine. They removed a foot of his intestine; in horse terms, he had colic surgery! It has been a long journey with a few setbacks, but we're slowly getting back on track. We enjoy messing with the colts and watching them progress; we also love roping. It's something fun we can do together. We're just now finally getting back to all the things we enjoy. I'd love to see Dan finally enter some ropings this year and I hope to have a couple futurity horses for 2017. Now that Dan is able to ride again, we plan to have more horses offered for sale later this year and into next. Breeding season is coming up; we really enjoy this time of year. The babies are so fun. Breeding can bring great joy, great sorrow or great frustration. I've had to learn to accept that it doesn't always go as planned. We tend to ride a lot of mares, so embryo transfers (ET) allow us to continue to compete on them and not wait to get a foal down the road.

We recently retired our top mare, Fashion Star Flit. As she aged, she was having difficulty carrying a foal past 30 days; ET allowed us to have several more babies from her. It has been a big asset for us over the years.

We currently have mares that are running bred, cow bred and barrel racing bred. Jesse has such a great mind and good conformation that we feel he'll cross on just about anything. We have found a lot of success with Firewater Flit, Judge Cash, PC Bronsin, Clydus X (ApHC), Sail On Bunny and Dash Ta Fame. We always bought colts and trained them for ourselves prior to ever breeding a mare. These are the bloodlines that we found success with or had a history of success, so that's what we wanted in our program. We have two mares due to foal this year by Jesse and plan to breed 5 mares this year; that's a good manageable number for us. 2016 is Jesse's first foal crop so we will have offspring for sale in the near future.



Kasey & Jesse

JESS BEING VALIANT aka Jesse is owned by my parents, Howard and Laurie Nichols. They bought him as a yearling in the Ruidoso Sale with intentions of running him in CA. His pedigree is nothing short of amazing, but his maternal side is what stood out to them. He has a very strong maternal line. We brought him here for Dan to start before going to the track. He was so easy from the get go and so willing. He won \$191,735 and AQHA Superior Race Horse honors. He retired sound mentally and physically, which speaks volumes in my opinion. Jaime Gomez, his trainer, spoke so highly of Jesse. "He has the best mind, I trained Walk Thru Fire and Corona Cartel, and Jesse has the same mind as them; always acted like geldings. He's a great stallion for 3 good reasons: good conformation, good mind, and he has 3 good mamas on his bottom side; 3 blue hen mamas, that makes a great stallion. He was a runner and he's going to throw runners. I strongly recommend him." My parents enjoy owning racehorses, but have never stood a stallion. It wasn't something they'd considered when they originally purchased Jesse. My mom is not scared to geld one and prefers to. If you ask her she'll tell you she actually forgot he was a stud because he never acted like one! They had several offers to buy Jesse, so towards the end of 2014 they had to make a decision. They felt he offered everything they liked in a stallion: winning record, pedigree, mind, conformation, soundness, good eye, and heart. He's also my mom's favorite color to boot! They decided to take an untraveled road for them and stand him. His first year to stand was 2015 so we're very excited to see his first crop arrive this year.

GOALS: We really want to see Jesse's offspring find success in the arena and on the racetrack. We really feel he's going to be a versatile stallion in that aspect. We plan on training for multiple events along with offering some for sale to the public. My parents are flushing a couple of their good running mares that are still at the track to him. The plan is to run them. We all just love Jesse for so many reasons. He has brought us a lot of joy and we hope others will see in him what we do. It takes time to build a program. It's a long process, but we'll keep learning and promoting Jesse the best we can.

OTHER INTERESTS? Hmmm, we don't have much free time! Dan volunteers every week helping at rough stock practice during the OPSU rodeo year. He loves helping those kids



Howard & Laurie Nichols and Kasey

learn. He also loves football season! I enjoy reading and just a lazy day with friends. If we ever take any kind of vacation it's very short or while we're at an event.

THANK YOU! We're always thankful to the people and horses that have helped us along the way. When Dan and I decided to buy one broodmare and 'see how it goes', we bought a little mare named Fashion Star Flit. We had no idea she'd make such a huge impact on our lives and we are so thankful to Elyse Cullum for selling her to us. I also want to thank Shelly Martin, Bo Hill and Amy Schimke for answering so many questions for me and their great advice. We'd like to thank Burns Ranch for taking such great care of Jesse and holding our hand this first year (and probably second year too). This is a new road for all of us, but we're very excited to see where it takes us!

For more information...

www.4NHorses.com

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