

Glamour Girls

EVENT
SPOT
LIGHT

► Molli Montgomery and A Dash Ta Glamour Sweep Jackson Hall Memorial Futurity.

Article by Savannah Magoteaux

Photos by Pixel Works



Dawson, Texas, cowgirl Molli Montgomery guided A Dash Ta Glamour to the MVP Futurity Championship.

SINCE DEBUTING IN 2013, the Jackson Hall Memorial Barrel Race has made the Hardy Murphy Coliseum in Ardmore, Oklahoma, a destination for futurity trainers and 4D barrel racers. This year's event, held March 31 – April 1, featured a \$7,500 added 4-year-old futurity, a \$1,000 added 5-year-old futurity, a \$2,000 added derby, a \$2,000 added junior race, and four open 4D races.

Futurity Fortunes

With a 30.413 total on two runs, Molli Montgomery and A Dash Ta Glamour claimed the MVP Futurity at the Jackson Hall Memorial barrel race. The win netted a check totaling \$5,547. Even better than the money, the win affirmed Montgomery's belief that the 4-year-old gelding is special.

A Dash Ta Glamour is by JL Dash Ta Heaven and out of My Glamour Girl, by Bully Bullion. Tesha Fredericks purchased the 4-year-old in 2014. Montgomery, of Dawson, Texas, admits it hasn't always been smooth sailing.

“I’ve been riding a lot of smaller horses lately, and even though he’s not really big, he’s really long-strided, so I have to make adjustments for that.”
—Molli Montgomery

“At first he and I kind of clashed, but I just kept after him because I really wanted Tesha to have an awesome horse,” she says. “I felt he had the talent and that he was special, but I had to find it. As soon as we had a breakthrough he was a piece of cake to ride and train.”

Montgomery said in his 3-year-old year, “Bakken” was quick to mature. “A lot of time when we start hauling colts, we go through some rough stages with them. They all seem to go through an adolescent stage, but not this colt.”

That attitude and talent should have equated to several trips to the pay win-

dow, but Montgomery says that has not been the case.

“We have had some moments of greatness, but before the Jackson Hall we hadn't been able to get anything done. For example, we'd place in one round and then hit a barrel the next time, so it just hadn't gone as well as I'd hoped for,” she says.

After one of her runs at the Diamonds and Dirt Futurity, Montgomery was almost in tears. “I was thinking I'd never be able to make him just shine. Kimi Nichols was there, and she told me to just trust my training and that it would come,” she says.

Between the Diamonds and Dirt and the Jackson Hall, Montgomery decided a bit change was in order.

“I thought I just needed something light on his face that I could handle him a little more with,” she says. “I put a little simplicity on him with a rope curb strap and it was perfect.”

In the first go, Montgomery and Bakken posted a 15.223. “I wasn't feeling the most confident, because the night before I had cruised him through in the open and we hit the first barrel. So my plan for the first go on Friday was to run him in there and hustle harder than I usually do,” she says. “I've been riding a lot of smaller horses lately, and even though he's not really big, he's really long-strided, so I have to make adjustments for that. I gave him a little more room to get past it on the front side. We had a nice, smooth run and I felt like it was really flawless.”

In preparation for the second go, Montgomery decided another smooth run was the goal, but the second barrel almost stymied those plans.

“We had an almost faultless first barrel, but when he turned the second I lifted my leg and I think I bumped it when I did,” she says. “I thought, ‘Oh no! If this barrel goes down I think I'm going to drive off a bridge!’”

Luckily the barrel stayed upright, and the duo stopped the clock with a 15.190. “I felt really awesome about it,” she says. “His second run was faster than his first and I was just blown away.”



Molli Montgomery took home a bevy of prizes for her win as well as \$5,547.

[Jackson Hall Memorial]

A Dash Ta Glamour is the first horse Montgomery has ridden for Fredericks, of New Town, North Dakota, but it won't likely be the last.

"She's got one or two for every year now, including three more by JL Dash Ta Heaven," Montgomery says.

JL Dash Ta Heaven horses seem to be a good fit for Montgomery. She is riding two others this year, including Heavenly Firewater, owned by Matthew's Mission Ranch, and Feelinthefirewater. She rode Heavenly Firewater to a third place finish in the Jackson Hall Futurity.

"My three really successful ones are all by JL Dash Ta Heaven," she says. "I feel like I really fit them."

Molli Montgomery and her sister-in-law Jolene work out of the same barn in Dawson. Their facility has almost 30 stalls and two arenas.

"It makes it nice because you don't have to ride by yourself. We're always riding together and are able to talk and visit," she says. "I thank my sponsors, which include RES Boots, Quench, 5-Star Pads, 17-Flat Pop Up Barrels, and AIP."

"Above all else, thank you to God, my family and my husband Jimmy," she continued. "Thank you to Tristan Mounts and Leslea Wilder who keep me in line. Thank you to John Janicek at Brazos Valley Equine Hospital. Also thank you to Tesha for trusting me with her horses and trusting my opinion and gut, and letting me do what I feel is best."

Welsh and Frenchmans Dashnista Win Reserve

Consistency is key in the futurity game, and fourth place finishes in both rounds of the futurity earned Tasha Welsh and Frenchmans Dashnista the reserve championship and \$2,306 with a 30.730 total.

"I remember that I thought the ground was a little deep, so I'd need to ride her through her turns and keep her feet moving so she didn't get stuck," Welsh recalls. "She never wants to hit a barrel but is very turny. I knew she'd have to be rolling to win any money. She always goes into her second run harder, and she did just that and worked really well. There wasn't anything I could fault her on."



Tasha Welsh, Dublin, Texas, claimed reserve honors in the MVP Futurity on Frenchmans Dashnista.



Tasha Welsh and Frenchmans Dashnista took home the win for owner Rob Plendl.

Frenchmans Dashnista, by Frenchmans Guy out of Dashon Wandie, by Dash Ta Fame, is owned by Rob Plendl of Kingsley, Iowa. The palomino mare was purchased at the 2014 Barrel Futurities of America Sale. "I took her from there

and started her on the barrels, and have had her ever since," Welsh says. "She's really quiet and super solid and easy. She just goes in and always does her job, and has placed at almost every futurity we've entered her at. She's pretty special!"



Young Patton Lynch rode Firen To Be A Hero to the win of the KoolSpeed Derby.



James Barnes and Jezzabell finished as Reserve Champions of the KoolSpeed Derby.

“I told my husband we’d just go down to Texas so he could ride bulls and I’d season my horses for a couple months, but we just never left.”
—Tasha Welsh

This is the third horse in a string of prospects that Welsh has ridden for Plendl.

“We started this a couple years ago. He’s a very good owner and I feel like we have a pretty good team,” she says. “I thank him and also his girlfriend, Shelly Jansen. She and her daughter, Shannon, are a big part of the program. Shannon goes on with all the horses when I’m done, while Shelly handles all the paperwork and keeps things straight. They both deserve a whole lot of credit.”

Welsh, who has a plethora of futurity and rodeo earnings, didn’t grow up in a family of horsemen. Her dad was a race-car driver while her mom was an interior designer. Fortunately for her, an uncle’s girlfriend rode working cow horses, and soon Welsh was riding every day.

“My parents probably thought I’d outgrow it, but I never did,” she said. “I’ve ridden young horses and competed at pro rodeos, but I always go back to the futurity horses, because I love training.”

Welsh grew up in Gillette, Wyoming, but made the move to Dublin, Texas, five years ago to escape the cold weather. “It had been 30-below for about 30 days straight, and I had some futurity horses that needed to be seasoned. I told my husband we’d just go down to Texas so he could ride bulls and I’d season my horses for a couple months, but we just never left,” she explains.

Welsh thanked her sponsors, which include ESMS, MVP Products, Hay Chix, and her farrier Justin Knight.

Derby Dollars for Lynch

In 2015, Firen To Be A Hero took reserve honors in the 5-year-old futurity sidepot at the Jackson Hall with Jordon Briggs.

[Jackson Hall Memorial]

The now 6-year-old gelding returned to Ardmore with a new rider for 2016 – Patton Lynch – and won the KoolSpeed Derby with a 15.172. The win netted a check for \$1,815. Lynch and Firen To Be A Hero won an additional \$704 in the Carter County Dodge Junior division.

“My first barrel was good. We had been working on it. I rubbed the second and almost knocked it over, but my third was good,” Lynch says. “I was very excited when I saw I won it, because the times were very close between first and second place.”

Lynch’s family purchased Firen To Be A Hero, by Valiant Hero out of Shebe Firen For Cash, by Cash Not Credit, from Jordon and Justin Briggs in December.

“I needed another horse and we found him. He is really playful and fun and he messes around, but when we get in the arena he knows it is time to work.”

Lynch, who is 10 years old, and her other mount, Jackie Joe Wells, placed third at the Josey Jr. World in 2014, and followed that in 2015 by winning both

“I was very excited when I saw I won it because the times were very close between first and second place.”

—Patton Lynch

rounds at the Elite Barrel Race. Although she enjoys running her young horse, she says her ultimate goal is to compete at rodeos. “I thank my aunt Jerry, my dad Dusty, and Jordon Briggs,” Lynch says.

James Barnes and Jezzabell finished second in the Derby with a 15.176, collecting \$1,089. Barnes and Jezzabell, by Famous Bugs out of Rattlin Roar, by Azudash, also won the Pettitt Machinery Open 5D on Friday, collecting an additional \$643.

Other Winners

There were multiple streams of potential income at the Jackson Hall Memorial

Barrel Race. Sierra Shields and Cosmo won the second round of the Carter County Dodge Junior race, pocketing \$440.

On the first day of the Wicked Fast 5-Year-Old Futurity, run as a sidepot in the Open, Jolene Jones and This Guys No Angel set the pace with a 15.564, winning \$547. On day two, Ryan Reynolds and Judys Twistin Bug posted the fast time of 15.169, also earning \$547.

Tiany Schuster and Dash Ta Jones won the West Techs 5D Open on Thursday evening with a 15.047, collecting \$408. Nicole Laurence took home \$1,019 for her 15.023 run on Bullys Little Dash in the Winning Edge Stables Open 5D on Saturday. Ryan Reynolds took another trip to the pay window on Sunday when he won the LaMesa Equine Open 5D on Especially Frosted with a 15.025, worth \$916.

Savannah Magoteaux is associate publisher of Barrel Horse News. Email comments on this article to bhneditorial@cowboypublishing.com.

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