

Gus's Story

Our first experience with Oh's Gas Bay's offspring was Gus, the horse pictured here.

At the time we purchased Gus, Allison was racing a 1D Open Winner by the name of Casual (Doc's Hi Noon son). Casual was racing well, but at 16 years of age, Allison started to look for a new project. Janet (Allison's mom) had always been a fan of Gasohol and ran several of his colts, so it was the blood line Allison was going to look for.

Allison had come across an advertisement for Gus but could not go see him for prior commitments at the time so her mom was commissioned

with the task. Janet has one of the keenest eyes and feel for a horse I've ever seen. Consistent with her skill she found the diamond and acquired Gus for Allison.

Gus is a race horse through and through. The type of horse that has the potential to win the NFR, no question. As a colt, Gus was owned by a few novice riders who did not know how to handle a horse of his caliber. So with a confusing start Gus had to be retooled and needed some patience. Allison started him over again like she would with any other young horse, regular arena schooling but cowboy boot camp as well. Jim, Allison's dad and a magician on young horse took him to work pushing cattle on Scotty Creek Range. Jim doesn't get excited about too much but couldn't believe how light and athletic this horse was, "He simply floats all day. He's so smooth and is aware of absolutely everything". Allison was still racing Casual so we were in no hurry push Gus on the circuit. However Janet started looking around for the sire of this horse.

Allison returned to university to pursue a career in veterinary medicine in 2009. Come that spring I sent Gus over to a great friend and pro barrel racer Renee Blanc to have her get Gus in shape for Allison for the 2010 race season. When we went to pick him up Renee said, "I've got some bad new (our hearts sank) - you can't have him back. This one has what it takes to go all the way and I want to take him there". After some discussion we decided this was the best for Gus. Renee had the experience and desire to take him to a level that we could not. We really wanted to see him go there so we set out a plan that was going to take a couple of years at least. Renee pushes her horses as hard as anybody at a race. She's out there to win. But she never goes to that extent until she spends 4 or 5 years conditioning a horse. It's the long road to success but one that we agree with. It takes time. Gus had a couple of years of conditioning with us so we decided that the first year with Renee was going to be a year of bonding. She packed him to only a few races and loped a pattern.

After a pretty easy winter it was going to be a little more business in 2011. Gus did 12 pro shows. 2011 was really going to be an exposure year so expecting wins was not what we were after. Renee was still loping him and Gus was clocking awesome. In an unprecedented number of contestant entries Gus never was out of the top 25 percentile and Renee hadn't even asked to run yet. The year was a great success.

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BARREL RACE HORSES

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