

NIKE

Nike, featured on Saddle & Bridle's July front cover, is Wendy Coley's latest venture in promoting young American Saddlebreds. Wendy is a former trainer/instructor who once owned a stable in eastern North Carolina. After selling the business and relocating with her family to Charlotte, N.C., she regained her amateur status, and turned her focus to fulfilling a longtime dream of putting top young horses in the show ring. Nike (Attache's Royal Assets x Rose-A-Lee's Heir) is her newest star, being prepared for her by Paul Boone.

Nike was started by Grant Shiflet at his family's Harrison Shiflet Stables. The big, game, athletic colt has a powerful trot and a true rack. Trainer Paul Boone will tell you "he has all the attributes to develop into a Saturday night horse."

Nike's stable mate, also owned by Wendy, is the striking three-year-old Harlem's Simply Irresistible (Harlem Globetrotter x Priceless Sable Fox). "Sophie" has wins on the 2009 season at J.D. Massey Classic in Three-Year-Old Park Pleasure, and at Asheville Lions Club in Three-Year-Old Park.

Wendy had a very successful 2008 season with her Three-Year-Old Three-Gaited standout, Buckles, Boots 'N Spurs (Buck's Co-Star x Mystic Promise). "Cowboy" garnered wins at J.D. Massey Classic, Asheville Lions Club, and Blue Ridge Classic before bringing home an impressive third place ribbon from Louisville, and ending the season with a win at the N.C. State Championship Horse Show. Cowboy was sold in early 2009 to Richard and Roslyn Cooke for their daughter, Kelly, and is in training with Randy Cates at Cross Creek Stables. Cowboy and Sophie have been shown by Boones Farm's assistant trainer, Cydney Cutchall.

With Wendy's prior experience as a trainer she understands the ups and downs of developing a young horse, and delights in watching from the ground as her trainer does his job. She continues in her show career, occasionally catch riding, and patiently waiting until one of her horses is ready to be shown by her. She takes tremendous pride in Nike and Sophie and has a genuine love of the American Saddlebred.

Wendy feels "for me it is the excitement of picking out a nice young horse that will potentially be my next mount. I enjoy observing the development of a young unfinished horse, and the thrill of watching it perform to the best of its ability. Both Nike and Sophie are talented and gifted three-year-olds that I am blessed to own. I am grateful and humbled by each of my horses' accomplishments. With each win I am just as excited as if it were the first."

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(Top to Bottom) Nike and Paul Boone. Cydney Cutchall, Wendy Coley and Paul Boone. Harlem's Simply Irresistible and Cydney Cutchall. Buckles, Boots, 'N Spurs and Cydney Cutchall.

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