



October 17, 2009

NEWS RELEASE

Homegrown cutting horse carries Hansma to Open Futurity crown

CALGARY – This winner’s tale is of the homegrown variety. And Gerry Hansma figures it bears repeating . . . oh, a few dozen times, at least.

Having spent a quarter-century as a cutting horse trainer, Hansma has won a red ribbon at the Calgary Stampede Cutting Horse Futurity before. But the resident of Granum, Alta., admits there’s something special about claiming the big prize on equine power that he raised from a foal — and that’s the case with Two Spot the Cat, which carried Hansma to the Open Futurity class title on Saturday night at the Stampede Corral.

“This is one of our own. This is a horse we raised and bred . . . we own the mother, so we raised the baby,” said a victorious Hansma, 53, on Saturday night. “And it sure makes the win that much more special. Years ago, I think the first time I won the Futurity here, it was on a horse that our family owned and trained. That was my first Futurity win, on a Hansma-raised horse. And now it’s happened again . . . just awesome.”

The 29th annual edition of the Stampede’s Cutting Horse Futurity, presented by Wrangler, boasts a total prize purse of more than \$300,000 in seven categories, and has attracted 108 riders and 217 horses from as far away as Perth, Ont., and Weatherford, Texas.

Saturday night featured the three finals in the Open categories, designated for cutting horse trainers and professional riders. Hansma, as it turned out, cleaned up in the Open Futurity class for three-year-old steeds, taking first and second place in the 19-team final round to wrap up a memorable — and profitable — week at Stampede Park.

Hansma and Two Spot the Cat, which he co-owns with wife Sandy at Hansma Performance Horses, posted a 218-point performance and earned the grand champion’s cheque of \$17,461.80. Hansma also chalked up 215 points aboard Scoot N Thru Life, owned by Jim Paradis of Okotoks, Alta., also earning him reserve champion status and \$13,003.47 more. Denton Moffat of Armstrong, B.C., was third in the Open Futurity final on No Pinchin This Cat, owned by Janice Eaton of Merritt, B.C.

Two Spot the Cat, a quarter-horse stallion, “has a really super disposition,” said Hansma. “Very quiet, very easy-moving horse, very supple. I wouldn’t call him quick-footed; he’s just very cool-minded, soft-moving and smart. He gives you a lot of control on a cow.”

As for Scoot N Through Life, a quarter-horse gelding that Hansma has been training for Paradis, “he’s a little guy. Looks very young for his age, and he’s a smart cow horse,” said Hansma, whose brothers Winston and Paul train cutting horses in Texas. “He’s a quiet horse on cattle, but he’s got a lot of energy, a lot of spirit.”

Calgary Exhibition and Stampede Limited

Box 1060, Station M, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T2P 2K8 1.800.661.1260 T 403.261.0101 F 403.265.7197 www.calgarystampede.com



Doug Reinhardt of Irricana, Alta., who'd entered this five-day Stampede Futurity as two-time defending champion in Open Futurity, had to take solace in winning the Open Derby final for four-year-old mounts. Reinhardt and A Demi Date, owned by Willow Spring Ranch of Nanton, Alta., scored 216 for the winner's cheque of \$8,669.22.

Dustin Gonnet and Freckles Twisted Cat, owned by Wayne and Linda Meakin of Alcomdale, Alta., placed second, at 214.5, and earned \$6,844.12 for their efforts. John Swales of Millarville, Alta., finished third aboard Dual Reyacynth, owned by Rod and Marilyn MacDonald of Kamloops, B.C., with a score of 213, riding away with \$5,247.16.

Gonnet couldn't be kept out of the winner's circle, however, winning the Open Classic Challenge final for five- and six-year-olds on Lizzys Play Girl, owned by Rob Leman of High River, Alta. Their 219 points, the top score in any of Saturday's finals, was good for a champion's cheque of \$6,765.88.

Loren Christianson of Stony Plain, Alta., was second on Bob Playin, owned by Equistar Enterprises of Spruce Grove, Alta., with a 213 that netted \$4,736.12. Gonnet was also third in Open Classic Challenge with Dandy Lil Freck, owned by the Meakins, picking up another \$4,736.12.

The Stampede's annual Futurity event showcases the pure athleticism, instinct, agility and intelligence of the cutting horse. With horse-and-rider teams attempting to cut at least two, and most often three, individual cows out of a herd within 150 seconds, cutting has evolved into one of the most exciting equine events in North America. Contestants are evaluated by a panel of three judges and assessed a score based on the horse's instinctive reactions, the challenges made by the cows cut, and any errors in judgment made by the horse or rider.

Finals in the Non-Pro categories, for riders who make no part of their income by training horses, are slated for Sunday afternoon at the Corral, starting at 1 p.m. The Non-Pro equine age classes also include Futurity, Derby, and Classic Challenge, as well as 7 Up for horses aged seven years or older.

"To have our numbers up from last year, considering the effects of the economy on entries to horse events, is a testament to the importance and the success of the Calgary Stampede Futurity," said Christine Sowiak, chair of the Stampede's Western Performance Horse Committee, which includes cutting events.

- 30 -

For more information, please contact:

Tracey Foster
Agriculture Event Coordinator
T 403.261.0127
C 403.462.3739
F 403.262.3067
E tfoster@calgarystampede.com

Todd Kimberley
Agriculture Media Writer

C 403.815.2752
F 403.262.3067
E tkimberley@calgarystampede.com

The Calgary Stampede is a volunteer-supported, not-for-profit community organization that preserves and promotes western heritage and values. The Stampede contributes to the quality of life in Calgary and southern Alberta through its world-renowned 10-day Stampede, year-round facilities, western events and several youth and agriculture programs. All revenue is reinvested into Calgary Stampede programs and facilities. For more about the Stampede, visit www.calgarystampede.com.