

Cody Hedlund and Teles Bout This Cat won 4-Year-Old Non-Pro and Limited Non-Pro titles in Oklahoma City to push the mare's career earnings near \$100,000.



The Non Pro Plus The Open

A Father-Son Project

Teles Bout This Cat, a mare started by California trainer Rock Hedlund, carries his son, Cody, to a Father's Day victory and the pair's second limited-age win. By Mark Thompson • Action photos by Dawn Baxstrom

Hot duo Cody Hedlund and Teles Bout This Cat, National Cutting Horse Association Super Stakes Non-Pro Champions during mid-April, were forced to take time off along with all cutting horse riders nationwide from mid-May through early June, but their return concluded with a fitting June 19 Father's Day victory in Oklahoma City.

Riding a mare (WR This Cats Smart x Teles Lies x Lenas Telesis) initially trained by his father, Cody Hedlund guided Teles Bout This Cat to a 222 at The Non Pro Plus The Open and won the featured 4-Year-Old Non-Pro event plus its Limited Non-Pro title.

The two checks totaling \$9,006 pushed Cody Hedlund and the

mare's earnings to \$96,561. From December through June, they made six limited-age cutting finals. They won the 4-Year-Old Non-Pro at the NCHA Super Stakes in Fort Worth, Texas, in mid-April to earn \$31,827, after placing fifth at the 2010 NCHA Futurity Non-Pro in December to earn \$32,478. Cody and Teles Bout This Cat also made limited-age finals in Abilene and Glen Rose, Texas, plus Augusta, Ga., early this year.

Rock Hedlund started the mare but turned the reins over to his son in August of her 3-year-old season, and Cody finished the job. They consider the horse a father-son project.

"It's been a very nice project and she's been an awful nice mare," Rock said.



Holly Francois and Dualsadie marked a final-round 220 to finish as 4-Year-Old Non-Pro and Limited Non-Pro Reserve Champions.

Cody added, "It has turned out really well. She's been a good little mare, and she tries her heart out every time we go down there."

Cody's aunt and uncle, Sharon and Bill Goddard, Spring Creek, Nev., bred the mare. His father, Rock trained her as 2- to mid-3-year-old before turning her over to his son.

When Cody and Teles Bout This Cat won their NCHA Super Stakes Non-Pro title in Fort Worth on April 16, it was Rock Hedlund's birthday, but he was unable to attend due to competing at another event. This time, Rock had the best seat possible. He assisted his son on horseback as one of his herd helpers.

"I didn't get to see him compete at the Super Stakes, but it was



Ray Baldwin and Catlike Kit won the 5/6-Year-Old Non-Pro finals with a 224.

really nice to be back here and watch him compete at The Non Pro and win on Father's Day," Rock Hedlund said. "That's a pretty nice present."

Landy Hedlund, Rock's wife and Cody's mom, also attended the Oklahoma City event, and she relished the moment, too.

"It's fun to have a horse that we raised do so well and have our son have such a great year on her," Landy said. "She's been good all along, and she just likes her job. She loves her rider and it shows in the show pen."

Cody, a three-time National High School Rodeo Association Boys Cutting Champion, and an NCHA \$20,000 Novice/Non-Pro World Champion rider in his teen years, moved to Weatherford, Texas, after high school. He has been riding with Phil Rapp while competing as a non-pro rider and taking college classes.

Cody turned 21 on April 3. He had earned \$214,496 as a cutting rider heading into July, according to **Equi-Stat** records, including \$66,551 from December through June.

Cody has owned Teles Bout

This Cat since September. His parents bought the mare from her breeders, the Goddards [Bill Goddard is Landy's brother], after Rock selected the Goddards' 1998 mare Teles Lies (Lenas Telesis x Miss San Lena x Mr San Peppy) to receive a free breeding he earned helping WR This Cats Smart during the young breeding stallion's highly successful show career. Cody bred Teles Lies, but then he sold her to the Goddards before her cutting career started. Rock and Cody both competed well aboard Teles Lies, and she earned \$92,847 as a cutter.

Cody credited Teles Bout This Cat and his herd helpers, including his dad and Weatherford, Texas, trainer Matt Budge, plus turnback riders Sean Flynn and Phil Rapp, both based in Weatherford, Texas, for getting him through a tough and exciting run.

The last cow made the difference, Cody said. His mare held it well over 20 seconds while making a strong enough final impression to win by a solid 2-point margin.

"She was darn sure the best cow," Hedlund said. "It kind of worried me, cutting it for so long,

because I didn't know if she'd hold up and keep coming on, but she did and my mare stayed right there. She was ready to go."

Reserve Champion Holly Francois, Muchison, Texas, and Dualsadie, a 2007 mare she co-owns with her husband, trainer Lee Francois, marked a 220. Holly and her horse also finished second to Hedlund and his mare in the Limited Non-Pro division. They picked up two checks totaling \$6,919.

"That's the biggest score I've ever marked," Holly said. "That's my highest score at an aged event. It's a pretty good feeling. Usually, if we have one [a horse owned by the couple with strong non-pro potential], we end up selling it pretty quick."

Dualsadie (Dual Pep x Smart Letha x Smart Little Lena) is a mare Holly and Lee bought in April from one of Lee's training clients. They thought the mare, a slow starter, still had strong potential to compete well in Non-Pro and Open divisions.

"She just took super great care of me out there," said Holly, who warms up many horses for her husband and his training clients at limited-age cutting events. She seldom competes at those events herself. "I made a few mistakes, but she was still right where she needed to be. I couldn't have asked her to be any better for me."

5/6-Year-Old Non-Pro

A day that started with an early non-scoring ride for Ray Baldwin ended on a great note on another horse when he recorded a career-best 224 in the 5/6-Year-Old Non-Pro finals with his 5-year-old mare Catlike Kit. They earned \$6,498.

Baldwin, 32, manages a Graham, Texas-based cutting horse ranch owned by his parents, Fort Worth residents Louis and Corliss Baldwin. He has also competed increasingly well as a non-pro cutting horse rider the past few years while receiving guidance from ranch advisor Phil Rapp.

Catlike Kit (High Brow Cat x

The Non Pro Plus The Open

Oklahoma City, OK — June 14-June 21, 2011
902 Entries — \$72,500 Added — \$374,081 Total Purse
Event/Horse/Rider/Pedigree/Owner/Score/Money

4-YEAR-OLD NON-PRO

Teles Bout This Cat	Cody Hedlund
07M (WR This Cats Smart x Teles Lies x Lenas Telesis)	
Cody Hedlund	222 \$6,327

4-YEAR-OLD LIMITED NON-PRO

Teles Bout This Cat	Cody Hedlund
07M (WR This Cats Smart x Teles Lies x Lenas Telesis)	
Cody Hedlund	222 \$2,679

4-YEAR-OLD OPEN

Peptolistic	Shannon Hall
07S (Peptoboonsmal x Morns Stylish Socks x Docs Stylish Oak)	
Tim Drummond	223 \$7,500

4-YEAR-OLD AMATEUR

PW Our Little Annie	Bobby Woods
07M (Smartar x Our Little Peppy x Peppy San Badger)	
Bobby Woods	216 \$5,292

5/6-YEAR-OLD NON-PRO

Catlike Kit	Ray Baldwin
06M (High Brow Cat x Billie The Kit x Kit Dual)	
Ray Baldwin	224 \$6,498

5/6-YEAR-OLD LIMITED NON-PRO

Mister Darth Vader	Jessica De Fillipo
05G (Peptograde x Miss Comanche Solano x Doc's Solano)	
Jessica De Fillipo	218 \$3,280

5/6-YEAR-OLD OPEN

Dualin Puddy Tap	Steve Oehlof
06S (Dual Pep x Puddy Tap x High Brow Cat)	
Gordon Sevig	222 \$7,500

5/6-YEAR-OLD AMATEUR

Little Dab A Doo	Judy Manor
06G (Abrakadabrace x Lucky Sugar Hickory x Count Hickory)	
George & Judy Manor	223 \$5,660

SENIOR SELECT

Colored Child	Frank Harrison
04M (Playdoh x Jr Colored Oak [PT] x Doc's Oak)	
Frank Harrison	217.5 \$3,530

\$50,000 NON-PRO ANY-AGE HORSE

Dual Lil Pitchfork	Ryder Carpenter
98S (Dual Pep x Libbys Lil Pitchfork x Shorty Lena)	
Penny Carpenter	220 \$4,644

\$35,000 NON-PRO ANY-AGE

Little Zack Lena	Jennifer Cooper
05G (Smart Little Lena x Co Zack x Zack T Wood)	
Michael & Jennifer Cooper	220 \$5,312

\$15,000 AMATEUR ANY-AGE

Somebody Somewhere	Jay Klamon
03M (Somebody Smart x Jiggs Cat x Doc Quixote)	
Jay Klamon	218 \$5,977

SHOOT OUT

Little Zack Lena	Jennifer Cooper
05G (Smart Little Lena x Co Zack x Zack T Wood)	
Michael & Jennifer Cooper	221 \$2,000

\$2,000 LIMIT RIDER

Haidas Screamin Cat	Larami Stewart
06G (High Brow Cat x Heavenly Haida x Haidas Little Pep)	
Mike Stewart	217 \$4,197

SENIOR YOUTH

Cats Starlight	Taylor Carbo
03G (High Brow Cat x Cookie Starlight x Grays Starlight)	
Taylor Carbo	225 \$541

JUNIOR YOUTH

Scout Over Here	Page Bowman
05G (Smart Lil Scout x Oh Cay Shez Jazzy x Oh Cay Quixote)	
Mike & Libby Bowman	220 \$518

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Rewarding Herd Helpers Pays Off

As WR This Cats Smart neared completion of a standout limited-age cutting career, the stallion's long-time trainer and rider Tim Smith, Temecula, Calif., approached the 1999 stallion's owner Art Nicholas, with a plan to reward five men who often assisted the horse and Smith as they earned \$236,474 in many arenas from California through Texas.

"I asked Mr. Nicholas, 'Rather than give them a few hundred bucks, why don't we give them a foal that could turn into a lot?'" Smith recalled. "He [Nicholas, also owner of Wagonhound Land & Livestock, Douglas, Wyo.,] was all in. He followed those foals, and the guys have been very gracious in thanking him."

Rock Hedlund, Acampo, Calif., Todd Bimat, Orland, Calif., Scott Weis, Ojai, Calif., Russ Westfall, Los Olivos, Calif., and Matt Sargood, Millsap, Texas – went on to play key roles in the lives of foals that have all earned significant money early. Three of the five – Teles Bout This Cat, WR Bano and Smart Exactacat – have already earned limited-age titles and combined earnings totaling more than \$175,000.

June's The Non Pro Champion horse Teles Bout This Cat, (WR This Cats Smart x Teles Lies x Lenas Teles), a 4-year-old mare owned, and now trained and ridden by Rock Hedlund's son, Cody Hedlund, ranks as WR This Cats Smart's top-earning foal. Teles Bout This Cat had earned \$96,561 before she and Cody's July trip to the National Cutting Horse Association Summer Spectacular limited-age event in Fort Worth.

WR Bano (WR This Cats Smart x Gerlie Gun x Playgun), a 2007 bay gelding bred and owned by Todd Bimat and Erin Bimat, thanks to their gift breeding, carried Todd to a Futurity Open victory at the 2010 El Rancho Futurity in Rancho Murieta, Calif., last fall.

Smart Exactacat (WR This Cats Smart x As Smart As Lindy x As Smart As The Fox), a 2006 gelding from Weis' free breeding, had earned just under \$40,000 heading into July for Weis' training client Julie Sanford, Orange, Calif. Weis and Smart Exactacat's early success included a Futurity Gelding Open Co-Championship and a Futurity Open finals at the 2009 Pacific Coast Cutting Horse Association Futurity in Paso Robles, Calif.

WR Big Dog (WR This Cats Smart x Kadee Lena Belle x CD Olena), a 2006 stallion from Russ Westfall's gift breeding, and Hypercat (WR This Cats Smart x Grays D Lite x Grays Starlight), a 2007 gelding bred by Matt Sargood and his wife, Patti, have each topped \$5,000. They've also both reached limited-age amateur and non-pro finals.

"Obviously, it worked out real well," Smith said. "To have five [donated breedings] and every one produce a money winner, it was a good PR deal on Wagonhound's part and it was a genuine thank you from us to them [the stallion's herd-helping riders]."

Overall, 101 performance horses sired by WR This Cats Smart (High Brow Cat x The Smart Look x Smart Little Lena), mainly cutters but also a few working cow horses, one reiner and one barrel racer, had earned more than \$1.3 million heading into July. He stands at The Four Sixes Ranch, Guthrie, Texas. —MT



WR This Cats Smart