



From 2003 through 2006, Todd Bimat often assisted friend and fellow California trainer Tim Smith as Smith and 1999 stallion WR This Cats Smart (High Brow Cat x The Smart Look x Smart Little Lena) earned a combined \$236,474 in various cutting arenas.

As a reward to Bimat and three of his other regular herd helpers, Smith asked WR This Cats Smart's owner, Art Nicholas, the owner of Wagonhound Land and Livestock, Douglas, Wyo., if he could provide his herd helpers with free breedings to the stallion.

Nicholas went along with the idea, and Bimat and his wife, Erin, opted to pair WR This Cats Smart with Gerlie Gun (Playgun x Docs Copy Cat x Doc's Muscat), a now deceased 1997 mare they owned who earned \$42,339 as a cutter, primarily with Erin Bimat competing with her.

WR Bano (WR This Cats Smart x Gerlie Gun x Playgun), the 3-year-old gelding produced through the gift breeding, and Todd Bimat, Orland, Calif., teamed up to win the El Rancho Futurity Open on Sept. 20 in Rancho Murieta, Calif., with a 219 to earn \$14,000. Since Todd and Erin Bimat bred and still own the horse, they earned a \$2,500 bonus as the event's Jerry Ward Incentive recipients. They also earned an extra \$728 because WR Bano won the Futurity Open Gelding division.

The horse and Todd Bimat's overall \$17,228 payday at the El Rancho Futurity

place Futurity Open finish at the Fort Klamath Ranch Festival and a fourth-place showing in the Futurity Open at early September's Idaho Futurity, gave them \$35,931 in total show earnings through three events. They took a shot at two more potentially big paydays when they traveled to late October's Pacific Coast Cutting Horse Association Futurity and Gelding Stakes in Paso Robles, Calif.

"I helped Tim [Smith] and his [WR Bano's] daddy win a bunch of money, so Tim gave us a breeding and this is the result," Bimat said. He added he has thanked Smith several times the past three months. "We [Todd and Erin Bimat] raised him and he's out of a mare that Erin used to show. He's her third baby and we've got one more, a 2-year-old, out of her coming on now. She [Gerlie Gun] was a great mare. She kept her first baby after having colic surgery. Later, I think it caught up with her and she died."

Bimat, 49, a career winner of about \$2.3 million as a cutting horse rider since 1984, married his wife, Erin, in February 2005. This is the first time Todd has won an Open limited-age event on a horse they own. While he's consistently earned money as a cutter, including more than \$100,000 through September 2010, the El Rancho Futurity Open victory was Bimat's first high-profile limited-age Open win in about four years.

The trainer credited Jose Mendez, who starts 2-year-olds for him with