

EVENT SPOTLIGHT

# New Year, No Surprises

► Kassie Mowry was back in the futurity winner's circle on another The Goodbye Lane, topping the 2nd annual Lone Star Shootout aboard the Kris Gadbois-owned 5-year-old mare KS This Goodbye.

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Kassie Mowry rode KS This Goodbye to two consistent times of 15.453 and 15.678, respectively, to win the Lone Star Shootout Futurity in 31.131, worth \$8,250. The pair's Round One time topped the round for \$4,331, while their Round Two time placed seventh for \$1,130.

## KS This Goodbye

2018 bay mare, owned by Kristina Gadbois, bred by Larry and Bonnie Blain

THE GOODBYE LANE	{	LANES LEINSTER	{	LEINSTER HOUSE (TB)
		SWIFT GOODBYE		LANES STAR MISS
KS THIS GOODBYE {	{		{	DASH TA FAME
				FIESTA ON THE FLY
BH FAMOUS SNIP	{	DASH TA FAME	{	FIRST DOWN DASH
		BH DODGED A BULLET		SUDDEN FAME
			{	SPECIAL LEADER
			{	GCS EGO TRIP

JODI ROBERTSON'S FIRST ANNUAL LONE STAR SHOOTOUT last year in Stephenville, Texas, ended with an array of positive reviews from aged-event competitors. The second annual event was back in 2023 with a date change and venue change, moving up a few weeks to January 5–8 and relocating to the Circle T Arena in Hamilton, Texas, just south of Stephenville.

Competitors once again raved about the Lone Star Shootout, from the production to prizes to payout. Especially touted was the arena-record-setting ground prepared by Colton Dugan that gave competitors a chance from top of the ground to bottom of the drag, especially since the event dragged every four riders instead of the traditional five.

"Jodi and those guys do an amazing job with the ground, and it was a great facility and a good place to start back," said Mowry, who competed in the 2022 Barrel Futurities of America World Championships in late November before turning her focus toward rodeo for her third trip to Vegas for the Wrangler National Finals Rodeo the first two weeks of December.

## Futurity Champion Kassie Mowry and KS This Goodbye

Kassie Mowry wasted no time during her record-breaking 2022 competition year, quietly working at home preparing the following year's group of futurity horses.

To no one's surprise, the EquiStat all-time winningest barrel racer already had another winner only a few days into the New Year. Riding for owner Kris Gadbois, Mowry jockeyed 5-year-old KS This Goodbye to the Lone Star Shootout Futurity championship, earning a total \$13,711 in Hamilton.

"We call her 'Stella,' and I just laugh with that name, because she's only a year younger than Hello Stella, so it was a complete coincidence, and she's



bred just like her,” Mowry said with a laugh of Sharin Hall’s EquiStat all-time highest-earning futurity horse, also by The Goodbye Lane and out of a Dash Ta Fame mare. “This filly is probably the most natural athlete I’ve ever started. She can naturally do the things that you need a barrel horse to do.”

In fact, it was so easy for Stella that Mowry found herself wondering what to do with the mare after she started clocking 1D-winning times in exhibitions in April of her 4-year-old year after entering Mowry’s training program end of her 3-year-old year. Mowry and Gadbois counted that Stella only made seven or eight exhibition runs the whole year in preparation for her 5-year-old futurity year.

“She’s really green, because she came on so fast,” Mowry said. “The first exhibition she looked around, the second one would have won a jackpot, and she came back the third and backed it up the very next week. I was like, ‘What do I do with this mare now?’ I didn’t want Kris to think I wasn’t hauling her colt, but I was scared to — she’s so far ahead naturally, but I don’t need to be holding her up either, and I didn’t want her to get ahead of herself and I didn’t want to get her hurt. Kris and I were on the same page of just keep her happy, keep her sound.”

Mowry says because of Stella’s raw talent, the mare has been atypical of how the Dublin, Texas, trainer normally structures her program to get horses ready to futurity.

“She’s 5, and most people know I run all 4-year-olds,” Mowry explained. “I really saved that mare. She was clocking what would win barrel races, but the exhibition ground at these jackpots isn’t always safe enough to run a horse that fast in. Normally I send mine through faster their year before they futurity, because they need to build that confidence, make mistakes — it’s just crucial to do and part of the process. But what do you do with a horse that goes out there and runs so confidently and does things like this? Like she’s done it, when



Dustin Angelle clocked the fastest time of the futurity, a 15.357, on board the Garland Ray Baker Jr.-owned and -bred 2019 mare BR Cruella De Vil (BHR Frenchies Socks x BR Snow White x A Streak Of Fling) to win the slot race for \$7,500 as well as the second go-round of the futurity for \$4,331.

she hasn’t. That’s how she came along really different than most.”

Stella made her competitive debut at the 2022 BFA World Championship Futurity in late November, but she had to run in the Futurity against horses that have been competing all year, since the BFA Futurity is only open to 4-year-olds and the BFA Juvenile is only open to 3-year-olds starting their 4-year-old futurity season. She clocked respectably before going on a break as Mowry hit the road for Las Vegas and focused on the NFR for the next month.

At Hamilton, Mowry was just hoping to get some more runs under Stella’s belt. Stella clocked a 15.453 to win the first round for \$4,331. She came back with a 15.678 in the second round to place seventh for \$1,130. The pair ultimately topped the average in 31.131 for \$8,250, narrowly edging futurity reserve champion Ashley Schafer’s 31.139 on Chrome Plated Fame.

“Coming into Hamilton, I didn’t have any expectations — she had a month off, and this would be a good starting point,” Mowry said. “She blew me away. She just did it so easy that first round, and the second round I wanted

to make sure we didn’t hit a barrel coming back over it or overworking. We played it safe, but she worked really solid and I was really happy with how she handled all of that. She’s an incredible athlete. We think a lot of this mare, and now she’s proven and a futurity winner.”

## Derby Champion Dani Bühler and Youaintseenfamousyet

Dani Bühler and Youaintseenfamousyet were the first team to break the arena record in Hamilton during the Lone Star Shootout, clocking a 15.209 to win the Derby for \$5,385 and roll over to top the High Roller Open for \$4,000 and Weekend Super 5D Open for \$2,030.

“She’s a hotter, more high-strung horse, real sensitive. She’s one that’s real crazy in the warm-up pen, so you just let her do what she does. That morning when I got her out of her stall, she was a little spicier than usual. I thought it was going to be good, because that is what she did at Pink Buckle,” said Bühler of the mare’s 16.9 on a standard pattern in the Pink Buckle Derby in October. “I sent her, she inhaled that first barrel, and from then on, I knew it was going to be good. I didn’t know it was an arena record until awards. I was ecstatic.”

Their record ultimately fell when Lyke My French Fling clocked a 15.162 with Abby Fields in the Open the following day, but Bühler says the win against some of the toughest derby horses out there means the world to her because of the recognition “Yeti” receives, along with her connections.

“It’s not about me; it’s about being able to represent this horse to her fullest ability. And Lisa [Miladinovich], the stallion owner. I’ve been working with her for 10 years trying to get these colts on the ground and just never got one to running age,” said Bühler, who had another Aint Seen Nothin Yet colt prior to Yeti that died coming into his 3-year-old year. “Now we got her, and it’s nice to represent Lisa, the breeder, and the girl I bought her from. We get to celebrate these victories together, and that’s what makes me happy.”



## [ Lone Star Shootout ]



Dani Bühler was the first person to break the Hamilton arena record during the Lone Star Shootout, clocking a 15.209 on Youaintseenfamousyet to win the Derby for \$5,385, the High Roller for \$4,000 and the Weekend Super 5D Open for \$2,030.

### Youaintseenfamousyet

2016 gray mare, owned by Dani Bühler, bred by Matthew W McGaha III

AINT SEEN NOTHIN YET {	FRENCHMANS GUY SMART N FAMOUS	{	SUN FROST FRENCHMAN'S LADY
YOUAINTSEENFAMOUSYET {	IMA SHINEY DANCER	{	DASH TA FAME SMART N SIXY
	{	{	FIRST DOWN DASH MARCY DARLING
	{	{	TEXAS DANCER (TB) MOON LIGHT DANCER



2016 mare Lyke My French Fling (A Streak Of Fling x Shis French Powder x Frenchmans Guy) carried Abby Fields to an arena-record 15.162 to win Saturday's Open for \$3,415.



Shelly Shields rode 2014 mare Furys Princess (Furyofthewind x Jazzy Princess x DA Jazzy Starlight) to a 15.433 to win Sunday's Open for \$1,590.

The championship also punctuates a comeback story for Bühler.

"I hauled her the beginning of her futurity year, and then my truck broke down, so she sat the second half of her futurity year. This is her second derby year. I took a hiatus from horses for a while. Things were not going good for me," Bühler shared. "She's always been a good horse in the 1-2D in Texas, but never stands out. We coasted through, and then she had that really good run at Pink Buckle, and the switch turned there. That was where she put us on the map, when people started saying, 'Oh, who is that?'"

The pair then won the Go Fast Races Thanksgiving Classic Derby. Bühler attributes her recent success to the mindset shift she experienced during her break from competitive riding.

"I came back with a completely different mindset than what I had the past 15 years where I just want to win," Bühler said. "Now I'm just here for fun, and whatever happens, happens, and that's been a better approach."

Though she rides for fun now, Bühler makes her living training, but not horses — the native of Switzerland who now resides in Spring Branch, Texas, is a career giraffe trainer. She operates a mobile service, traveling around to private giraffe owners.

Bühler's work with the giraffes involves teaching them to put their feet on blocks to be trimmed, hold for X-rays, blood draws and ultrasounds, and other work to keep them healthy and manageable. She says handling giraffes has made her a better horse trainer.

"The only horse training I do is for myself; I don't have outside horses. You have to be more patient [with giraffes], and it's all positive reinforcement training — you can't reprimand a giraffe or push it around," Bühler said. "It's made me a more patient, quiet and forgiving person around horses, too."

Watch for more about Bühler's career as a giraffe trainer in an upcoming feature story in *Barrel Horses News*. [BHN](#)