

Stirring Up a Win

When the dirt settled, Reyzn Dust and Andrew Coates were on top in the Futurity Open.

By Alex Lynch • Action photos by Scootemnshootem

Each year, trainers and owners have to carefully evaluate their young 3-year-olds and determine whether they should hold out for the National Cutting Horse Association (NCHA) Futurity or enter their prospects in the early futurities. Sometimes the decision is difficult and meticulously designed, but other times the horses make the choice clear.

By Aug. 1, Reyzn Dust made it known to trainer Andrew Coates and Coyote Rock Ranch breeding/operations manager Sue Hagerty he was ready to take center stage, and they didn't ask him twice. Less than two weeks later, the homebred gelding proved his drive to get in the show pen was well justified when he carried Coates to a Futurity Open Reserve tie at an Outback weekend cutting.

The pair spring-boarded off that success to the Idaho Cutting Horse Association (ICHA) Futurity and Aged Event, where they marked a 219 to claim the Futurity Open Championship. Coates said the horse's confidence in the herd puts his mind at ease whenever he walks in the pen.

"He has a ton of personality and is kind of a cocky little guy, but that works to his advantage," Coates said of "Jaws." "The very first round I showed him, and every round since, you can trot him up there like he is 4 or 5 years old, and he loves that. He loves the challenge. I think that does give you a sense of confidence to have a 3-year-old like that.

"Some of these 3-year-olds are just babies yet," Coates continued. "If you trot them up, that might be too intense or [feel] too much pressure. To him, that is when he shines. He has always been that way since he was a 2-year-old. He has a ton of personality, and that comes out when he is working a cow. He loves working a cow. He would work a dog or a chicken. He just loves to work."

The Futurity Open win was worth \$12,040. The payday pushed Coates less than \$60,000 shy of \$1 million in lifetime earnings. Hagerty was overjoyed to see their home-raised gelding hit the ground running with his cutting career, and she is optimistic about his future with Coates.

"That was an amazing group of competitors," Hagerty said of the field in Idaho. "To come out on top with that crowd, you can't help but feel good about that accomplishment. We felt like this time in the program that it made good sense to show regionally and give him multiple opportunities to mature and progress.

"Andrew and Nicole [Coates] are so well grounded with horses as a whole," she continued. "They are not just looking to the next event, but looking at their longevity. Everything they do in how they train and promote them is about that. We don't know what horses will be show horses, no matter how talented they are. To have the right support to give you every shot you have to make that happen is really valuable."

The success in Idaho was especially noteworthy for Hagerty and Coates, because Jaws' road to the show pen was carefully planned. The Dual Rey gelding is out of the CD Royal mare Lil Dusty Lola, who Coyote Rock Ranch purchased with confidence in 2013 to help get their breeding program off on the right foot.

"Like many people, we were part of the 'Lola' fan club and wanted her," Hagerty said. "We thought about it for a long time. We just got lucky enough that the Westfalls were willing to sell her, because we know she was a part of their family. I have never been around a mare with more confidence or personality.

"What is exciting is that she is passing that on consistently to her offspring. Jaws is very small in stature, but what he lacks in size, he makes up for in grit. He just reminds me a lot of his dam. Those of us that have followed Lola never questioned she would be a producer, but it's really fun to see that happen and share that with everyone else."

"This is a bit of a Cinderella story, because



Reyzn Dust and Andrew Coates gave it everything they had in Idaho to claim the Futurity Open title for owner Coyote Rock Ranch.

Coyote Rock Ranch is just building up a good broodmare band with good offspring," Coates added. "We came up with a game plan five years ago, and we are all really proud that it seems to be working and there is a lot more coming up the pipeline out of good mares. I am really excited to see where it all goes."

Coates thanked Coyote Rock for giving him the opportunity to train horses for the ranch, and he also extended appreciation to his entire team, including Eric Wisheart, Morgan Cromer, Gavin Jordan and Tim Smith.

"I have a good team around me at home and who come with me on the road," Coates said. "I have the best team in the business and those four people have helped me for a long time. We work together really well. I can't say enough good things about them."

Futurity Non-Pro

Many young horse lovers dream about the day they can own a prospect and have their time together in the spotlight at futurities. But few would ever imagine winning the first limited-age event they entered.

Miranda Westfall proved the unfathomable to be possible when she piloted her mare Catchya Suen (Boon Too Suen x Alexas Cat x High Brow Cat) to a 213 in the Futurity Non-Pro finals to clinch the Championship. Though Westfall has worked in the horse industry for much of her life, this was her