

The DNA of Roping Futurity Winners: Bloodline Analysis of 350 Money Winners

Introduction

What separates a good rope horse from a great one? While training, athleticism, and that intangible "cow sense" all play crucial roles, the foundation is laid generations before a horse ever enters the arena. This analysis examines the pedigrees of 350 horses competing in rope horse futurities to uncover the bloodlines that consistently produce arena success.

In recent years rope horse futurities have become an exciting and important aspect of the Quarter Horse industry. It has opened new doors for breeders, competitions, riders and sales opportunities.

This study looks at the bloodline makeup of the leading money winners in the futurities from 2024 and 2025.

Almost 1700 individual horses have competed in these events with about 30% being money winners. The horses included in this study are horses with winnings over \$6000.00 which amount to 350 horses.

For the study we selected the top money winning horses as the criterion for selecting the 350 test horses.

The horses were not chosen by their bloodlines but only on their success determined by winning money in futurity competition.

The purpose of the investigation was to determine the most successful current bloodlines, identify the most prolific sires and mares, determine if there are any developing nicks (sireX broodmare sire) and identify genetic trends. In essence it was a means to develop a blueprint for the production of horses destined for roping events.

Heading horses and heeling horses were considered separately making it possible to compare the different lines that are influential in each discipline. This allows one to evaluate what sires and families contribute to each of these disciplines and tailor breeding decisions accordingly.

The dataset breaks down by discipline:

- **Heading:** 149 horses
- **Heeling:** 141 horses
- **Breakaway:** 42 horses
- **Tiedown:** 18 horses

All horses included in the study were money winners. The majority of the team roping horses were winners of more than \$6000.00 each.

Cross-referencing these horses against ARHFA competition results reveal heading and heeling horses alone won over **\$6,000,000 in total earnings**—providing a substantial sample to correlate pedigree patterns with competitive success.

Winnings earned in Riata and Gold Buckle Futurities, Breakaway and Tie-Down Futurities are not included in any of the totals.

Drawing conclusions from 18 Tiedown Horses and 42 Breakaway horses is statistically weak but future competitions will expand these numbers.

The Foundation: Peppy San Badger

If there's one name that echoes through these pedigrees, it's **Peppy San Badger**. This legendary sire appears in 290 of 350 pedigrees—an 83% saturation rate. But here's the key detail: he doesn't appear as a sire or grandsire to these horses. He's positioned further back in pedigrees, appearing primarily in the 4th generation (214 times) and 3rd generation (74 times), with only 2 appearances at the grandparent level.

This tells us Peppy San Badger's influence flows through specific channels. The data confirms one of those channels clearly:

Peptoboonsmal is by Peppy San Badger. Peptoboonsmal's son **One Time Pepto** (out of a Smart Little Lena mare) sired **Hickory Holly Time**—the leading sire in this dataset with 15 offspring.

Another verified channel: **Dual Pep** is by Peppy San Badger, and Dual Pep sired **Dual Rey**—the leading broodmare sire with 16 appearances.

Smart Little Lena: The Second Pillar

Smart Little Lena appears in 68% of pedigrees (403 total appearances), making him the fourth most influential ancestor. Like Peppy San Badger, his influence comes primarily from deeper in the pedigree—177 appearances in the 4th generation, 52 in the 3rd generation, and only 8 at the grandparent level.

The data shows Smart Little Lena appearing in the pedigrees alongside Peppy San Badger with remarkable frequency, suggesting breeders have consistently combined these two bloodlines over multiple generations. This combination appeared in 192 of the horses, about 55% of the winners.

The High Brow Hickory Line

One of the clearest recent sire lines in this data traces through **High Brow Hickory**:

- **High Brow Hickory** is by Docs Hickory (verified from the data)
- **High Brow Cat** is by High Brow Hickory
- **Metallic Cat** is by High Brow Cat
- **Bet Hesa Cat** is by High Brow Cat
- **Catty Hawk** is by High Brow Cat

This single sire line accounts for massive representation in the dataset:

- High Brow Cat appears as paternal grandsire 44 times
- Metallic Cat appears as paternal grandsire 34 times
- High Brow Hickory appears as paternal grandsire 5 times (plus 44 times as great-grandsire)

When you add up the High Brow Hickory descendants among active sires, this line produced:

- **Bet Hesa Cat**: 8 offspring, \$195,371.00 in earnings
- **Metallic Rebel** (by Metallic Cat by High Brow Cat): 7 offspring, \$108,401.00
- **Catty Hawk**: 6 offspring, \$95,277.00
- **High Brow Cat** (siring directly): 5 offspring
- **Stevie Rey Von** (by Metallic Cat): 6 offspring, \$133,000.00

- **Call Me Mitch** (by Metallic Cat): 4 offspring \$53,690.00
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The One Time Pepto Line

The other dominant sire line traces through **One Time Pepto**, who is by Peptoboonsmal by Peppy San Badger and out of a Smart Little Lena mare,

- **Hickory Holly Time** (by One Time Pepto): 15 offspring, \$396,176 in earnings
- **One Time Honor** (by One Time Pepto): 6 heading offspring \$73,400.00

One Time Pepto appears as paternal grandsire 28 times in this dataset, making him the third most common grandsire behind High Brow Cat (44) and Metallic Cat (34).

Hickory Holly Time stands out as the clear earnings leader. His offspring include **Slr Swinging Hickory** (\$115,360), the fifth-highest earner in the entire dataset.

The Woody Be Tuff Line

Woody Be Tuff represents a different genetic approach. The data shows:

- Woody Be Tuff is by **Nitas Wood** by **Zack T Wood**

This traces to the Doc Tari / Genuine Doc / Doc Quixote family rather than directly through Peppy San Badger or High Brow Cat. With 13 offspring and \$162,036 in earnings, Woody Be Tuff is proving effective when crossed on mares from the more common bloodlines.

The data shows successful crosses including:

- Woody Be Tuff x High Brow Cat daughters (4 horses)
 - Woody Be Tuff x Dual Rey daughters (3 horses)
 - Woody Be Tuff x Dual Pep daughters (2 horses)
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Doc Bar and Doc Olena

Doc Bar appears 875 times in these pedigrees, but almost exclusively in the 5th generation (724 times) 4th generation (145 times) and 3rd generation (6 times). He's the foundation beneath much of what we see—but several generations removed from today's horses.

Doc Olena shows a similar pattern: 478 times in the pedigrees, 158 appearances in 4th generation, 34 in 3rd generation, and only 2 at the grandparent level. One active sire line traces through Doc Olena: **CD Diamond** is by CD Olena by Doc Olena, with 4 offspring and \$77,145 in earnings.

The Broodmare Sire Effect

The maternal grandsire (broodmare sire) data reveals which sires are producing daughters that throw quality when bred back to the leading sires:

Broodmare Sire	Appearances	ARHFA Offspring Earnings
Dual Rey	16	\$221,324
Metallic Cat	3	\$197,215
Peptoboonsmal	8	\$184,071
High Brow Cat	14	\$170,112
Shining Spark	9	\$160,897
Smooth As A Cat	7	\$160,011
First Down Dash	2	\$157,117
Fury Of The Wind	1	\$139,980
With All Probability	2	\$135,155
Nu Cash	2	\$130,802

Dual Rey leads convincingly with 16 offspring earning \$221,324. As a son of Dual Pep (by Peppy San Badger), his daughters are crossing exceptionally well with horses from the High Brow Cat line.

Metallic Cat shows remarkable efficiency—only 3 appearances as broodmare sire but \$197,215 in offspring earnings (\$65,738 average), the highest per-horse production rate among the top broodmare sires.

Nicks

Although the broodmare population is very diversified, there is some evidence of possible nicks being established.

Considering crosses that produced 3 or more winning offspring as significant, resulting in three crosses meeting the standard.

Woody Be Tuff crossed on High Brow Cat mares resulted in 4 offspring that accumulated winnings of \$60,117.00. (Tuff N Style, Wood You Know, Celtic Tuff, Cr Pepto Tuff Lena)

Woody Be Tuff X Dual Pep with 3 offspring at \$ 22,410.00(Cr Woody Be a Dual, Cr Dually Tuff, Cr Tuff Pep)

Shining Spark crossed on Colonels Smoking Gun daughters resulted in 3 offspring with total winnings of \$42,801.00. (Shiners Diamond, Tr Royalty, Rockin Shiney Guns)

As more years of competition evolve it is likely more nicks will become established.

Although not true nicks by definition, lets look at paternal grandsire X maternal grandsire.

This leaderboard shows Nitas Wood X High Brow Cat with 5 winners, High Brow Cat X Dual Rey – 5 winners, Metallic Cat X Dual Rey – 4 winners and Nitas Wood X Dual Rey with 4 winners.

Due to the limited numbers of mares involved in the study, there is not enough data to statistically establish nicks, but they are definitely early signs.

The Distaff Side

Often overlooked is the importance of the mares in producing winning horses. The highest money winning dam was the mare Copperish. With only one offspring, Copperton, she topped the field with \$161,676.80 heeling winnings.

The second highest winning dam was Playing for Fury with 2 offspring, Una Furosa and Bobbys Fury, both heading horses, with total winnings of \$147,430.00.

Charm Dance was the third highest money winning dam with her heading offspring Lead On. She too has only one competing offspring and has amassed \$144,349.00.

An important consideration in the mare's pedigree is the tail-female. This is the ancestral bottom line in the pedigrees.

As stated before, the futurity broodmare bloodlines are quite diversified with few repetitions in the bottom line of the pedigrees.

This could be due to the somewhat limited scope of the study, but several tail female lines are making a strong appearance.

The Samantha Whiz-No More Sugar-Miss Vicki Chex-Sutherlands Miss accounted for 6 winners. (DT Hickorys Angus, DT King Augustus, DT Hickorys KingWhiz, The Darkk Side, DT Blackjack Time, DT Hickory Stinger) ,4 heeling and 2 heading horses
DT Sugar Chex Whiz from this mare line was 2019 PRCA Heeling Horse of the Year and is the dam of The Darkk Side, DT Hickorys Stryker, The Notorious B I G, DT Hickory Blu Steel and DT Whiz Kid Time.

The War Lena Calie-Bandtimes Gal-Olees Band Time-Ann Kay produced 3 money winners from two different dams, (CR Better be Tuff, Cr Tuff King, Reyzed on Sugar), 2 Breakaway and 1 heeling horse.

The female line from A Fast Runaway-RJK Runaway-Bizarre-Femmes Flam produced 3 winners from the mare Runaway Foose , (Foose is Smoking, Little Foose Sug, Unos Runaway), 3 heading horses.

And lastly, Chic Olena Starbuck- Sanger Chic-Jae Bar Felecia-Pat Stars Patsy from two daughters produced 3 winners, (Relentless Nite, Gunners Nite Train, Smokin Stiletto), 3 heeling horses.

AI was utilized to analyze the pedigree data of the 290 team roping horses. It did not include Tiedown and Breakaway winners.

"Research indicates maternal lineage has a disproportionate influence on athletic performance. A 2015 Australian study of 675 Thoroughbreds found the dam-foal performance correlation was four times stronger than the sire-foal correlation, possibly due to maternally-inherited mitochondrial DNA affecting ATP production (Lin et al., Reproduction, Fertility and Development). This doesn't mean mares contribute more DNA—both parents contribute 50%—but rather that the mare's genetic contribution may be more consequential for athletic ability."

Thus, the importance of selecting quality mares in a breeding program!

Top Earners Tell Us

Based on Futurity competition results, the highest-earning horse is **Copperton** (\$161,677), a 2019 heeling gelding by Spots Hot. **Lead On** (\$144,349), the top heading horse, is by Corona Cartel out of a First Down Dash daughter—pure racing blood on both sides, a significant outlier in a population dominated by cutting horse genetics.

Top 10 Overall Earners

Horse	Earnings	Event	Sire
Copperton	\$161,677	Heeling	Spots Hot
Lead On	\$144,349	Heading	Corona Cartel
Una Furiosa	\$139,980	Heading	Bobby Starlight
Almost Lostmy Ticket	\$117,395	Heading	Roo Star

Horse	Earnings	Event	Sire
Slr Swinging Hickory	\$115,360	Heeling	Hickory Holly Time
Dont Stopp Trackin	\$103,188	Heeling	Dont Stopp Believin
Stunnerr	\$101,160	Heeling	Stunned
Nu One Time Blues	\$100,137	Heeling	One Time Pepto
Relentless Pyc	\$86,829	Heading	First Prize Diver
Watch the Lane	\$71,213	Heading	The Goodbye Lane

The top breakaway earner is **SLR Twenty Twenty** (\$47,250) by Bet Hesa Cat (High Brow Cat X Freckles Playboy), while tiedown earnings are led by **Tom Cats R Popular** (\$14,850) by Metallic Cattack (Metallic Cat X CD Olena)

Sires Ranked by Offspring Earnings

Sire	Total Earnings	Earners	Avg per Horse
Hickory Holly Time	\$396,176	15	\$24,441
Bet Hesa Cat	\$195,371	8	\$24,050
Spots Hot	\$174,864	2	\$87,432
Smart Nu Shiner	\$162,710	4	\$40,677
Woody Be Tuff	\$162,036	11	\$14,731
Corona Cartel	\$144,349	1	\$144,349
Bobby Starlight	\$139,980	1	\$139,980
Show Me The Buckles	\$133,283	3	\$44,428
Br Golden Leader	\$127,658	3	\$42,553
Roo Star	\$127,159	2	\$63,580

Hickory Holly Time's combination of volume (15 offspring) and consistency (\$24,441 average) makes him the standout. His One Time Pepto / Peptoboonsmal / Peppy San Badger lineage crosses exceptionally well with mares across this population, particularly in heeling where he dominates with \$273,645 from 9 offspring.

Performance by Discipline

Discipline	Horses	Total Earnings	Avg/Horse
Heading	149	\$2,919,603	\$19,595
Heeling	141	\$2,809,818	\$20,215

Discipline Horses Total Earnings Avg/Horse

Breakaway	42	\$296,287	\$7,054
Tiedown	18	\$20,790	\$1,155

Heading and heeling horses show remarkably similar earnings profiles, while breakaway and tiedown have smaller purses and fewer competitions resulting in lower averages.

Top Heading Sires (by earnings)

Sire	Earnings	Offspring
Smart Nu Shiner	\$144,950	3
Corona Cartel	\$144,349	1
Bobby Starlight	\$139,980	1
Br Golden Leader	\$127,658	3
Roo Star	\$127,159	2

Top Heeling Sires (by earnings)

Sire	Earnings	Offspring
Hickory Holly Time	\$273,645	9
Spots Hot	\$174,864	2
Woody Be Tuff	\$162,453	7
Stevie Rey Von	\$116,800	6
Dont Stopp Believin	\$110,268	2

The data suggests the presence of sire specialization by discipline. Hickory Holly Time dominates heeling with 9 offspring earning \$273,645, while Corona Cartel and Br Golden Leader demonstrate the influence of speed-bred sires in heading. This makes intuitive sense—heeling may favor the controlled, cowy athleticism from cutting bloodlines, while heading rewards the burst speed that racing blood can provide.

Corona Cartel only sired one major winner but he is found in the pedigree of 14 heading horses, 3 of which are in the top 10 heading money winners. He is not present in the pedigrees of any heeling horses.

Sex Distribution by Discipline

Geldings dominate across all events, but the breakdown varies:

Discipline	Gelding	Mare	Stallion
Heading	47.7%	26.2%	26.2%
Heeling	39.6%	32.4%	28.1%

Discipline Gelding Mare Stallion

Breakaway 54.8% 31.0% 14.3%

Tiedown 55.6% 22.2% 22.2%

Breakaway shows the highest gelding percentage (54.8%) and lowest stallion percentage (14.3%), possibly reflecting the discipline's emphasis on quick, precise movements where temperament matters most.

It should be noted that some horses may be reported as stallions but have since been gelded and not reported.

The 25/25 Assessment

What is the difference between the top group of winning horses and those less successful. There are many variables including training techniques, opportunity, riders, and genetic influence.

For this assessment we compared the top 25% of the study horse to the bottom 25% based on money won.

The top group, composed of 72 horses, were winners of \$24,000.00 to \$160,000.00 and included both head horses and heel horses. The bottom group also contained 72, both head horses and heel horses with winnings from \$6000.00 to \$8000.00. Heading horses and heeling horses were quite evenly distributed at 149 headers and 141 heelers.

For informational purposes, the median of the 290 horses studied was winner of \$13,300.00.

On analysis, stallion genetics in the top 25 % group and bottom 25% group were basically the same. The same stallions occupied the leading 12 sires, although some shuffling of ranking did occur.

The same stallions were dominant in the mid 50% range of the winning horses as well so the genetics donated by the male ancestors to the competition horses were basically the same.

The Dosage Results

Based on Steve Roman's Dosage system in Thoroughbred Racing, 300 top producing Quarter Horse stallions from several generations were rated and placed into 3 categories. These categories were Speed, Classic and Cow horse. Although there are many grey areas they were categorized based on their most important contributions to performance. With speed specializing stallions in one group and devoted cow horse lines in another group, the Classic group recognized stallions that could contribute anywhere in between.

The dosage profile for each futurity horse was calculated based on a 5 generation pedigree and the results compared for heading, heeling, breakaway and tie-down horses. The influence of each stallion was weighted depending on his position in the pedigree.

This system does not consider the influence of the female lines in the pedigree but on the whole in rodeo and futurity families, the female lines are very diverse, barrel race breeding being a major exception.

The results showing the influence of speed, classic and cow horse ancestors on each event are as follows:

160 Head Horses

35% Speed 62% Classic 88% Cow Horse

151 Heel Horses

3% Speed 62% Classic 100% Cow Horse

42 Breakaway Horses

7% Speed 40% Classic 95% Cow Horse

18 Tie-Down Horses

6% Speed 53% Classic 100% Cow Horse

Something for breeders to consider in their bloodline choices.

Demographics

Birth years: The population centers on 2019-2021 births, with 2020 the peak year (100 horses). This aligns with typical futurity age eligibility.

Colors: Sorrel dominates at 31%, followed by bay (19%) and red roan (10%).

It was not surprising to find that most of the successful sires of futurity entries stood in the Quarter Horse dominant areas of Texas. Of the top 50 sires determined by money won 46 of the stallions were traceable, 70% stood in Texas, Oklahoma and California stood 7% each, Oregon, Iowa, Utah and Canada accounted for 2% each.

The Stephenville-Weatherford-Guthrie triangle in North/Central Texas forms the epicenter of elite cutting and cow horse breeding in America.

Stud fees of the sires of Futurity winners ranged from \$1500 at the lower end, with most fees being in the \$2000 to \$3500 range. The high range was \$4000 to \$4500. A small number of elite stallions commanded fees up to \$10,000.

With the availability of frozen semen and live transported semen, most of the stallions and their genetics are available widely throughout the country.

Implications for Breeders

Two dominant sire lines have emerged. The High Brow Hickory line (through High Brow Cat and Metallic Cat) and the One Time Pepto line (through Hickory Holly Time) account for the majority of top sires. Breeders selecting stallions from either line have demonstrated success.

Broodmare sire selection matters enormously. Dual Rey daughters are producing winners across multiple sire lines. High Brow Cat and Smooth As A Cat daughters also show strong production records.

Complementary crosses work. Woody Be Tuff's success with High Brow Cat, Dual Rey, and Dual Pep daughters suggests that bringing in the Nitas Wood / Zack T Wood genetics provides effective complement to the dominant lines.

The foundation sires are now 4+ generations back. Peppy San Badger, Smart Little Lena, and Doc Bar have receded to great-great-grandparent positions. Their influence persists through the intervening generations, but direct selection is now focused on their descendants.

Weighted Scoring System:

- Generation 1 (Parents): 50 points per appearance
- Generation 2 (Grandparents): 25 points per appearance
- Generation 3: 12.5 points per appearance
- Generation 4: 6.25 points per appearance
- Generation 5: 3.125 points per appearance

This weighting reflects actual genetic contribution while accounting for ancestral influence on breed development. A horse appearing once as a grandparent contributes more genetic material than the same horse appearing once in the fifth generation.

This analysis employed weighted scoring that decreases by generation proximity to reflect both genetic contribution and practical breeding relevance. A horse appearing as a grandparent (Generation 2) contributes approximately 25% genetic material to the individual. That same horse appearing in Generation 5 contributes less than 3% direct genetic material, though its influence on breed development remains historically significant.

The scoring system acknowledges:

****Genetic reality:**** Recent generations contribute more DNA

- **Breeding relevance:** Modern sires shape current winners
- **Historical context:** Foundation horses created the genetic pool

This balanced approach reveals which horses are actively shaping today's champions (High Brow Cat) versus which horses provide the universal foundation that everyone shares (Doc Bar, Peppy San Badger).

Doc Bar (Weighted Score: 1,038) - The genetic bedrock. Present in virtually every pedigree analyzed, he creates the universal foundation layer in generations 4-5. His influence is so pervasive that he's become the baseline against which all other bloodlines are measured.

High Brow Cat (Weighted Score: 910) - The modern revolution. With 156 total appearances, High Brow Cat's influence per appearance far exceeds what mathematics alone would suggest. Here's why: 148 of his 156 appearances occur in generations 1-3 (parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents). He appears 5 times as a direct sire, 59 times as a grandsire, and 87 times in the third generation. This is a horse actively shaping winners *today*, not just providing historical foundation.

Peppy San Badger (Weighted Score: 888) - The athletic bridge. With 438 appearances distributed across all five generations, Peppy San Badger connects the foundation layer to modern performance. His 214 appearances in the fourth generation create a bridge between Doc Bar's universal baseline and today's arena stars.

dataset: 350 horses (149 Heading, 141 Heeling, 42 Breakaway, 18 Tie-Down),

Top 30 Ancestors by Weighted Score

Rank	Horse Name	Weighted Score	Total Appearances	Gen 1	Gen 2	Gen 3	Gen 4	Gen 5
1	Doc Bar	1,038.0	875	0	0	6	145	724
2	High Brow Cat	910.0	156	5	59	87	5	0
3	Peppy San Badger	888.0	438	0	2	74	214	148
4	Smart Little Lena	792.0	403	0	8	52	177	166
5	Doc Olena	752.0	478	0	2	34	158	284
6	Peptoboonsmal	512.0	122	2	22	54	44	0

Rank	Horse Name	Weighted Score	Total Appearances	Gen 1	Gen 2	Gen 3	Gen 4	Gen 5
7	High Brow Hickory	470.0	166	0	5	60	89	12
8	Smart Little Kitty	459.0	157	0	5	60	87	5
9	Docs Hickory	448.0	258	0	0	32	94	132
10	Mr San Peppy	404.0	312	0	0	3	83	226
11	Dual Rey	392.0	63	1	34	24	4	0
12	Shining Spark	390.0	82	3	14	50	15	0
13	Dual Pep	383.0	112	0	7	61	39	5
14	Freckles Playboy	380.0	164	0	2	43	73	46
15	Sugar Badger	371.0	291	0	0	2	74	215
16	Metallic Cat	368.0	42	4	38	0	0	0
17	Royal Blue Boon	346.0	150	0	2	39	65	44
18	Smart Peppy	341.0	250	0	0	9	64	177
19	One Time Pepto	304.0	36	2	34	0	0	0
20	Jewels Leo Bars	250.0	184	0	0	3	57	124
21	Poco Lena	242.0	202	0	0	2	34	166
22	Woody Be Tuff	240.0	17	13	4	0	0	0
23	Hickory Holly Time	240.0	15	15	0	0	0	0
24	Docs Kitty	231.0	155	0	0	5	61	89
25	Grulla San	230.0	155	0	0	5	60	90
26	Genuine Doc	228.0	96	0	4	16	56	20
27	Diamonds Sparkle	215.0	93	0	4	14	52	23
28	Nurse Rey	208.0	66	0	2	34	26	4
29	Miss Dual Doc	205.0	113	0	0	9	65	39
30	Colonels Smoking Gun	200.0	29	0	21	8	0	0

Of the top 10 weighted stallions Peppy San Badger and his sire Mr San Peppy are the only stallions not descending from the Doc Bar line. The Peppy San Badger family is an important outcross for Doc Bar descendants.

Conclusion

This analysis of 350 futurity horses—149 heading, 141 heeling, 42 breakaway, and 18 tiedown—reveals a breeding population built on remarkably concentrated genetics but with notable discipline-specific patterns.

Two sire lines dominate: **High Brow Hickory** (through High Brow Cat and Metallic Cat) and **One Time Pepto** (through Hickory Holly Time). The data shows Hickory Holly Time excelling in heeling (\$273,645 from 9 horses), while speed-influenced sires like The Goodbye Lane, BR Golden Leader and Corona Cartel lead heading earnings.

Dual Rey has emerged as the premier broodmare sire, with his daughters producing \$221,324 across 14 offspring. The foundation genetics of Peppy San Badger (83% of pedigrees) and Smart Little Lena (68%) now sit 3-4 generations deep, flowing through these proven channels.

For breeders, the path forward depends on discipline focus: heeling programs should look closely at Hickory Holly Time and the One Time Pepto line, while heading programs may benefit from incorporating more speed-oriented genetics. Across all disciplines, broodmare sire selection—particularly Dual Rey, Metallic Cat, and Peptoboonsmal daughters—appears to be a critical success factor.

The importance of high-quality mares for a breeding program cannot be overstated.

Although we have used monetary winnings to select the test horses, the amounts won do not necessarily predict genetic superiority.

The \$6 million in ARHFA earnings from this 350-horse sample validates what many breeders have learned through experience: the right genetic combinations, properly matched to discipline demands, produce arena success.

Some questions to consider:

Are roping futurities no longer testing breeding, are they are testing development systems?

The gene pool is already fixed. The top and bottom quartiles have the same genetics.

Is performance variance coming from management, not pedigree?

Are riding, training, soundness and opportunity the key to success?

Analysis based on 350 horses competing in roping futurities, with lineage relationships verified directly from 5-generation pedigree data and earnings cross-referenced against ARHFA competition results by cowboypedigrees.com. More detailed analysis is available on the website.