According to Equi-Stat, Bob Loomis Quarter Horses is the industry’s top breeder, a position held for several years. Topsail Cody (Joe Cody x Doc Bar Linda x Doc Bar) became an NRHA Million Dollar Sire in 1998. Safe to say, these two Futurity Champions have made a huge impact on the industry.

“I bought Topsail Cody from Tom Fuller [Willow Brook Farms] when he was a yearling,” Loomis said. “I really wanted a son of Joe Cody.” And for good reason: Loomis had already won the 1979 NRHA Futurity on Cassandra Cody (Joe Cody x Dudes Baby Doll x Blondys Dude).

“Topsail Cody was one of the most bionic horses I ever rode,” Loomis said. “He won the first go-round [of the Futurity] with a score of 230. He was tied in the second go-round with Miss Cee Blair [ridden by Dick Pieper]. They scored a 232. In the finals, Topsail Cody marked a 234.5. Then I qualified him for the American Quarter Horse Association World Show, and he was the World Champion Junior Reining Horse in 1981. That’s when I retired him from the show pen.”

Topsail Cody died March 3, 2002. However, thanks to the stellar breeding program created by Loomis, his positive influence will continue for many generations to come. As an example, Topsail Whiz (Topsail Cody x Jeanie Whiz Bar x Cee Red), is the industry’s No. 1 sire. His offspring have earned $8,062,279 in the reining arena. —PF
Out ‘N’ About

Going For Gold

The American Quarter Horse Association World Championship Show brought more than 2,000 horses and in excess of 3,500 entries to Oklahoma City on Nov. 5-19. Competitors from eight countries arrived at State Fair Park in pursuit of the gold and they were met with the applause of an enthralled audience.

SPECTATOR SPORT
The AQHA World Show brought a hefty crowd of excited spectators to watch the best in the world compete for the gold.

GOLDEN OPPORTUNITIES
In addition to prize money, products and a buckle, World Champions receive the famous gold globe trophy as a reward for their excellent performance.

A SHINER INDEED
A Shiner Named Sioux lived up to his name. After his shining performances in the rein work and cow work, he was awarded the Junior Working Cow Horse World Champion title with his trainer, Jay McLaughlin.

A JOYFUL TUNE
(right) As a treat for the audience that paid an $8 admission fee to watch the cutting finals, the Oklahoma City Chorus sang a few familiar Oklahoma tunes.
Bet Hesa Cat finished second to eventual 2011 National Cutting Horse Association Open Horse of the Year Don’t Look Twice in the Classic Open finals at the Tunica Futurity during early February to cross the $100,000 mark in career earnings.

At the time, career-long trainer Austin Shepard, Summerdale, Ala., acknowledged he and many people originally thought the 5-year-old stallion (High Brow Cat x Bet Yer Blue Boons x Freckles Playboy) would have earned his first $100,000 a lot quicker.

“I had aspirations when I was training him [as a young prospect] of him being a horse that won $300,000 or $400,000,” Shepard said. “I’m not going to back off now. I’ve made some mistakes with him and different little things have happened, bad luck or whatever, but I think he’s an exceptional horse. I just love him.”

Marking a 224 in Tunica during that February finals gave Shepard an early indication the horse was perhaps on his way to finding and holding a much higher gear this year. “Anytime you can get within a point of a horse like Don’t Look Twice, you’ve got a good horse,” Shepard said at the time. “That [a final-round 224] kind of confirmed he was what I thought he was. I’m excited. We’re going to show him a good bit this year and we’re going to breed him. He’s sound and he’s on top of his game.”

Those prediction turned into gold. Heading into the Nov. 26-27 and Dec. 1 and Dec. 3 NCHA World Finals in Fort Worth’s W.R. Watt Arena, Bet Hesa Cat and Shepard had already locked up the 2011 Open World Championship by earning $78,494 at 73 any-age shows. They led the No. 2 contender by $37,340 – more than a horse can earn at the four-round event. Each round pays $6,410 to win, with the same total for a top average score.

Bet Hesa Cat, bred by Oxbow Ranch, Weatherford, Texas, and a first-year sire, earned $40,953 at limited-age events in 2011. That helped push his earnings over $200,000.

He’s only the fourth horse to earn an any-age NCHA Open World Championship as a 5-year-old. Three-time World Champion Meradas Little Sue won her first at 5 in 1995. Hygro Freckles, a 1983 gelding, won at 5 in 1988. Two-time Champion Skeeter won at 5 in 1950 and repeated.—MT

**Bet Hesa Cat and Austin Shepard won a title at September’s Cotton Stakes Classic. —Photo by Dave Hart**

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**Equi-Stat**

Equi-Stat, a division of Cowboy Publishing Group and Quarter Horse News, compiles and researches money earned within equine performance events and then enters this information into its database for use in producing statistical reports. These performance events include cutting, reining, reined cow horse as well as barrel racing, pleasure horse and ranch versatility. Equi-Stat’s statistical information helps performance horse events present a more accurate picture of their particular event to entrants, breeders, owners and potential sponsors. For more information about Equi-Stat and what it might do for you, visit equistat.com.
Digital Update  Quarter Horse News

Quarter Horse News Publisher, Patty Tiberg, presents the Fan Favorite check to Buster Welch on Bet Hesa Cat. Also pictured are Austin Shepard and NCHA President Keith Deville.—Photo by Mark Thompson

In The Know

Champions Cup Champs

Bill Tiffen, Jr.

For some horse owners, the idea of cross-training their mounts for multiple events suggests complex schooling strategies that have to be time and sequenced correctly. Maybe, maybe not. Exposure is the simple secret behind building a horse’s repertoire of skills. You may use these following guidelines for finding and building the all-around horse.

Buyer guidelines

In searching for an all-around prospect, a buyer doesn’t always have the luxury of finding a horse already trained and tested in a variety of events. According to Texas trainer and clinician Jack Brainard such a luxury isn’t even necessary. In fact, the best – or most affordable – candidate might be a horse with limited training or experience in only one event ... so far. Buyers are urged to focus their searches by concentrating on a horse’s potential and ignoring factors that aren’t as important as shoppers might initially believe.

Create a plan

People sometimes create their biggest obstacle, when they begin training a horse without first coming up with a plan of action. According to Brainard, nearly everyone has in the back of his mind an idea of the finished product. “But they don’t have a plan as to how to get there,” he says. “You have to break your plan down, then you can expose the horse to different things.

“Take a horse who can change leads, lope quietly, has a nice disposition, and then go trail an old cow somewhere. You’re exposing him to something new. In the same hour, you can teach him to go through a gate or walk across a bridge.”

Start with the basics

Before a horse can progress in his training, his basic skills must be up to par, giving him the foundation to continue. According to Brainard’s basic skills checklist, a horse should:

- lope quietly on a loose rein
- carry his head properly
- change leads
- stop easily
- back readily
- work off his hind end
- work with a suppleness to his body

Be consistent and don’t rush

According to Brainard, a horse’s attention span is reasonably short. You have to school a horse on a regular basis. You can’t develop a nice horse riding him two or three times a week. There’s no such thing as a quickly trained broke horse. Brainard says that with a good hand, it takes a minimum of two years to train a nice horse.

Know no limits

When riders impose limits on their horses, they’re really imposing those limits on themselves by not fully appreciating their horses’ capabilities. There’s no limitation to what you can teach a horse. You can teach him to do anything. The result: combinations of events entered with a horse others might use in only one form of competition.

—A.J. Mangum

Billed as a once-in-a-lifetime chance to see legendary cutting horse riders ages 28 through 83 compete on their sport’s top stage – Will Rogers Coliseum arena in Fort Worth, Texas – Saturday, Nov. 26’s Neiman Marcus/NCHA Futurity Champions Cup lived up to the hype.

Austin Shepard, 34, and standout stallion High Brow CD marked a 230 that tied Auspicious Cat and Jody Galyean, 57, for the event’s top ride. Later Shepard would help the Fan Favorite, Buster Welch, 83, compete aboard Bet Hesa Cat (High Brow Cat x Bet Yer Blue Boons x Freckles Playboy), a 5-year-old stallion Shepard usually rides. The pair were last to compete, and one of two contestants to earn standing ovations before even cutting a cow. They teamed up to mark an impressive 221.

Welch also won a $1,500 check sponsored by Quarter Horse News as Fan Favorite, based on a quick tally of text message votes after the show ended. He was asked if there were as many people watching when Welch won the first NCHA Futurity in 1962.

“No,” Welch said. “The only people watching us then were our wives and our kids.”

Cutting has changed for the better since then, Welch said. Still an occasional ride down memory lane can be a lot of fun.

—MT
Enter your two-year-olds today!

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Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
November 22 - December 1, 2012

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All entries must be Nominated to the NRHA Nomination Program

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or Chris Meadche - doubleoranch@hotmail.com
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For more information, visit nrhafuturity.com!

*Based on 2010 entry counts
Open House!

If you like to see nice horses and taste fine wines, be sure to attend the Watkins Equine Breeding Center’s Open House on Dec. 4 from 1-5 p.m. The facility is located at 453 McCarthy Road, Weatherford, Texas.

The event features the opportunity to view a number of quality horses consigned to the National Cutting Horse Futurity Sales, which begin on Dec. 5. You can visit with these consignors: Oxbow Ranch, Wendel Ranches Inc., James Eakin, Cindy Smith and Cocolalla Creek Ranch.

Among the horses you’ll see is Sweet Lil Catolena, a filly who happens to be a full sister to the great High Brow CD, the stallion with cutting earnings of $543,161. You can also see this year’s offering out the great mare Bet Yer Blue Boons, dam of this year’s NCHA Open World Champion Bet Hesa Cat, a stallion who sold as a yearling in 2007 for $400,000. ★

You can also see Red Metallica (Metallic Cat x Play Peek A Boon x Freckles Playboy), a yearling colt consigned by Oxbow Ranch. —Photo by John Brasseaux

You can also see Red Metallica (Metallic Cat x Play Peek A Boon x Freckles Playboy), a yearling colt consigned by Oxbow Ranch. —Photo by John Brasseaux

I won around $3,700. The next year I bought a loaded four-door Mercury, which was mighty nice for a cowboy, for $3,800. It was a top-of-the-line Mercury, so that gives you some idea of what the $3,700 was like.

—Buster Welch, five-time NCHA Futurity Open Champion and Hall of the Fame rider, talking about the money he earned for winning the first NCHA Futurity, in 1962, riding Money’s Glo.

Digital Update

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Pasture Buddies

Flash, by Cutters Doc Olena, and Cuzn, by SR Instant Choice and out of Dualin Savannah by Dual Pep, share a snack together!

—Photo by Jatona Sucamele
I have dreams too.

Nominate weanlings by December 31

For more information go to nrha.com.
Futurity Fifty

50 Number of times the National Cutting Horse Futurity has been held.

$18,375 Amount paid out at the first NCHA Futurity in 1962, a show that featured 36 entries.

5 Number of NCHA Futurity Championships won by cutting legend Buster Welch, who cut in this year’s NCHA Futurity Champion’s Cup aboard 2011 NCHA Open World Champion horse Bet Hesa Cat.

$3,383,115 Total purse paid at the 2010 NCHA Futurity, an event that had 1,611 entries.

Money’s Glo and Buster Welch during their winning run at the first NCHA Futurity in 1962. —Photo by Dalco

Digital Update

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It’s a special celebration and *Quarter Horse News* offers its congratulations to the National Cutting Horse Association. For 50 years, the NCHA World Championship Futurity has served as the benchmark of the cutting horse industry and in many ways, the pinnacle for many who wish to reach the heights of success.

*Quarter Horse News* will take you there even if you can’t be where the action is. Throughout the pages of this section you will find special promotions, deals and discounts to enhance your Futurity experience.

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Visit any participating vendor during the dates of the Borden NCHA Futurity Trade Show and complete an entry form for each purchase made. Entry forms will be collected daily at 5 p.m., and the drawing for the daily prize will be held at 6 p.m. daily. Winning entries will be removed from the daily prize drawings but will be included in the Grand Prize drawing to be held on Saturday, December 10. No purchase necessary. For full rules, please visit www.quarterhorsenews.com.
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QUARTER HORSE NEWS

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— Mahatma Gandhi

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HL Smart Little Dual — Highlonesome Ranch, Dallas, Texas

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