

Pinto Horse

The Official Publication of PtHA

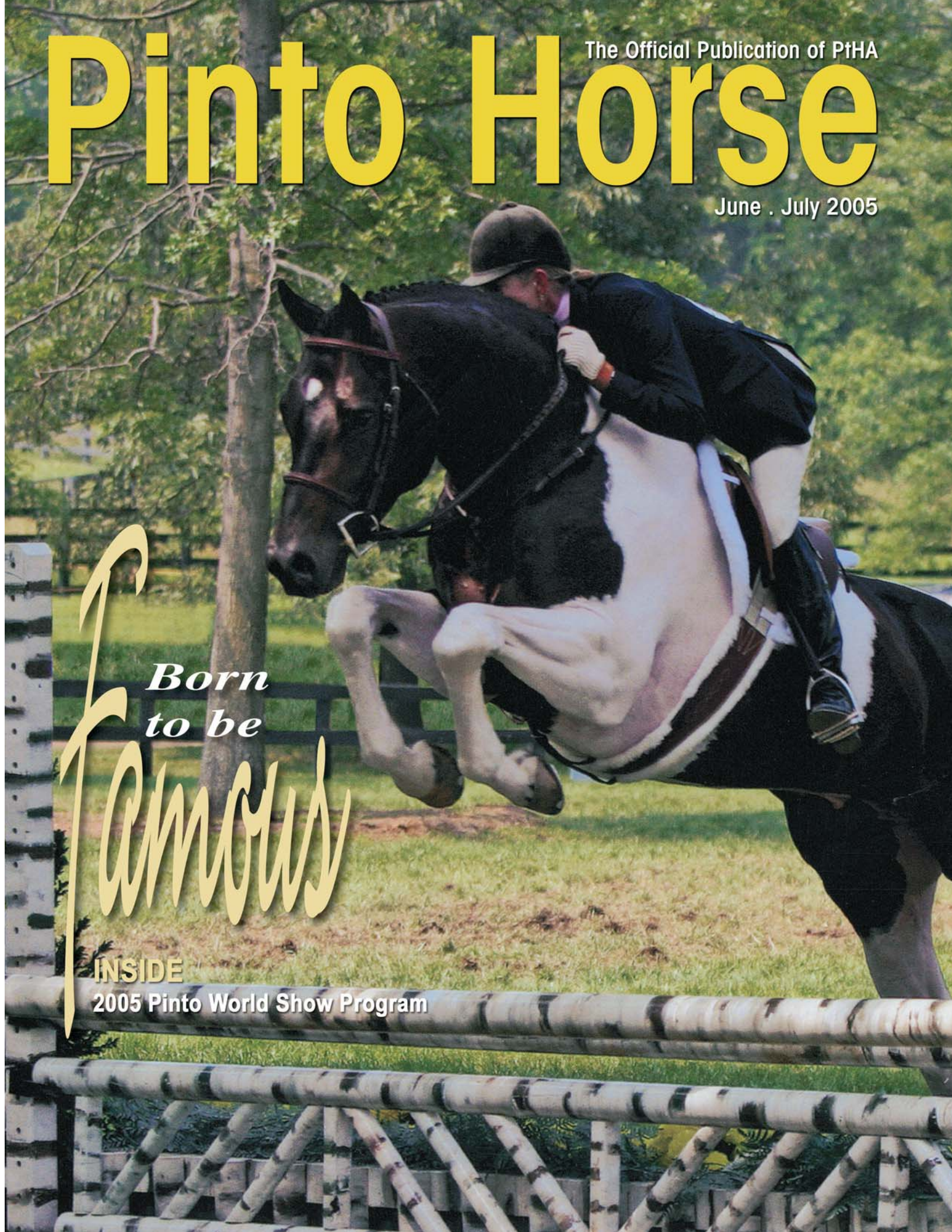
June . July 2005

*Born
to be*

Famous

INSIDE

2005 Pinto World Show Program



Pinto

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Born to be

Famous

Claim To Fame has made a name for himself in the hunter world

Ever notice how sometimes, a horse's name becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy—as if the animal's fate were written in the stars from the first moment he stood up on four wobbly legs. Such seems to be the case for Claim To Fame.



ANDY LUNDSTROM



BOBBY BRANTLEY



ANDY LUNDSTROM

Opposite Page:

Trainer Jane Gaston and Claim To Fame take a jump at the prestigious Upperville Colt and Horse Show, held in Upperville, Virginia.

Clockwise from top left:

Patti Leads two of the farm's mares that are being bred to Claim To Fame, Hunt Colors, left, and Stormwatch.

Patti and Hunt Colors drew a crowd of fans while working as an outrider at the CCI Red Hills Horse Trials.

Patti describes Flying Colors Farm as a state-of-the art small breeding farm.

Bobby and Patti Brantley in their show barn office, which houses their many awards.



BOBBY BRANTLEY

Owned and bred by Patti and Bobby Brantley of Tallahassee, Florida, the 16.1½-hand Pinto stallion, also known as “Cash,” recently made waves by garnering consecutive wins in the Model Class of the combined divisions of Green Conformation Hunter and Regular Conformation Hunter at the Horse Shows In The Sun (HITS) event in Ocala, Florida. Both classes are judged solely on conformation, condition, movement and soundness. It is the first time in known history that a Pinto has achieved this honor on the prestigious Florida A Hunter Winter Circuit. However, it’s not the first time Claim To Fame has broken glass ceilings for Pintos in the hunter world.

In 2000, Cash won the 2-Year-Old Non TB Colts and Geldings, a conformation class, at the nationally respected Devon Horse Show and Country Fair. He was also placed Best Colt of the entire show in the Best Young Horse class. Shown by recognized handler Oliver Brown of Reva, Virginia, he is still the only Pinto in Devon’s 105-year history to achieve this honor.

Brown, who was at first skeptical about showing a Pinto at the legendary Devon show, knew there was potential when Patti stepped Cash off the trailer.

“Oliver took a step back, looked at him and said, ‘Holy smokes! What are they going to do with him?’ Oliver knew Cash had the quality that they would have to pen him, but he also knew they would be bucking the trend by pinning the first Pinto”

Thankfully, the judges weren’t afraid to make waves and history was made when Claim To Fame won his class.

“We decided then to go ahead and test him in the performance world,” said Patti. “In 2003, we sent him to Scott Hofstetter, a top hunter trainer, to get started.”

It soon became obvious that Cash was not limited to conformation classes. The stallion soon earned titles of Pre-Green Circuit Champion at the HITS/Ocala RMI Spring Series, Reserve Champion at HITS/Culpeper, and Grand Hunter Reserve Champion in Warrenton, Virginia, where he also won the Special Conformation Hunter Division hands down.

Cash is currently competing in the Green Conformation Hunter Division at 3’6”, which is a professional division.

Shown in open competition by Hofstetter and Jane Gaston of Middleburg, Virginia, Claim To Fame is also shown by Patti in the Adult Amateur division. She’s extremely pleased with her stallion’s achievements.

“Bill Moroney, who is President of the United States Hunter Jumper Association and trainer at Salamander Farm and former US Amateur National Champion Jane Gaston, invited Claim To Fame to come to Middleburg to train with them in the summer of 2004,” said Patti. “We’re proud to be the only privately-owned horse to have that honor.”

“My criteria was an over 16 hands, well-marked Pinto with Thoroughbred bloodlines and hunter movement. I then realized how hard it was to find those.”

—Patti Brantley

At this point, you might be wondering how it is that a Pinto Horse come to such prominence in a sport dominated by solids. The answer is careful planning and hard work.

“Our breeding program evolved because we personally liked Pintos, said Patti. She and husband Bobby, former Lieutenant Governor of Florida, founded Flying Colors Farm in 1995.

An avid foxhunter and show hunter, Patti had been fortunate enough to find a Paint that was the “perfect foxhunter.” When he was eventually sidelined due to an injury, she found it near impossible to find a replacement.

“My criteria was an over 16 hands, well-marked Pinto with predominately Thoroughbred bloodlines and hunter movement,” she said. “I then realized how hard it was to find those.

“If I was having this much trouble finding a Pinto sport horse, other people might be facing the same challenge.”

The Brantley’s had already decided that they wanted to build a farm and start their own breeding program.

Thanks to Patti’s search, they now knew exactly what type of horse they wanted to breed and who their target market would be.

After two years of research, the Brantley’s began the search to find the best mares possible to begin their breeding program. Their first acquisition, a 17-hand black tobiano mare named Queens Colors, inspired the farm name.

“We figured ‘Flying’ as in flying over jumps and ‘Colors’ as in Pintos,” Patti explained.

The Brantley’s continued scooping up the best Pinto mares they could find—sometimes traveling as far as Seattle, Washington. Their hard work and diligent planning paid off in 1998, when a long-legged bay tobiano colt hit the ground. He was aptly named Claim To Fame.

“He was a gift from Heaven,” said Patti.

By Oldenburg stallion Hall Of Fame, and out of Thoroughbred mare Akula, by Assault Landing, Claim To Fame is now a sire himself. He appears to be passing his talents on to his offspring (Cash’s first foal crop hit the ground in 2003). Many of his get already followed in their sire’s footsteps, placing in the top five at prestigious shows such as Devon and the International Hunter Futurity East Coast Finals. Cash’s filly, Exclaim, was undefeated in Florida Hunter Breeding in 2004.

“His first foals, born in 2003, won him the coveted title of Best Get of Sire at the prestigious 2004 Upperville Colt and Horse Show,” said Brantley.

But you might be surprised to hear what attribute Brantley feels makes Claim To Fame exceptionally special.

“His striking good looks and perfect conformation turn heads everywhere he goes,” she said, “but his best asset is his great temperament. He’s spent most of his life at our farm where he is cared for and ridden by me—his ‘51 and Older’ amateur owner.”

Brantley said they plan to continue showing Claim To Fame and hopefully set some more records for his talented offspring to strive towards. Thanks to the Brantley’s and their colorful stallion, the hunter world has never been so bright.