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Contact: Dilday Ranch, 559-782-8339, tanna@dildayranch.com

Can't Isn't In Their Vocabulary

Secretariat isn't the only Cinderella story in America-- a little red horse and a California Cowboy leaped into super stardom this weekend! Topsails Rien Maker and Russell Dilday rode into cow horse history Sunday, February 6, 2011, winning the World's Greatest Horseman title for the third time. "Slider" is the only horse in stock horse history to win the coveted title three times and Dilday is the only rider to do it thrice; together, they have created a legend.

Before this weekend's championship Slider was already the highest earning money earner in reined cow horse history. This weekend they opened the gap by another \$30,000, charging past the \$319,000 lifetime earnings mark.

Slider is the little engine who could; small in stature but huge in heart, what he lacks in size he makes up for in grit! The team of Dilday and Slider has thundered past cattle, pounded down arenas to unbelievable stops, done the impossible! This never quit attitude has taken them to the top! According to Russell's wife Tanna, "Slider never met a cow he thought he couldn't catch, hold or drag, (in an arena, on a hill or in the desert) and neither has Russell."

Dilday always believed that Slider was the one. Dana Roulet, who owned him through his three year old year, brought him to Russell for training. Russell partnered with Ward Ranch, and then John (Ward) sold his share of the little stud to Kevin Cantrelle, (Tanna's) childhood friend. Russell partnered with Kevin on Slider, and together the team has reached the pinnacle of greatness! "Slider went to a show and a check came in the mail! It is a privilege to own such a horse. He really is a once in a lifetime horse", according to his owners.

Topsails Rien Maker, a 1999 stallion is sired by Topsail Cody, one of the greatest reining sires of all time. His dam is Jameen Gay a Gay Bar King, Doc's Lynx mare. The little fella's pedigree is not mainstream cow horse breeding, but it hasn't held him back! He's cuts like a cutter, he reins like a reiner, he ropes like a PRCA head horses and his cow work has raised the bar for the entire cow horse industry! He looks like a Breyer horse and acts like a kid's horse. His locks of flowing mane and tail just add to his uniqueness and lovability rating.

A cowboy raised in the San Joaquin valley and grandson of legendary cattle trader Phil Stadtler Dilday spent his childhood working cattle ranches in the deserts of Nevada, Arizona, California and even the outback of Australia. His parents Russell and Carolyn Dilday instilled not only an iron will in their son, but a work ethic that few can touch and a love for family and friends. It's been said that Russell Dilday would drive half way across the US if you were stranded to help you!

Slider and Russell may not be untouchable, but surpassing them will not be for the faint of heart! It sure is nice when the underdogs are the nice guys and they finish first. Hats off to a team that really does beat with one heart.