

VARSITY REINING CLUB

CREATIVE WRITING PROJECT

Bailey & Rocky

BY BAILEY KOLSUN

NNRHYA MEMBER 16-YEAR-OLD Bailey Kolsun of Alberta, Canada, wrote a story about her reining prospect Rock Solid Tag, aka “Rocky,” and submitted it as a Creative Writing project for the NRHYA Varsity Reining Club. Here’s an excerpt:

“I bought Rocky on December 4, 2010 at the NRHA Futurity in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Rocky was born and raised at a reining horse training stable near Ardmore, Oklahoma. He’s the

first horse I have ever bought by myself. I test rode him once in Oklahoma before I bought him. He was fairly green and inexperienced, but he seemed very quiet and willing.

When I finally got to ride him, a full month to the day I last rode him, he was perfect. He didn’t take a wrong step. It was clear that he was green, but he wanted to try hard. After about two weeks of slow reconditioning I asked him to do a sliding stop and he put his butt in the ground and slid about three

feet. I was quite happy with the fact that he wanted to stop.

Over the following months I took lessons on him twice a month from my trainer Locke Duce. He began to slide farther and farther, he stopped leaning so far back on his turns and we were getting some speed control. His personality became very apparent very quickly. He never failed to make me laugh at his daily antics.

At the end of April, I put some pressure on him to see how he handled it. He still didn’t get worried about what I was getting him to do. He had no trouble sliding 20 or more feet when I asked him. He wasn’t scared of changing leads when we were going fast. His turns started to speed up without him leaning back. I really started enjoying my rides on him because he was so consistent. He was exactly like his name, rock solid.

The most exciting show for us in 2011 will be going back down to Oklahoma City, but this time I won’t just be trying him out, I will be showing him in the big, NRHA Futurity. He has gained some manners, but mostly he is still the same horse that I brought home months ago.

I have really enjoyed the training process and look forward to showing him!”

We’re excited to announce that Bailey and Rocky did enjoy a successful futurity season together. They earned over \$2,000 by winning the level 4 non pro reserve championship at the Silver Slate Reining Classic Futurity and fourth place at the NRHA Youth Non Pro Futurity in Oklahoma City. Congratulations! ♦



Q & A



BY ALI GORDON
NRHyA Member
Colorado

Q. What is your strategy for staying out of the penalty box when performing a rollback?

A. “The best way to stay away from penalties in the rollback is not to trot. Trotting out of the rollback can happen for many reasons. But, one of the most common is that the horse is out of position.”

Q. How can riders prepare to roll back without trotting?

A. “Keep the rollback simple. Break it down into three separate parts: stop, half-turn, and lope. When doing the half-turn, do not use your leg until you are turned. Then, use your leg to lope your horse off.



With NRHA Professional and NRHA Million Dollar Rider { Dell Hendricks }

When showing, make sure your horse is finished stopping before you start the rollback.”

Q. Describe what a rider’s posture should be in order to distribute their weight correctly during a rollback?

A. “When you roll back you should sit in the middle of your horse and not turn your head. Look at the inside ear of your horse, and watch the ear all the way through the rollback. Do not throw your body back.”

Q. What difficulties do you notice riders have when they perform the rollback and how can they be corrected?

A. “One problem a lot of people have is that they try to pull their horse through the rollback. Most of the time, if you ask your horse to roll back and let your horse do it, it will give you a cleaner rollback.”

Q. What is the key to consistently and successfully performing the rollback?

A. “Be consistent with your cues. Do it the same way every time, and let your horse roll back. Don’t force it.”

Q. What encouragement can you offer youth as they work to master the rollback?

A. “Don’t be afraid to work on rollbacks. If your horse starts to anticipate, just go the other way and keep the drill fresh by backing your horse up.” ♦

2011 TOP TEN

YOUTH 13 & UNDER		
RIDER	HORSE/OWNER	POINTS
1. Julia Spreng	Smart Little Dudley August Spreng, New Smyrna Beach, FL	355.5
2. Caroline Gute	Travel Whiz Me Julie Gute, Dublin, OH	314.5
3. Karl Johnson	Chic To Please Linda Johnson, Northboro, MA	211.5
4. Kennedy Gwilliams	Bald Faced Diamond Kennedy Gwilliams Marysville, OH	210
5. Julia Spreng	Quixote Joe Claudia Spreng, New Smyrna Beach, FL	158.5
6. Karl Johnson	West Coast Commander Linda Johnson, Northboro, MA	120
7. Amelia Compton	Ruf Squeeze Amelia Compton, Centerburg, OH	94
8. Whitney Conrad	Lil Hollywood Gun Whitney Conrad, Weatherford, TX	93
9. Ashlee Kate Hale	Whizker Judi Hale, Hamel, MN	85
10. Jordyn Clark	Berry Benita Chex Karen Black/William Clark, Winchendon, MA	76.5

YOUTH 14-18		
RIDER	HORSE/OWNER	POINTS
1. Sarah Shaffer	Roostamatic Sarah Shaffer, Westerville, OH	406
2. Casey Hicks	Wind Him Up Darlene Deptula-Hicks, Plaistow, NH	368
3. Raquel Roberts	Sure Gun Raquel Roberts, Kent, NY	294
4. Kaci O'Rourke	Smart Lookin Juice Kaci O'Rourke, Castleton, VT	284.5
5. Sarah Bouchard	Mif Dee Gunner Rebecca Bouchard, Petersham, MA	244
6. Elissa Bening	Brother Please Elissa Bening, Columbus, OH	225.5
7. Holly Phillips	Rooster Ote Holly Phillips, Fremont, OH	188.5
8. Morgan Burns	Whiz N Oak Morgan Burns, Tallahassee, FL	124.5
9. McKenzie Smeal	SW Quick Draw McKenzie Smeal, Woodland, PA	93
10. Jordan Donnelly	Smokems Whiz Kimberly Feguson, Aubrey, TX	83.5