

# New Mexico HORSE BREEDER

September/October 2003



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# ***THE ALL AMERICAN FUTURITY 2003***

## ***A Breed Apart***

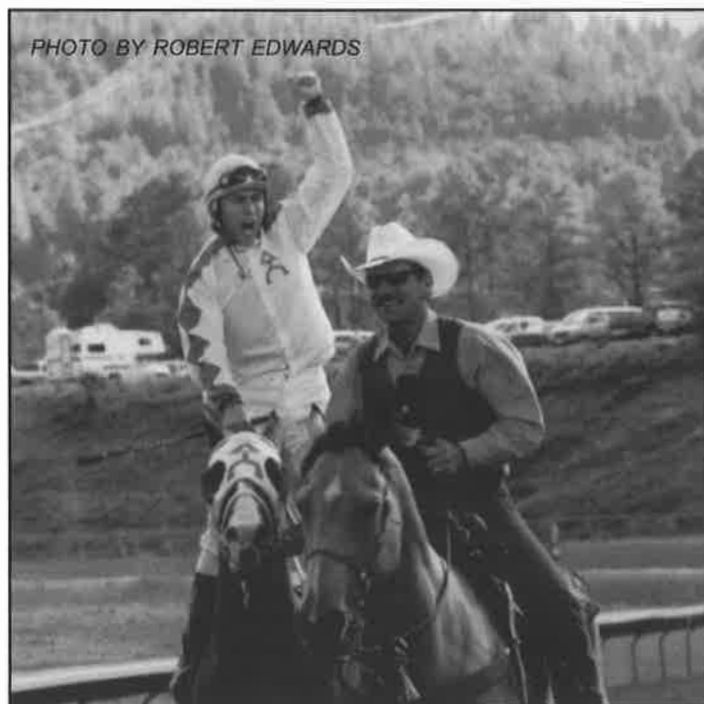
STORY BY ROBERT EDWARDS

Well. There you have it. What has been said over the last couple of years actually did happen. A New Mexico-bred won a major open stakes race. What many didn't expect, however, is that it would be the richest Quarter Horse race in history.

Nahum and Rosella Prieto of El Paso, Texas are very humble New Mexico people. They have bred, raised and raced horses in New Mexico for over 20 years and have as everyone does, had the All American in mind. When they bred Adios A Todos, a stakes mare, by Dooley Authorized to JJ Shot Glass they had big dreams. When By By JJ was born, the Prietos started getting ready for payment to the All American. A New Mexico-bred by all rights, By By JJ made his first career start in the trials to the Spring Futurity at Sunland Park. He won his heat and qualified, but flipped in the gates in the final. At Ruidoso Downs, By By JJ won his heat to the Zia Futurity and cinched a spot in the finals, but was wiped out in that race and finished sixth. In the All American trials, By By JJ won his heat and ended up with the second fastest time. The impossible dream became a reality.

Trained by Juan Gonzalez and ridden in his last three outs by James Gonzales, By By JJ drew the number eight post for the \$2 million 45th running of the Grade 1 All American Futu-

***J.J. Gonzales and outrider Mike Mitchell return with By By JJ after the All American victory.***



rity. With the Rainbow Futurity winner Planet Holland on the extreme outside and the rest of his rivals on his inside, By By JJ had the perfect spot as he broke perfectly and blew to the front. By By JJ and James Gonzales gained confidence with every stride and kept the lead well in hand. Dash Of Perry made a daring effort nearing the wire coming up a neck short of the win, while Planet Holland made a late charge to finish third by a half length. The race was over in a rapid :21.10 seconds for a speed index of 103.

"This is hard to describe," said New Mexico-based jockey James Gonzales who also qualified Dashin Kirk and Sixes Royal for this year's final. "A person always dreams of being here, but this isn't a dream anymore. This horse is a runner and he always has been. He has had some trouble in the gates, which is usually his weakest point, but today it was his strongest. He left the gates the best he ever has and he was never headed after that. Dash Of Perry charged up on us in the last fifty yards, but my horse never gave up."

History was made as it always is in the All American, but for the first time in 27 years a New Mexico-bred won the race. "Cattle and horses have always been our life," said Rosella Prieto. "My husband knew this horse was the one when he was born."

"We have the grandmother and the mother to By By JJ and we have a few other mares as well," said husband Nahum Prieto. "I bred this horse to win this race and it happened. Everyone would tease me when I started making payments for this race. They would say you're crazy, he's just a New Mexico-bred, but now look at them. They don't think I'm crazy anymore."

"He really knows how to cross studs with our mares," said Rosella. "Every horse we own we are the breeders of and all of them have won."

By By JJ earned \$1,025,000 for the All American Futurity victory. The gelding has finished first four times from five starts. His total earnings are \$1,059,822. Trainer Juan Gonzalez is no stranger to the All American Futurity. The Mexico native, who moved to the states in 1991, is a gifted trainer and has won several stakes races to prove it. By By JJ makes the fifth horse he has sent to post for the All American over the last decade, but By By JJ gave him his first victory in the prestigious event. "We made history," said the trainer. "Everyone would always say, it's a difficult race for established American trainers to win, how will I ever be able to? And while it was difficult and exhausting, the win was a huge satisfaction and even more so because my team was the first ones to do it. We will be remembered as the first Mexican team to accomplish this. And the fact that By By JJ is a New Mexico-bred horse, that made the story valuable to all the New Mexicans who have followed his career. As far as the horse is concerned, the trainer said, "He has grown up a lot lately. He is more calm than before. He's funny to watch because he knows when he's going to



PHOTO BY ROBERT EDWARDS

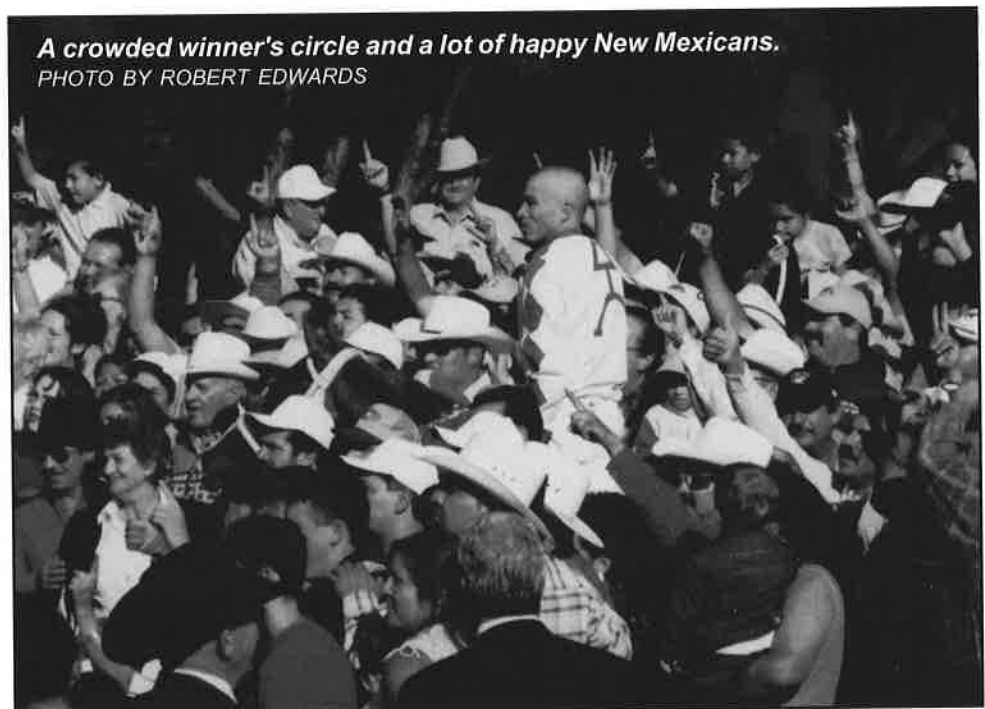
**Owners Nahum and Rosella Prieto of El Paso, Texas after By By JJ became the first New Mexico-bred millionaire.**

race. He starts concentrating and when the jockey climbs on, he's ready to run. Before, he would do everything in his power to dump the jockey, now he will tolerate him until the race is over. Once he steps into the gate he knows what it takes to win."

Finishing second was Dash Of Perry who earned \$293,150 for owners B. Eiland & Harris Racing Stables and Melody Harris. The Mr Jess Perry filly out of Tiny Dash Of Cash was saddled by Russell Harris and ridden by G.R. Carter.

In third was Planet Holland who earned \$129,150 for R.D. Hubbard, Derrol Hubbard, B. Holmes and T.K. Covell. The Holland Ease colt out of The Jubilee Diamond was conditioned by Paul Jones and ridden by Saul Ramirez.

Sixes Royal, Anacacho, Fast Movin Snow, Dashin Kirk, I Aint Jo Chick and Rubys JP followed the first three finishers.



**A crowded winner's circle and a lot of happy New Mexicans.**

PHOTO BY ROBERT EDWARDS