
JANET WESTFALL & SMART LIKE JEEP NON-PRO CLASSIC CHALLENGE CHAMPS

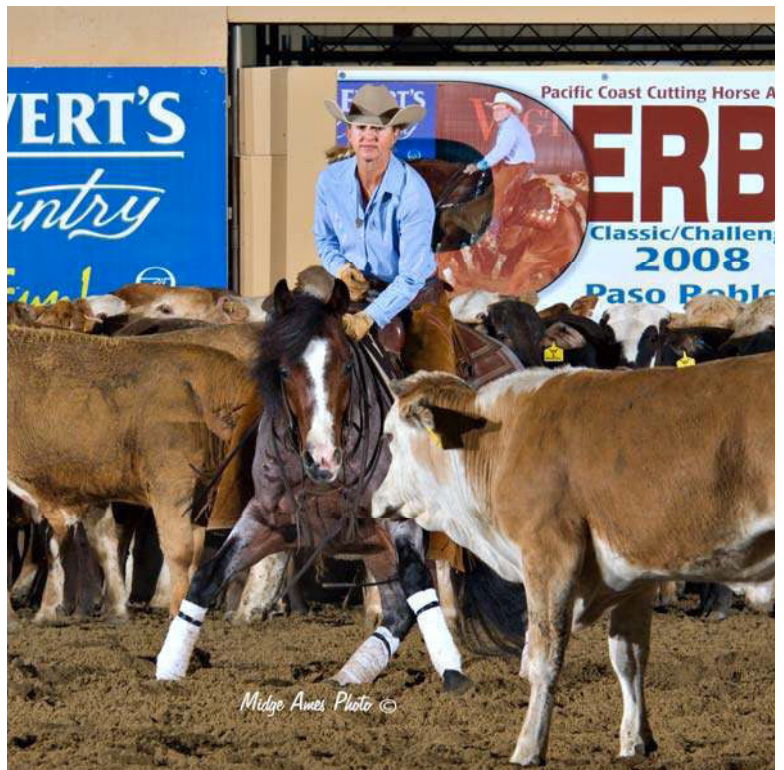


Janet Westfall's ride to the Non-Pro Classic Challenge Championship was a sentimental one. Her mount, Smart Like Jeep, is the only stallion by Genuine Jeep...her and husband Russ' stallion that had to be put down this past September.

"When I saw my score, I got pretty choked up because I thought about Jeep," said Westfall of her 222 marked in the final round on Friday. "I'm still not really over the loss of him."

Janet wasn't born into a horse-laden family, so her climb to success in the sport of cutting also seems significant. Born to a Southern California "city family," she surprisingly had "horse" in her blood from the get-go. "I just always loved horses," said Janet. "When I was little and most girls were playing with dolls, I was pretending I was a horse! When I was 4 or 5 years old, I got a pony for Christmas...next door to us was a man with a ranch full of ponies. During summers, I'd get up at 4am and hang out there all day." Janet went on to show ponies for years in every event under the sun. She later showed pleasure horses, and then moved on to snaffle bit futurity horses, where she realized she loved working cattle. By the mid-80's, she was showing cutting horses. And, when she married husband/trainer

Russ Westfall in 1997, she had nearly \$10k in earnings. Since then, her success has been plentiful. This past December, Janet was inducted into the NCHA Rider Hall of Fame, with earnings exceeding \$628,000! Admitting that she still feels the challenge to get "cut clean" when she walks in the show pen, Westfall said, "Sometimes it's hard to be smooth and aggressive at the same time. Cattle these days aren't like they used to be." Janet believes her most valuable experience has come when sorting cattle at home in wide open spaces. "We used to run cattle on a big property we leased next to our ranch. Russ would have me go sort out all the black cattle from a herd out on pasture. I noticed that this really helped me a lot," she remembered.



(Continued on page 4)...

(Westfall continued)...

Janet recalls a particular instance in the show pen that called on that experience. At the 1998 NCHA Super Stakes, she placed third on a Genuine Jeep mare, and she credits the time sorting cattle for the win. "I remember in the finals being a little bit nervous on my first cut, and I was thinking 'just pretend you're out in your pasture driving out the blacks.' And, that's what I did...and I still look at that video and think that was one of my best cuts ever."

Friday's performance was not too shabby, either. The pair earned their 222 working last in the final set of the Non-Pro Classic Challenge, and they had a pretty pushy second cow. "The cattle have been good all week...I just drew last and all the best cows had been cut. I didn't think my second cow was going to be that bad. It just kept eating on me and wouldn't turn away," said Westfall. "But, my horse is named appropriately...he is really smart about a cow. I was thinking to myself, just let him calculate it and don't over-ride. He's a very consistent horse that doesn't take much work. So, I just let him go do his job."

NON-PRO CLASSIC CHALLENGE FINALS

1	Janet Westfall	Smart Like Jeep	222.0	\$ 6,565.00
2.	Tracy Taylor	Ill Be Invincible	217.0	\$ 5,932.00
3.	Janet Trefethen	Rickies My Dad	216.0	\$ 5,299.00
4.	Randy Lynn	Hesa Hollie Oakie	213.0	\$ 4,666.00
5.	Bonnie Martin	Cee Dee Royal Tee	212.0	\$ 4,032.00
6.	Sam Nevis	Dualin Magic	209.0	\$ 3,399.00
7.	Erin Bimat	Call Me Miracle Babe	208.0	\$ 2,449.50
7.	Frank Martin	Pepto Tootie	208.0	\$ 2,449.50
8.	David Booth	Highbrow Lady Bingo	206.0	\$ 1,500.00

\$200k NON-PRO CLASSIC CHALLENGE FINALS

1.	Tom De Regt	Mesoke	222.0	\$ 5,935.00
2.	Tracy Taylor	Ill Be Invincible	216.0	\$ 5,381.00
3.	Catherine Lamb	Just As Smart	214.0	\$ 4,826.00
4.	Cody Erwin	Smart Sugar Merada	213.0	\$ 4,272.00
5.	Sam Nevis	Dualin Magic	202.0	\$ 3,717.00
6.	Michael Flashman	Sues Stylish Babe	199.0	\$ 3,163.00
7.	Roni Tanner	Boo Lou Cat	198.0	\$ 2,609.00
8.	Ron Davis	Rd Bud Light	194.0	\$ 2,054.00
