

Fw Hi Tez

THIS IS PART OF AN ESPN ARTICLE ON GUNNER:

The coveted steer wrestling horse carried Luke Branquinho to his first world steer wrestling title, along with three go-round victories. Ivan Teigen (Capitol, Mont.) and Lee Graves (Calgary, Alberta) also won go-rounds on Gunner.

As owner, Peterson collects one-quarter of any winnings by anybody who borrows the horse. Gunner earned Peterson more than \$40,000 during the 10-day Wrangler NFR.

Gunner was practically the most accomplished athlete ¶ cowboy, cowgirl or animal ¶ at the Wrangler NFR. The 12-year-old horse helped Branquinho place in six rounds, Graves five and Teigen three.

"In this building (Thomas & Mack Center), he's almost unbeatable," said Branquinho (Los Alamos, Calif.).

Graves concurred.

"He just fits this building really well," said the Canadian cowboy. "He comes up on the steers pretty fast."

Gunner is the perfect combination of speed and explosiveness for the tight confines of the Thomas and Mack Center.

Which is fitting since Gunner began his career as a racehorse in Montana.

"He works as if a racehorse. He gets to the steers fast.
Jesse Peterson regarding his prized steer wrestling horse Gunner"

Peterson's brother Doug, bought the horse as a weanling from the River Ranch in Hamilton, Mont., and raced Gunner for three years. Peterson (Dillon, Mont.) then bought the horse.

"I kind of took him with that (steer wrestling) in mind," said Peterson, himself a two-time Montana ProRodeo Circuit champion. "You could just see the speed, the raw power in him.

"Being on him, right away you knew he was special."

Gunner established himself as something exceptional early.

"He works as if a racehorse," Peterson said. "He gets to the steers fast."

Former world champion Brad Gleason (Touchet, Wash.) was the first to borrow Gunner for the Wrangler NFR in 1999. Gleason finished third in the final world standings. Since then it's been reservations only for the horse.

"I saw Jesse in Kalispell (Mont.)," said Graves of that meeting in August. "I told him, 'If I make the Finals, I want to ride your horse.'"

"He told me to keep rodeoing."

Branquinho also saw Peterson and the horse in Kalispell and made the same request.

"Guys have to reserve their spots pretty early," said Peterson with a big smile.

Peterson is the only cowboy to steer wrestle on the horse during the regular season. "I want to make sure he's working good for me," he explained. "I want him to get to Las Vegas fresh and make some money."

Peterson could loan out Gunner to more bulldoggers, but limits Gunner's rides to three.

"He has a mellow disposition," Peterson said. "He's always been a gentle horse.

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He's gentle as a kitten. I let my son (Justus) ride him.''

And at home, Gunner knows his place among the breadwinners of the family. "He's the boss at home," Peterson added with a laugh.

"More people in Dillon know who Gunner is than me. He's a special horse. Not a once-in-a-lifetime horse, he's a once-in-forever horse.''

IN MOJOS DAM LINE ALONE...THERE SEVERAL WORLD FAMOUS RACING MARES

Barbara L (1947-1977) often defeated some of the best racehorses of the time. She earned \$32,836 (about \$270,000 as of 2010) on the race track in 81 starts and 21 wins, including six wins in stakes races. She set two track records during her racing career.

She had 14 foals, including 11 who earned their (AQHA) RACE REGISTER OF MERRIT. Her offspring earned more than \$200,000 in race money. She was inducted into the AQHA's HALL OF FAME in 2007.

MISS OLENE.....Barbara L's second foal was Miss Olene, a bay mare sired by LEO and foaled in 1957. She started 33 races and won 11 times, including one stakes race. She earned an AAAT speed index and finished third in the 1959 All American Futurity while earning \$31,022 (\$225,600 as of 2010) in total racing earnings.

GO GALLA GO

dam of Rocket wrangler, granddam of Dash for Cash, great granddam of First Down Dash ALL OF WHOM OUTBRED THEIR SIRES PERFORMANCE RECORDS & OFF SPRING ACHIEVEMENTS.

This has continued in line down the generations to include woodbridge by Dash Ta Fame.

LITTLE KID SISTER-QH SI 88, by Mr Depth Charge-QH.

3 wins at 3 in QH races, \$2,711, Register of Merit. Dam of 15 QH foals, 11 to race winners, 10 ROM Including...

Feature This-QH SI 95 (f. by Truckle Feature-QH). 7 wins, 2 to 4 in QH races, \$43,551, Superior Race Horse, Register of Merit. Dam of 12 QH foals, 10 to race, 8 winners, 8 ROM