



Congratulations Michelle Van Dyke and Texas Brushpopper!

Michelle Van Dyke and Texas Brushpopper have had a great year at the aged events. Michelle kicked off her season with two solid runs at Big Sky Aged Event in Kalispell in August. Michelle missed the four year old finals by $\frac{1}{2}$ point. Michelle now knew she had a solid four year old show horse. Off to Big Piney, Wyoming in September for the Wyoming Futurity and Aged Event where she was second in both go-arounds, and finished with the Reserve Championship in the Derby. And then it was off to Queen Creek, Arizona to show in the four year old classes where she won an additional two paychecks. Michelle then headed to Fernley, NV where she and "Tex" made another trip to the pay window. Then – on to the Utah Futurity in Farmington, UT and the icing on the cake – Michelle qualified for both the Non-Pro and Amateur Four-Year old Finals. The duo marked a 147 in the Amateur to claim the 2012 Championship and a 145 in the Non-Pro to win a total of \$3,200 for her weekend's worth of efforts.

How it all began - Michelle put trainer Tom Campbell to the task of finding her a four year old that would fit her. In March, Tom tried and liked the sorrel gelding at Nate Millers and Michelle purchased the horse sight unseen. The 2008 gelded son of Peptotime had right at \$1,000 in earnings in his futurity year. Michelle left the horse exclusively with Tom and she stayed off of the horse until the Big Sky event in August. Michelle felt this even further solidified her show horse.

"Tex" is easy to get along with, has a nice personality, and is good to be around. He's a 'no-nonsense' kind of guy and Michelle looks forward to showing him in his 5 and 6 year old years.