

BY HEATHER LOVERIDGE

Corey Hendrickson, Rogersville, Missouri

TWO WEEKS BEFORE THE 2008 NATIONAL Reining Breeders Classic (NRBC), Corey Hendrickson not only had to prepare for the big event but also pack up his family and move. He had accepted a job as head trainer and ranch manager at Zimmerman Quarter Horses and was due at work. Despite the hectic happenings, Hendrickson pulled it all off and even tied to win the NRBC's intermediate open championship on The Skeetist, owned by Vaughn Zimmerman.

Hendrickson got his start training reining horses about 17 years ago. He took an eight-year leave during that time to train pleasure horses but eventually returned to Reining. He remembers sitting up all night at the NRHA futurities and derbies, watching and learning from his heroes.

"My actual mentors were all the legends. Bob Avila, Todd Bergen, Tim

McQuay—anybody who I thought did something cool I'd sit and watch," Hendrickson says. "Then I'd go home and work on it until I felt like mine looked like theirs."



Hendrickson has had some great wins during his career, including winning the 2003 NCRHA (North Central Reining Horse Association) Futurity.

"My proudest moment, besides the NRBC, was that futurity. Many of my heroes were there," Hendrickson says. "I was draw two out of 67 horses and ended up winning it on a horse that I trained from start to finish myself, Heza Sure Whiz."

Outside the show pen, Hendrickson is a fanatic outdoorsman. He loves to hunt and fish as well as train English Pointers and German Shorthairs for upland bird hunting. He and his wife Kate have a son and daughter, five-year-old Garrett and four-year-old Taylor. ♦

CURRENT TOP 20

(as of May 12, 2008)

Rider	Earnings
1 Shawn Florida	\$271,830
2 Craig Schmersal	\$73,095
3 Brian Welman	\$70,723
4 Brian Bell	\$61,291
5 Jason Vanlandingham	\$58,159
6 Brent Wright	\$57,131
7 Todd Bergen	\$48,665
8 Andrea Fappani	\$45,389
9 Cody Sapergia	\$42,750
10 Justin Mathison	\$41,066
11 Tim McQuay	\$38,623
12 Corey Hendrickson	\$30,222
13 Ruben Vandorp	\$30,000
14 Jared Leclair	\$29,332
15 John O Hara	\$26,314
16 Randy Paul	\$21,772
17 Jerry Coleman	\$18,493
18 Crystal McNutt Brock	\$17,094
19 Jordan Larson	\$13,645
20 Tom McCutcheon	\$13,496

Jason Vanlandingham, Whitesboro, Texas

NOT MANY PEOPLE START THEIR CAREERS DURING THEIR CHILDHOOD, but Jason Vanlandingham got a leg up on his future, so to speak, breaking ponies for his dad to sell. He eventually began starting colts, and, in 1998, went to work for a reiner in Illinois.

Even though he grew up with horses, Vanlandingham never dreamed he'd become a trainer. He wanted to be a professional baseball player, but life took him in a different direction. He married his high school sweetheart right after high school graduation and started a family.

"I had planned on being a teacher and coaching," Vanlandingham said. "I decided I probably didn't want to teach so I found something else to do. Once the family got going, baseball was another thing we gave up."

Vanlandingham worked in Illinois for a year, then went home and leased his dad's barn for a year. From there, he moved to

Craig Johnson's facility in Gainesville, Texas, working for Johnson, an NRHA Professional and two-time NRHA Futurity champion, for three years until he went out on his own. He started



Vanlandingham Reining Horses, specializing in futurity and derby horses and prospects.

He's proud of what he's accomplished so far, including winning the 2005 21st Annual SWRHA (Southwest Reining Horse Association) Futurity open and intermediate open on Gallos Stylish Star, a stallion he started as a long yearling. Riding Whizin Off Sparks, he won the 2007 NRHA Derby intermediate open division and made the 2008 NRBC open finals.

When he's not riding, Vanlandingham spends his time coaching his kids' sports teams. He and his wife Adrienne have three children: Alexis, 11; Dalton, 8; Courtney, 6; and one due this November. ♦