



The New Mexico Breeders Report

June 2019 VOL: 5

A Moment in Time
Circa 1985

The desire to win...

by Glenda Price



Jerry Nicodemus with his Easy Jet mare.
"I enjoy winning..."

The starter pushes the button, the gates fly open, bells ring and the announcer cries, "They're off!"

During the next few seconds in a Quarter Horse race the high-powered pedigree, the special feed, the months of training can either pay off or come to naught. The outcome rides with the ability of the jockey.

If the horse's owner and trainer are lucky enough to have Jerry Nicodemus on board they can usually expect a payoff. He's that good.

Trainer Don Farris unhesitatingly says, "I would say that Jerry is **THE** best jockey in the nation. He's got a talent that a lot of riders don't have and that's what makes him a great race rider. He's got a feel for the animal, knows where he is at all times and knows when a

horse is really putting out or coasting. He gets the most out of the horse."

Jerry says, "Competition, I guess, is what it is. I enjoy winning — it's just a good turn-on."

Farris adds, "He never loses that desire to win; he's always trying to win and that's important."

And win he does. He was the first jockey to win the All American Futurity twice (Three Ohs and Rocket Wrangler.) He's won the All American Derby four times, the Champion of Champions four times, the Sun Country Futurity several times ("I'm not really sure how many"), the West Texas Futurity four times (most recently this past March on Life Styles), the Los Alamitos Derby four times (tied with Charlie Smith for that record), both the Rainbow Futurity the Rainbow Der-

by a couple of times and the World Classic Championship two or three times. The Kansas Futurity is the only major stake at Ruidoso he hasn't won.

His favorite win was his second All American Futurity. "I broke Rocket Wrangler when he was a baby," he says. "I liked that win because nobody had ever done it before. He was kind of one of my favorite horses after that." He smiles and says, "Records are made to be broken, but it makes you feel good that you're the one who did it."

Jerry usually rides Quarter Horses. "I used to ride Thoroughbreds all the time, then both, and now mostly Quarter Horses. I've been lucky on them and really fortunate getting on good horses so I just stuck with them."

Quarter Horse races require great

“He’s not only a high class rider, but he’s a gentleman at all times. Some people might be great riders and have bad personalities — not Jerry. I couldn’t say enough good things about him.”

quickness and skill on the jockey’s part. Farris says, “No rider can make a horse break, that’s up to the horse, but a good rider can be quick enough that if the horse makes a little booboo he can quickly get him running right.”

Jerry says, “You can’t afford any mistakes in a Quarter Horse race. You can get in a little trouble and overcome it in a Thoroughbred race, but not in a Quarter Horse race.”

Experience helps a great deal and Jerry has that, too. He’s been riding for about 22 years. He was born in Obetz, Ohio and quit school at age 14 to go to the race track. His riding career began at Thistle Downs in Cleveland at age 16.

“The man I was working for went to Texas every winter to break his colts and I’d go with him,” he says. In Texas, Jerry began riding in matched races in the winter and on the brush tracks in the summer, mostly near Houston.

“I went to work for Bubba Cascio in Texas and when he moved to New Mexico I came with him.” That was in 1966.

Jerry is the first member of his family to be involved in horse racing, but perhaps a love of speed was in the genes. His father and brother raced motorcycles, but he says he’s never regretted his career choice. “I never thought about being anything else.”

He’ll probably be the only member

of his family to be a jockey. He has two children — Shelley, 18, and Cash, 15, who live in Texas with his ex-wife. “My boy is taller than I am already — too big to be a jockey, but my kids both like to ride.”

Unlike some jockeys, Jerry doesn’t have a problem keeping his weight down. “I sometimes have a little trouble in the winter, but in the summer I get it down pretty easy. I try to stay around 120 pounds.” A jockey doesn’t have to be quite so light to ride Quarter Horses, he says, so “I can stay a little healthier, not having to be so light.”

It’s not good to talk about injuries, but Jerry has “broken just about

Some of the millionaires we talk to don’t have a penny.

Many of New Mexico’s farmers and ranchers have become millionaires in recent years and don’t even know it.

Like others, you probably know that the value of your land has increased tremendously, but you haven’t figured out exactly how much. That’s because it doesn’t make much difference to your day-to-day operation.

But what happens if you die?

Because of high land appraisals, your estate may be valued at \$500,000 or \$1,000,000 or much more. If so, your family will have to come up with large amounts of cash to pay the federal estate tax. Cash that they may

not have on hand. They may wind up losing the farm or ranch just to pay Uncle Sam.

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everything." He knocks on wood and says, "I haven't been hurt in a long time." He doesn't waste time worrying about it, though. "It's just all in the game. If it's going to happen it's going to happen."

Jockeys can have strange problems. "One of my worst times was with a Thoroughbred horse called Reprobate at Ruidoso. He was a good horse — I won the futurity on him — but about every time I'd ride him I'd lose my whip. I got to thinking about it and then it seemed like I'd lose it more." He smiles ruefully. "It was just on that one horse."

Jerry's problems as a rider are few. One sure indication of his success is that he "gets to pick" his mounts. He gives much of the credit for good horse choices to his agent, Leonard Martinez. "He's a real good agent. He picks the best horses and we work good together. Plus he books mounts out of state or wherever." Jerry rides often at Los Alamitos and Bay Meadows. "I usually go ride that night and come back the next day."

Although Jerry is a freelance jockey, he rides for Don Farris a great deal. "He's been my number one barn for quite a few years, but I still freelance."

Farris says, "We've run a lot of stakes together. We've been a winning team — good for each other."

Jerry likes riding in California and at Sunland Park but his favorite place is Ruidoso. "It's hard to keep me out of Ruidoso," he says. "I have a home there. I like the town and the mountains."

He really likes horses, too, and has some good broodmares of his own. "I guess everybody tries to get into the breeding end of it and raise a runner," he says. "I breed the mares and sell the babies. I have a couple of mares being bred to The Signature and have bred a couple to Super Sound Charge, who sired the filly that won this year's West Texas Futurity."

If he breeds a winner he'll be pleased, of course, but his heart belongs to riding and he has no plans to retire "as long as I can stay sound."

Don Farris mentions another side of Jerry. "He's not only a high class rider, but he's a gentleman at all times. Some people might be great riders and have bad personalities — not Jerry. I couldn't say enough good things about him."

A gambling person would be wise to put some money down on this gentleman — and great jockey — in the 1985 Kansas Futurity. That victory won't elude him much longer.

MAY 1985

'86 Horse Breeders' Convention set for Marriott Hotel, Jan. 26-27

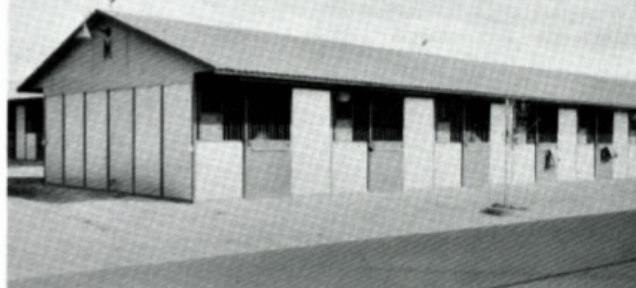
The 1986 convention of the New Mexico Horse Breeders' Assn. has been set for Jan. 26-27 at Albuquerque's Marriott Hotel, according to NMHBA president, Jimmy Drake. All functions will be held at the Marriott.

According to Drake, the Marriott will offer special group rates of \$49.95 for singles, doubles, triples or quads. NMHBA members may make reserva-

tions by calling 1-800/228-9290 or 505/881-6800.

The Marriott will also offer special rates to NMHBA members throughout the year. To obtain the special rate, members may call Marriott director of sales, Alexander Achmat, 505/881-6800, and ask for the New Mexico Horse Breeder rate.

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Please continue to spread the word!

As of last Friday, June 14th ALL NM Bred owners must be active members of the New Mexico Horse Breeders' Association in order to receive their incentive checks. Failure to complete and return a paid membership application within 90 days of



your 1st, 2nd or 3rd place finish will result in forfeiting the NM Bred incentive award paid out in November for that race. The membership form will be linked below.

[Membership Application](#)

The Zia festival is fast approaching! Come to the NMHBA Town Hall meeting, Saturday, July 27th at the Ruidoso Horse Sale Pavilion at 10:00am, stay for the races, and finish the night off with the Jamboree party! Dinner and live music performed by The Jake Hooker Band.



RACING NEWS



THE DOWNS
Racetrack & Casino

Don't forget, The DOA opens next weekend June 28th for 56 days of live racing.

Ten registered New Mexico-bred 2-year-olds have been entered in Saturday's 5-furlong, \$150,005 Mountain Top Thoroughbred Futurity (R) at Ruidoso Downs -- and the link below will take you to our exclusive preview of this race, the first of two Thoroughbred futurities to be run at Ruidoso Downs this summer!

[Click Here](#)

Rex Wells' Colby James, a \$15,000 purchase at last year's New Mexico-Bred Sale, held on at the wire to win Saturday's 350-yard Mountain Top Quarter Horse Futurity (RG3) for state-bred 2-year-olds at Ruidoso Downs. Alan Hernandez rode the Jesse James Jr gelding for trainer Rudy Valles. This year's Mountain Top QH Futurity offered a stakes-record purse of \$404,357!



Four Star Saint, bred by Michael Weatherly wins the Ruidoso Sprint Handicap

Friday, June 7th 5-furlong Mountain Top Thoroughbred Futurity (R) trials at Ruidoso Downs were won by Deck Humor, Shame on Powers, and Cerveza. Attilianno, one of the three fourth-place finishers, won the shake for the 10th spot in the starting gate.

IMPORTANT!

Please Note:

We are receiving many NM Bred Applications (Form 100 / 100A) that are incomplete or filled out incorrectly. In order for us to accept an application and register a horse, **ALL** fields must be filled out in their entirety. Leaving sections of the form blank or filling in with N/A is not acceptable answer. If you are unsure of any of the information, please find out. To avoid any delays in registering your horse please ensure everything is done correctly and all forms are completely filled out. Once we have a paid application on file your papers **MUST** be stamped by the office in order to be an accredited NM bred, TB foals of 18' on are now digitally stamped. Horses will not be assigned a number without information on the application and papers being verified for accuracy. The NM Bred applications have been attached further down the newsletter.



RUIDOSO DOWNS

Race Track & Casino



2019 SALE DATES

The sale begins each day immediately after the racing program at Ruidoso Downs Racetrack.

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|---|---|---|--|--|--|
| 16 AUG NM Bred Sale 6 pm - 12:00 am approx. Hip numbers TBA Starting after last race of the day and running until all hip numbers have sold. | 17 AUG NM Bred Sale 6 pm - 12:00 am approx. Hip numbers TBA Starting after last race of the day and running until all hip numbers have sold. | 17 AUG Foal-in-Utero Sale 6 pm - 12:00 am approx. Hip numbers TBA Starting after last race of the day and running until all hip numbers have sold. | 30 AUG Select QH Yearling 5:30 pm - 12:00 am approx. Hip numbers TBA Starting after last race of the day and running until all hip numbers have sold. | 31 AUG Select QH Yearling 5:30 pm - 12:00 am approx. Hip numbers TBA Starting after last race of the day and running until all hip numbers have sold. | 01 SEP Select QH Yearling 5:30 pm - 12:00 am approx. Hip numbers TBA Starting after last race of the day and running until all hip numbers have sold. |
|---|---|---|--|--|--|

Please make sure ALL NM Bred papers are stamped prior to sending them to the Ruidoso Sale. If you do not see our NM Bred stamp either embossed on your QH papers or digitally stamped on the TB papers, please call the office and we can get it sorted out. Remember they are not a NM Bred until they have been stamped and assigned a registration number.



The NMHBA Trustees voted to amend the timeframe that an owner has to provide the Association with the forms for Broodmares in Foal to Leave the State of New Mexico. Beginning with the 2019 breeding season the form and the fee will be due on October 1 of the year bred. The form must be postmarked or received in our office by that date (October 1) or the \$2000 penalty will be assessed to make the resulting foal eligible to be a NM bred.

The Trustees also voted to eliminate the Broodmares in foal returning to the state of New Mexico form, as

our form to register a NM bred foal, details all locations the mares were kept prior to foaling. We will still be sending affidavits to the farms that receive the mares to foal out, and may visit farms to confirm the mare and/or foal are on the premises. Failure to return the mare to foal in New Mexico will result in the foal NOT being registered as a New Mexico bred and that foal will NOT be eligible for the New Mexico bred program. NO refund of fees will be made.

These changes were made to allow the owners of the mares going out of state during their pregnancy, to have their mares confirmed in foal before the member pays the fees.

Your mare must still be registered with the association by September 1st of the breeding year.

[Click for Export Broodmare Form](#)

PLEASE NOTE: A NM Bred Colt or Filly does not automatically go into the Broodmare and Stallion Registries. Please refer to the website or call the office for questions on this.

Additional forms & reminders

SEPTEMBER 1ST BROODMARE DEADLINE

If not already completed, all mares must be put into the NM Broodmare registry no later than September 1st, of the breeding year or penalties will apply on her foal.

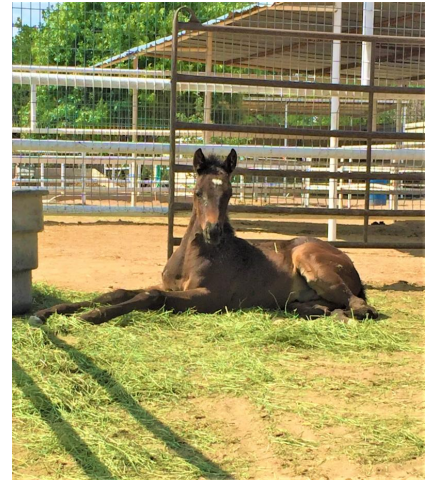


The NMHBA has closed our P.O Box. Please send all mail to our physical address of
4836 Hardware Dr NE Suite B
Albuquerque, NM 87109

There seems to be a lot of confusion on the broodmare registry. Please note that just because a filly or colt was an accredited NM Bred foal, this does **NOT** automatically make it a NM Broodmare or NM Stallion. These are separate registries. In order to register a NM Bred foal without penalty, the broodmare must have been registered with us no later than September 1st of the breeding year. Likewise the sire of a foal must be entered into the Stallion registry **BEFORE** breeding and must not go inactive in the subsequent years or penalties will apply. You may always call the office to check on the status of Stallions and Broodmares

[Click for Broodmare Form](#)

[Click for Stallion Form](#)



Don't forget to submit your NM Bred Applications!

Remember you can always fill out our application even before you register your foals with AQHA or The Jockey Club.

All horses age Jan 1. then price increases.

Weanling - \$60
Yearling- \$150
2 yr. Old- \$1,000
3 and Older- \$2,000

[New Mexico Bred](#)

[NM Bred w/ Embryo Transfer \(QH Only\)](#)



Contact Information

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Tel:505.262.0224

Fax:505.265.8009

Executive Director: Mary Barber (mary@nmhorsebreeders.com)

Registrar: Ernestine Aragon (ernestine@nmhorsebreeders.com)

Admin. Assistant: Paulette Taylor (paulette@nmhorsebreeders.com)

Featured racing articles are written by our racing correspondent Michael Cusortelli.
Race photographs are provided by Coady Photography

