

QUARTER HORSE NEWS

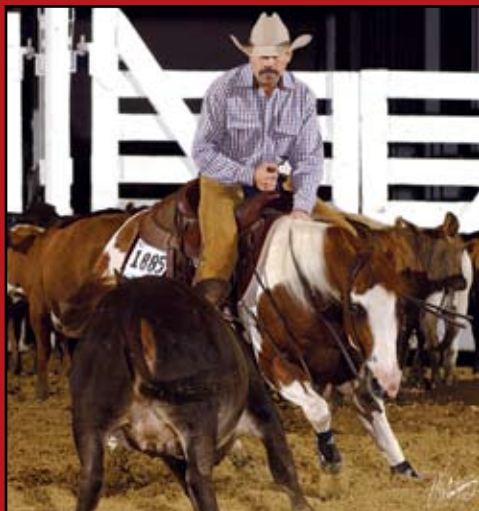
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>> APHA World Show



KC MONTGOMERY

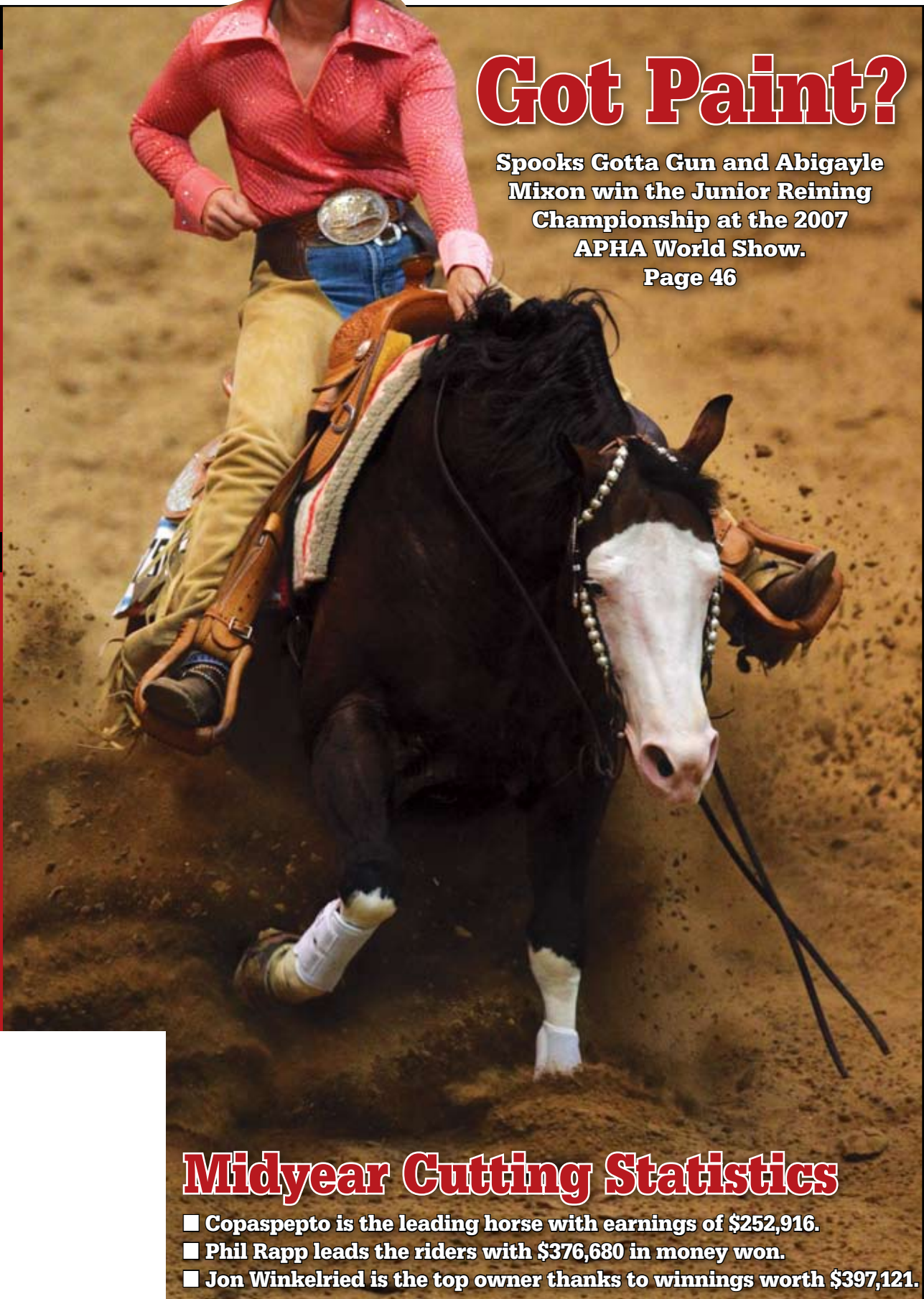
Draggin My Ash and Ascencion Banelos claim dual World titles. Page 46

>> Klamath Cow Horse



KAT ROGERS

Hesa Shiny Twist and Jon Roeser win the Open Derby at Klamath. Page 134



Got Paint?

Spooks Gotta Gun and Abigayle Mixon win the Junior Reining Championship at the 2007 APHA World Show. Page 46

Midyear Cutting Statistics

- Copaspepto is the leading horse with earnings of \$252,916.
- Phil Rapp leads the riders with \$376,680 in money won.
- Jon Winkelried is the top owner thanks to winnings worth \$397,121.

KC MONTGOMERY

Hardly a Drag

Draggin My Ash steps up for double cutting wins.

Draggin My Ash, a 2003 gelding who had previously earned less than \$1,000, cleaned up during the APHA World Show by winning the 4-Year-Old Cutting Challenge and the Junior Cutting World Championship with Texas trainer Ascencion Banuelos.

Draggin My Ash is by HB Instant Choice and out of Gemagain by Playinagain and is owned by Alvin Fults, Amarillo, Texas. The horse swept four judges' cards in the 4-Year-Old Challenge to earn \$3,375. He took top honors on three of five judges' cards in the Junior Cutting finals and placed second on another card to easily win that division.

Lenas Little Smarty, a mare by Smart Little Lena out of Doxs Painted Lady by Doc's Solano, finished as the Reserve Champion in both events with Oklahoma trainer Tommy Marvin. Lenas Little Smarty is owned by Georgetown, S.C., farmer Lloyd Baxley Jr.

Fults is a 39-year-old commodities broker who switched from roping horses to cutting horses three years ago. He credited turning Draggin My Ash out for a while and "just letting him be a horse" to playing a prominent role in the horse's breakthrough performances.

Prior to his twin World Show wins, Draggin My Ash's top showing was a No. 7 finish with Fults during an Amateur finals at the Abilene Cutting Spectacular in March. The horse competed, but did not place, with Banuelos during Open competition at the NCHA Futurity in Fort Worth last fall.

"We turned him out for a while after Abilene," Fults said. "He kind of came back with new life. He'd shown us so much in the practice pen. We couldn't wait to see if he'd live up to what he was doing. He hasn't done yet in the show pen what he's done in the practice pen. We have high hopes for that horse."

Banuelos, a six-time APHA World Show cutting champion after earning two titles with Draggin My Ash, said the horse's performances in the show ring finally showed his great potential.

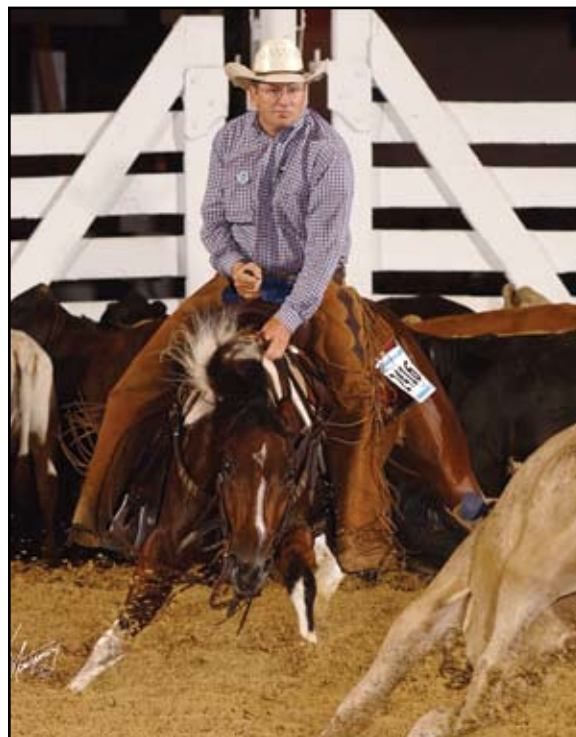
"The horse has always been great," Banuelos said. "When I showed him at the [NCHA] Futurity, we had a little problem with him. We gave him some time off and he felt good. He hasn't even shown what he can do yet. He was just coasting. He was honest and he was strong."

Reserve Champion

Baxley purchased his two-event Reserve Champion, Lenas Little Smarty, from Paul Dean, the owner of 2005 NCHA Futurity Champion Highbrow Supercat, as a late 2-year-old. He then also enlisted help from Marvin, Highbrow Supercat's trainer.



Draggin My Ash and Ascencion Banuelos took top honors in the 4-Year-Old Cutting Challenge and won the World Championship in Junior Cutting.



Lenas Little Smarty and Tommy Marvin finished as Reserve Champions in the 4-Year-Old Cutting Challenge and the Junior Cutting division.

Lenas Little Smarty and Marvin earned \$6,000 by placing eighth in the Open Futurity finals at the Brazos Bash last September.

Baxley guided the mare to a Reserve Champion finish worth \$4,385 during

the \$100,000 Amateur Derby finals at the Augusta Futurity in January. She had previously earned \$11,281 while making two aged event finals.

The Augusta event marked the first time that Baxley had competed with

the horse. The pair's No. 2 finish gave him the biggest paycheck of his cutting career. The longtime farmer, dealing in cotton, soybeans, tobacco, corn and cattle, bought his first cutting horse about 3½ years ago. — MT



Ascencion Banuelos (left), Alvin Fults and Fults' 7-year-old son, Cade, celebrate their success at the APHA World Show. Banuelos earned two World Championships and a Reserve Championship on horses owned by Fults. Fults also guided one of his own horses to a World Championship in the Amateur division.

MARK THOMPSON