

DUAL REY is the #2 Leading Cutting Sire. Photo by: Don Shugart

The REYS have it...

at Holmes Cutting Horses in Longmont, Colorado, USA

Home of Dual Rey, Rey Dual, Stylish Rey and Halreycious



HALREYCIUS
Photo by: John Brasseaux



Linda Holmes atop High Brows Nurse Photo by: T. Jett
NCHA Futurity Non-Pro Reserve Champion and NCHA Super Stakes Open Reserve Champion

ARTICLE: G.G. Park

When Jim Holmes decided to take his cutting horse hobby to the next level in 1980, he went in search of a stallion to show and stand at stud.

He found Wyoming Doc, an own son of Doc O'Lena, out of a Hollywood Bill mare - the cornerstone for building a program which today enjoys a rich tradition and solid reputation for both showing and raising performance horses.

After the acquisition of Wyoming Doc (LTE \$123,000), two of Jim's daughters, who already shared his love of horses, leaned more toward cutting. In the beginning, Gail focused on breeding, buying and selling, while Linda wanted to show.

Linda relates, "I don't think we would have stayed with cutting if it hadn't been for Wyoming Doc. He's the reason we all got serious about the cutting industry. In those early days, he definitely paid his own way. I won \$57,000 on him in 1983."

Because of limited promotion, Wyoming Doc only sired 26 performers, with combined earnings of \$250,000. Jim says, "Wyoming Doc might have been a leading cutting sire, but at the time, I didn't have the money to breed him to top mares. But every foal he had could cut."

• Mare Power

Clearly, Jim's next step to building his breeding program was to acquire quality broodmares which led to the purchase of two Wyoming Doc daughters, Missy Farmer and Nurse Rey.

Shown by Lloyd Cox, Missy Farmer finished fourth in the NCHA World standings in 1987, had lifetime earnings of \$88,000 and produced 14 offspring with combined earnings of \$400,000.

Nurse Rey earned \$84,500 and according to trainer Lloyd Cox, "Was probably the most cow-smart horse I ever rode." Jim Holmes thinks Nurse Rey may hold the show pen record because she advanced to the finals 34 consecutive times. Nurse Rey is out of an own daughter of Rey Jay, ranked by Equi-Stat's as one of the top cutting maternal grandsires.

"Rey Jay was so special," Linda says, "Not only did he have a great show career, and sired some outstanding foals, but his daughters have had a tremendous impact on our industry." Rey Jay's daughters have produced some of the best like Colonel Freckles and Freckles Playboy. His greatest producing daughter is Jay Moss,



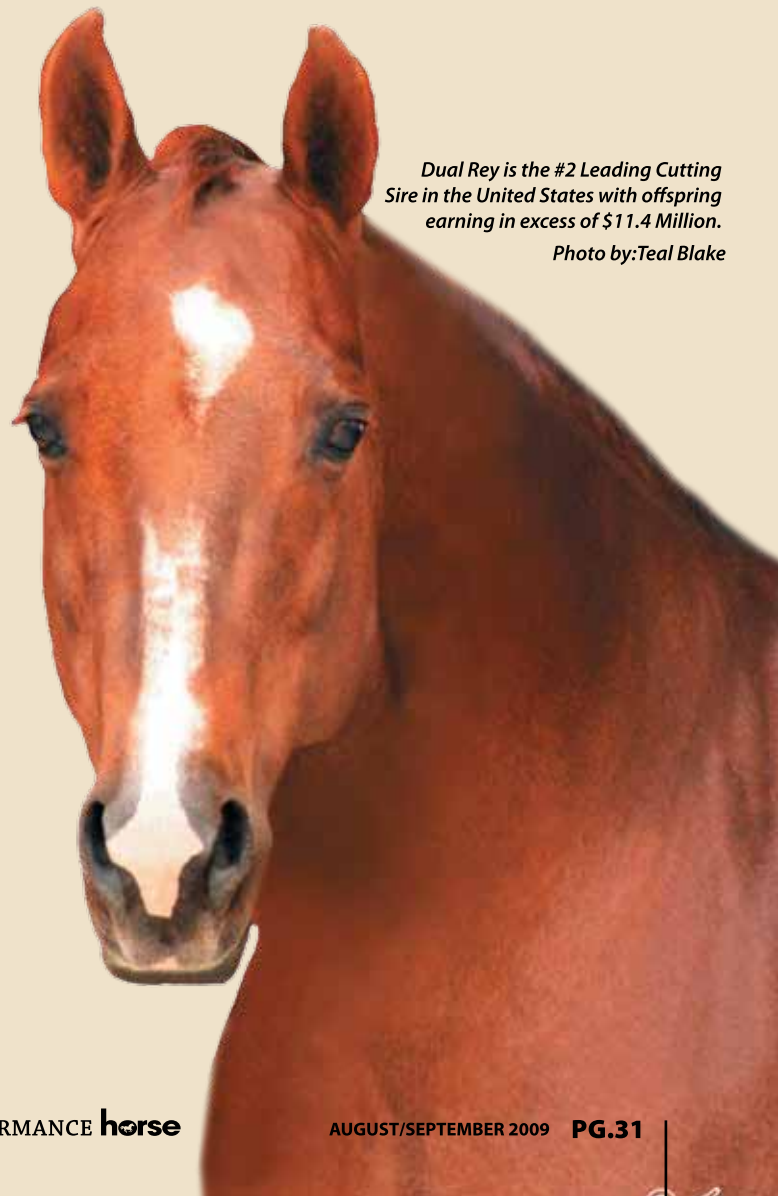
Jim Holmes (left) with Nurse Rey in 1988 receiving the Non-Pro Championship trophy from Bob Cunningham, President of the Western States Cutting Horse Association.

Photo by: G. Willis Photography

an Equi-Stat Top Cutting Dam with total combined offspring earnings of \$819,778.

• The Stallions

Jay Moss is the dam of Nurse Rey, producer of Dual Rey, owned by Holmes Cutting Horses. Dual Rey, sired by Dual Pep was slated to sell as a yearling in the 1995 NCHA Futurity Sales. Linda says, "At the time, it was



Dual Rey is the #2 Leading Cutting Sire in the United States with offspring earning in excess of \$11.4 Million.

Photo by:Teal Blake

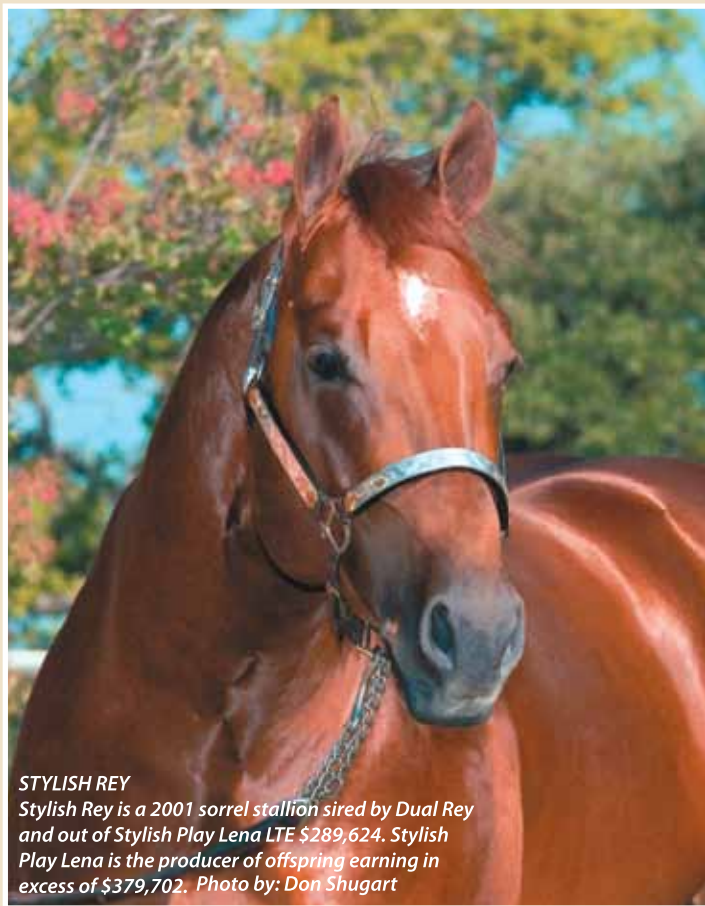
our policy to sell any stud colts, and we planned on consigning to him to one of the Futurity Sales, but a few weeks before the sale, he slipped on muddy ground and slid into a cable fence. Since he ripped open most of his nose, we just decided to keep him.”

This “keeper” is currently ranked by Equi-Stat as the #2 Leading Cutting Sire in the United States with offspring earning in excess of \$11.3 million.

Linda emphasizes, “Dual Rey’s #2 ranking needs to be examined in light of his age and number of his foals, because the #1 horse has twice the number of performers and is 6 years older.” “Don’t get me wrong,” Linda continues, “we’re thrilled he’s made the top two, but the ranking in and of itself doesn’t tell the entire story.”

Dual Rey was also ranked as the #2 Leading Sire of two-year-olds sold in the 2008 NCHA Futurity Sales in the United States. “Again,” Linda explains, “if you look at the #1 horse, Dual Rey is half his age, but the median average between the #1 and #2 ranking is only \$500 apart.”

In Australia, Dual Rey may be able to boast a #1 ranking. Linda says, “He only had 9 foals bred in Australia, and their first show season was 2008. Of those 9, he had 6 Champions/Reserve Champions titles and 9 finalist places. We’re pretty sure no other stallion has



STYLISH REY
Stylish Rey is a 2001 sorrel stallion sired by Dual Rey and out of Stylish Play Lena LTE \$289,624. Stylish Play Lena is the producer of offspring earning in excess of \$379,702. Photo by: Don Shugart

every reached that level of success in Australia from his first foal crop.”

Another Holmes stallion, Rey Dual, is a full brother to Dual Rey. Rey Dual has lifetime earnings of \$123,449, and his oldest limited foal crop are yearlings. Trainer Lloyd Cox comments on Rey Dual, “He was a good, solid performer because he did whatever I needed him to do. And, actually he won more than Dual Rey.”

REY DUAL
Rey Dual is a 2002 sorrel stallion with LTE \$123,499 and is the only full brother to Dual Rey.
Photo by: Midge Ames Photography



A third Holmes stallion, Stylish Rey, has lifetime earnings of \$27,859 and is out of Stylish Play Lena. Linda feels strongly that the power of a stallion comes from the dam side, and comments, "Stylish Play Lena is one of those very rare dams that you'll only see once in a generation." Her show career includes Classic/Challenge Open Champion at the 2003 NCHA Summer Cutting Spectacular. Stylish Play Lena has lifetime earnings of \$289,624, is producer of offspring earning \$479,784 and is ranked by Equi-Stat in the top 15 for Top Cutting Dams in 2008.

Stylish Rey is a full brother to three NCHA money earners including Halreycious, another Holmes-bred stallion. Halreycious, sired by Dual Rey, has lifetime earnings of \$227,459 and his show career highlights are Reserve Open Champion at the 2008 NCHA Super Stakes and Open Champion at the 2007 NCHA Super Stakes.

Even though Holmes Cutting Horses, home to these studs, has changed a bit over the years, what hasn't changed is the program. According to Linda, "Holmes-bred cutting horses are still known for structural durability, hardy personality and athletic style."

Today, the management and promotion of all the "Reys" specifically, and the ranching operation in general fall under Linda's direction. While she still shows occasionally, her primary focus is on breeding. Linda's job involves extensive travel including several days spent in Australia this past June to see firsthand how the cutting industry was faring there. Commenting on her 10-day Australian tour, Linda recounts, "I found the enthusiasm for the cutting business refreshing. The Dual Reys have been well received and we feel the market is strong there especially for our type of program."

Even with a top sire like Dual Rey, Linda is hesitant to rest on his accomplishments, and states, "Early on, Dual Rey certainly surpassed our expectations when he was named 2003 AQHA Freshman Sire of the Year, and he is an established, proven sire. But in the horse business, you can never be complacent. We are constantly looking for ways to better serve our customers and expand the market."

Regarding what the future holds for Holmes Cutting Horses, Linda says, "We kicked off our 2009 ad campaign with the theme, 'Reys of Hope,' and that pretty much sums up our attitude. Despite some turbulent economic times, we plan on keeping with my dad's original plan....treating this like a business, not a hobby, by breeding and selling the type of cutting horses we'd want to own and show." 🐾



HALREYCIIOUS
Halreycious is a 2002 sorrel stallion with LTE \$223,905 and his career highlights include 2008 NCHA Super Stakes Classic Open Reserve Champion and 2007 NCHA Super Stakes Classic Open Champion.

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