

Andrea's Story



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It is said that "youth are the bright future of tomorrow," and when it comes to the cutting pen you can't get much brighter than 15-year-old Andrea Rudkin from Okotoks, Alberta. With her long list of accomplishments, you would never guess this young lady has only been riding for three years.

"I started cutting with Cub Wright three years ago at the age of 12. She taught me how to ride. Before I went to her place I had never even been on a horse," states Rudkin.

Rudkin is currently leading the world standings in the 2000 Limit Rider in cutting. For a Canadian to be in the top 20 is unusual, for a 15-year-old girl to be at the top of the pack is unheard of. She's been going hard for the past 12 months. "This year I went to over 46 shows and once I got home from the two months we spent in the states, I was feeling a little burnt out. But, with a good night's rest in my own bed, I was ready to go again," says Rudkin.

Rudkin's partner in the cutting pen is her bay gelding Isle Be Steady, fondly known as "Steady Eddie." The gelding is sired by Smart Peppy Date and out of the mare Festina Lente. Rudkin says of her horse, "Eddie took the heavy competition well. Every once and a while he would get a bit sore so I stopped competing in the Senior Youth and just focused on the 2000 Limited Rider class."

Rudkin plans to take it a little easy next year - attending the shows she really enjoyed this year and taking a year off of competitive showing. When asked where she sees herself in five years she responded, "In five years I see myself at the old age of 20, riding horses and hopefully still competing in cutting."

"I was in Lufkin, Texas, where I met a bunch of kids my age who I got to hang out with. I got the opportunity to make some new friends."

How are you managing your schoolwork with all these road trips?

This year I knew that I couldn't keep going to traditional school. I switched over to a virtual school which is connected to St.Paul's Academy in Okotoks, Alberta. So while I'm on the road I take my laptop and I'm set.

What have been your biggest challenges along the way?

My biggest hardships this year have been staying in hotels non-stop, eating restaurant food, and keeping the tack room in the trailer clean.

What's been your best ride of the year?

There have been a few good rides this year, but the one that stands out in my mind is my first go at the Olds show. It was the first time I went out there thinking, "It doesn't matter what score is leading it because I'm going to beat it!" I know I can be beat, but when it comes to the cutting pen, mind set is everything.

What was the highlight of the year for you?

The highlight for this year was the last week of my two month trip to the states. I was in Lufkin, Texas, where I met a bunch of kids my age who I got to hang out with. I got the opportunity to make some new friends.

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