

Lind sets challenging goals

Story By Gayle Smith

Rush City, Minnesota youth cutter Ryan Lind has set a challenging goals for himself - he hopes to win the area in both the Junior Youth and the \$2,000 Limited Rider this year.

"I love to show, and just want to go have fun every time in the pen," said 13-year-old Ryan. The youth also has the support of his family. His stepfather, Bob Janssen, is a cutting horse trainer and his mother, Anita, also competes in cutting competitions.

Along the way to accomplishing his goals, Ryan is excited about a couple events he will compete in. "I'm heading to the AQHA Youth World Show on my gelding, Sunny Rey Solano, in late July," he said. "I'm also hoping to show my first futurity horse this fall, a three-year-old mare by Cat ichi."

Ryan started out riding reining horses, but switched to cutting horses because his mother had more interest in them. "When I got old enough to give (the cutting horse) a try, I was hooked," Ryan said. "The more I showed cutters, the more I lost interest in showing reiners. My stepdad trains cutting horses, as well as working cow horses and some reiners, so it's just something I'm always around," he added.

Ryan showed his first cutting horse in 2007. "My first show was at Red Horse Ranch Arena in Fergus Falls, Minnesota, riding my mom's retired mare, Royal Sana Wilson. The first day, I got in the 60s, and then the second day I scored a 71 1/2. She was 20 years-old and had taught a lot of people in this area to cut, so she wasn't the easiest mare to keep honest in the show pen," he explained.

Since then, Ryan has received a lot of help from his family to improve his cutting abilities. "My stepdad has taught me a lot of cutting skills. I really enjoy cutting. I like working that cow. It is just such a thrill," he said. "You have to put a lot of trust in your horse. It is exciting just working back and forth with that cow."

These days, Ryan competes in an average of two cuttings each month. During the months of July through September, he competes in additional cuttings because the family hauls cutters to regional limited aged events, too.

In his young career, Ryan is very proud of showing at the NCHA Western Nationals in Ogden, Utah the past two years. "It's a bigger show with a big pen and a lot of lights. It's been a great confidence builder to go out there and be competitive at a national show," Ryan explained. "I didn't know what to expect the first time out, and when I made Top Ten I was so excited."

He continued: "Another memorable experience was getting to show Smart Chicaway for the first time. It was the first show this year and I won the class. Smart Chicaway is stallion by Smart Chic Olena, and is just such a cool horse to ride. He has a neat style, is super smooth and just plain fun to ride. Bob has had him since he was a two-year-old, did all his training, and won the NRHA limited open futurity on him, before getting his ROM in Working Cow Horse, and then turning him into a regionally and nationally competitive cutter. It's been fun to follow that with my own success on him. I'm so grateful to Mark and Patti Blackwell, his owners, for giving me the opportunity to ride him."

As Ryan gains more experience and skills, he has also had more success in the cutting competitions. "I've been the Minnesota Cutting Horse Association Junior Youth Champion the past two years, and I was the NCHA Area 6 Junior Youth Champion last year," Ryan proudly admits. "I have also been a finalist every time I've shown in Ogden, and was in the top ten last year," he added.

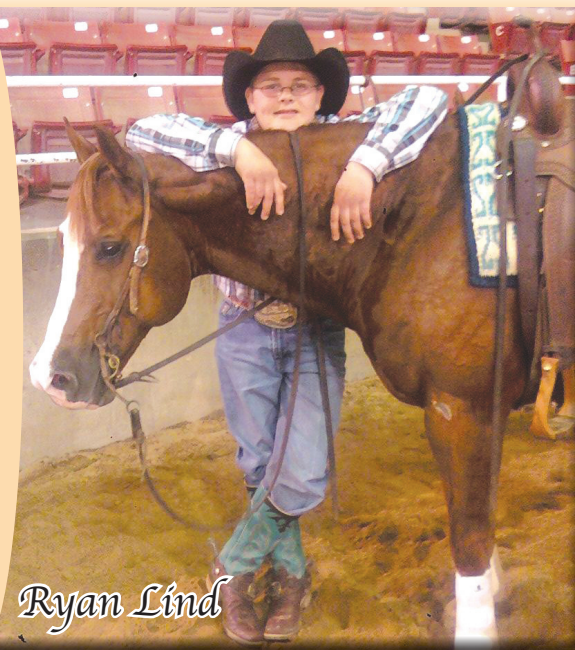
In May, Ryan also won the weekend high-point trophy at the Minnesota Cutting Horse Association Northern Exposure show. "I was having a good show in the Youth and \$2000 Limited Rider, so my mom and stepdad asked me if I wanted to show her horses in the \$5000 Novice Non Pro and \$20000 Non Pro and go for it," Ryan explained. "I did, one of which I had only cut on once before, and won all six classes I went in that weekend. It was kind of unbelievable, but a blast!"

Between the reining and cutting, Ryan said he has also won quite a bit of scholarship money, which he plans to put to good use someday. "I love to hunt, fish and just be outdoors," Ryan said. "It could change, but right now I'm

leaning towards a career in forestry. My parents are great about working fun side-trips into our show travels. Last year on the way home from Ogden, we went through Yellowstone Park, and that triggered my interest in forestry.

I'd like to do an internship program working at one of the National Parks when I'm in senior high."

Although Ryan has no plans to make a career of training cutting horses, he still hopes to show them. "No matter what I do, I see myself continuing to show cutters," he said. "I want to compete as a non pro as an adult."



Ryan Lind



Photo by Forrest Photography

Ryan Lind showing AQHA gelding Sunny Rey Solano in the Junior Youth Finals at Ogden



Photo by Forrest Photography

Ryan Lind showing AQHA Stallion Smart Chicaway in the \$2000 Limited Rider Finals in Ogden.