

Wimpys Little Step

CELEBRATED STALLION'S OFFSPRING AMASS \$6 MILLION.

BY GAVIN EHRINGER

IT SEEMS LIKE ONLY YESTERDAY THAT WIMPYS LITTLE Step and Shawn Florida, the NRHA's All-Time Leading Money Earning Rider, made their historic appearance at the 2002 NRHA Futurity. There, the duo swept both of the competition's early rounds before going on to earn the highest mark—a score of 233.

A dozen years have since passed but the golden palomino bred by Hilldale Farm, Brashear, Texas, and now owned by Xtra Quarter Horses LLC of Purcell, Oklahoma, continues to make history. If anything, his impressive arena career has been eclipsed by his stature as a sire of NRHA money earners. In April, Wimpy's offspring pushed past the \$6 million earnings mark, solidifying the stallion's place among the top-five all-time leading sires in the NRHA. He is the only horse in the elite club to have surpassed the \$6 million earnings milestone while still a teenager.

"Wimpys," as his progeny are known throughout the breeding community, have been a reining juggernaut, racking up more than \$1 million in each of the past three years. His lucrative lineage continues a winning tradition reaching back to his sire, NRHA Hall of Fame inductee Nu Chex To Cash, himself a Two Million Dollar Sire. His dam, Leolita Step, was sired by Forty Seven, whose bloodlines trace back to AQHA Hall of Fame Quarter Horses Leo, King and Wimpy P-1, the very first registered American Quarter Horse.

Wimpys Little Step spent his short but dominant competitive run and the first seven years of his breeding career with owner Mark Schols. Schols purchased the stud colt from Monica Watson expressly for the purpose of giving Florida a mount for the NRHA Futurity. But

after winning the event, Schols stunned the reining community by declining the opportunity to add to the stallion's show ring credentials during Wimpy's derby years. Following the Futurity, there had been a gold rush to Wimpy's barn. Florida and Schols agreed that it would be unfair to the horse to compete while also fulfilling a heavy breeding burden. In the end, Schols closed the book with 150 breedings that first season.

The Birth of a Dynasty

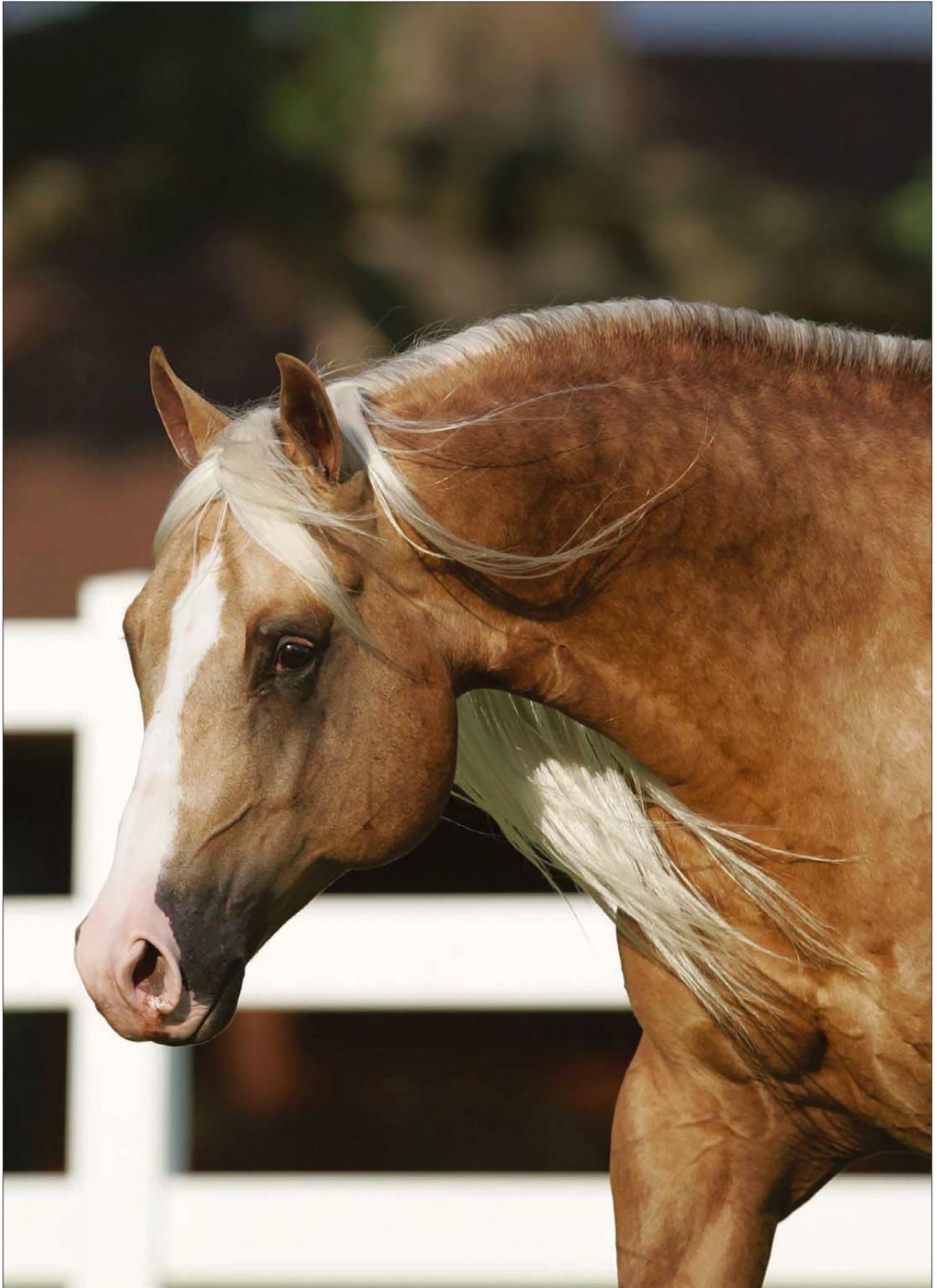
It was a bold move, and in the minds of some, a foolish risk. Many are the horses who excel in the arena and then fail to pass their athleticism on to their progeny. But the proof, as they say, was in the pudding when Wimpy's first foal crop hit the Futurity scene in 2007. Six of those horses qualified as NRHA Futurity finalists. One—the mare Wimpys Little Chic—earned the Level (L) 4 Open victory under Florida. Wimpys Little Chic then went on to sweep the open division in reining's next two biggest events, the NRHA Derby and the National Reining Breeders Classic en route to racking up the highest earnings for a single horse in NRHA history—\$514,755. Owned by Arcese Quarter Horses USA, Wimpys Little Chic remains the only horse to consecutively win the NRHA Futurity Open, the NRBC Open, and the NRHA Derby Open.

In 2007, Florida also guided another Wimpy, RC Fancy Step (out of Sonita Wilson by Doc Wilson) to the All-American Quarter Horse Congress Reining Futurity L4 Open division championship and a finals run at the NRHA Futurity. A L4 Open reserve championship at the 2008 NRBC and an open championship at the 2009 NRHA Derby helped elevate the stallion to second place among Wimpy's highest-earning babies. Adding luster to his trophy case, RC Fancy Step was part of the Gold Medal earning U.S. squad at the 2010 Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games. All told, the stallion banked \$362,633 in his career.

Another alumnus from the 2007 NRHA Futurity class, Wimpys Little Buddy (out of All Thats Dun by Hollywood Dun It) has excelled over a long career in NRHA competition. Currently owned by Madalyn

Wimpys Little Step Top Money-Earners:

Wimpys Little Chic	\$514,755
RC Fancy Step	\$362,633
Wimpyneedsacocktail	\$280,379
Wimpys Little Buddy	\$258,492
CFR Centenario Wimpy	\$161,828



JOHN BRASSEAU



Shawn Florida and
Wimpys Little Chic



Thiago Boechat and
Wimpynedsacocktail

WALTENBERRY

JANA THOMASON

Roberts, the gelding claimed the open title at the inaugural 2011 NRBC Challenge for horses over seven years of age, plus open championships at the 2011 Cactus Reining Classic Maturity Challenge and the 2011 Reining By the Bay Maturity. In addition, the stallion was a finalist both at the 2011 World Championship Shootout and the 2012 AQHA World Championship Show in senior reining. Wimpys Little Buddy's earnings stand at \$258,492, marking him fourth on the list of top-earning "Wimpys."

In the years that have followed that first big splash, the parade of big Wimpy winners has continued. Three of the leading contributors to Wimpy's ever growing renown are CFR Centenario Wimpy, Show Me The Buckles and Wimpys High Bid.

CFR Centenario Wimpy, born in 2008 out of the mare Miss Hollywood Whiz by Topsail Whiz, made the open finals at the 2011 NRHA Futurity under Million Dollar Rider and NRHA Professional Jordan Larson. In 2013, the stallion was the NRHA Derby L3 Open Champion under NRHA Professional Franco Bertolani, and then they went on to claim a top-five finish at the 2014 NRBC. Now owned by Slide or Die LLC, CFR Centenario Wimpy has amassed \$161,828 in NRHA earnings.

No summary of the awe-inspiring accomplishments of the Wimpy brigade would be complete without mentioning Wimpynedsacocktail (Wimpys Little Step x Seven S Mimosa by Hollywood Dun It). The stallion has been a huge success for Wimpy's current owners, Xtra Quarter Horses LLC of Purcell, Oklahoma, and its head trainer, NRHA Professional Thiago Boechat.

Xtra Quarter Horses LLC, operated by Boechat, a native of Brazil, and Lorenzo Vargas, a Mexican executive in the luxury resort business, surprised the reining world with its purchase

of Wimpys Little Step just prior to the 2010 NRHA Futurity. It was a stunning move by Vargas, a newcomer to the sport at the time, and immediately put Xtra Quarter Horses on the map as a premier breeder. Wimpynedsacocktail, born in 2007, is number three on his sire's money earners' list and has proven a worthy representative of the Xtra brand.

Wimpynedsacocktail made a big first impression under Boechat, placing first in the 2010 NRHA Futurity L2 Open division. In 2012, the horse earned a reserve championship in Junior Reining at the AQHA World Championship Show. Another major coup took place at the 2013 NRBC, when the duo combined to win both the

L3 and L4 Open titles. Extending the pair's career record was a reserve open championship at the 2013 NRHA Derby and another reserve championship at the AQHA World Championship Show, this time in senior reining. Altogether, Wimpynedsacocktail has banked a whopping \$280,379 in lifetime NRHA earnings.

"I've been fortunate to ride a lot of them, and it makes my training life easier. They are so good-minded, trainable, and have such good dispositions. And as other trainers have also said, they are horses that just keep getting better with age," said Boechat, never at a loss for words when it comes to Wimpy and his babies.

The trainer hastens to point out that Wimpys Little Step is the rarest of elite-level show horses capable of siring offspring that have met and even exceeded his own formidable arena accomplishments. Also notable is the fact that Wimpys Little Step has sired outstanding performers while outcrossing to a variety of reining's royal bloodlines. Consider the fact that maternal grandsires of the ten top-earning Wimpys include: Smart Chic Olena (Wimpys Little Chic), Hollywood Dun It (RC Fancy Step, Wimpys Little Buddy, Wimpynedsacocktail), and Topsail Whiz (CFR Centenario, Show Me The Buckles).

One of the best perks of having Wimpys Little Step at the Purcell, Oklahoma, headquarters of Xtra Quarter Horses is greeting the parade of visitors who come by to see the golden boy. Given that Purcell is just 35 miles south of Oklahoma City; many of Wimpy's fans make a pilgrimage to see the horse first-hand.

"He's a superstar, the one people want to see and want to have their picture taken with," said Boechat. "We try and treat him like any other horse on the place, and he seems to like that. But there's no question that he's very special." ♦