



Dandy in Canadian Cutting Futurity.

Dandy Takes Second

Only Morgan In Show

History was made in Canadian Cutting Circles this past year when a young Morgan stallion was entered in the Canadian Cutting Horse Association Futurity. He was considered an underdog in this Quarter Horse dominated scene. There were many "doubting Thomases," skeptical of this unknown animal. But when the dust cleared and the monies paid, the Morgan breed and Northwinds Commander in particular had acquired the enthusiasm and respect of many.

Northwinds Commander is a 4-year-old stallion owned by Mr. Eldon Bienert, Leduc, Alberta and the Kilgoran Morgan Farm, Millet, Alberta. His sire was the Quizkid son, MJ's Tomi; his dam, Penny Paygon (Payday x Nipagon).

Northwinds Commander began his show career as a yearling, by taking the Open Yearling in Hand class at a

local show. As a two year old, Dandy (his stable name) was shown in hand, taking Reserve Champion several times. As a 3-year-old, Dandy was Champion at the Edmonton Northlands Spring Show. And with less than six weeks training with Mr. George Oxtoby of Innisfail, Alberta, Dandy was shown successfully in a number of shows. His athletic ability gave promise of a cutting horse, so plans were made to nominate Dandy for the Canadian Cutting Futurity the following year.

Although Dandy worked long and hard with cattle that spring, he went to Calgary in May and was pinned Champion Morgan and highlighting the show was his taking 2nd place against stiff competition in the Open Hackamore Reining. At Edmonton a week later, he won the Morgan Western Pleasure and was Reserve Champion Morgan.

During the summer Dandy concentrated on cutting and working cattle,

attending only a few local events. But in August, just weeks before the Cutting Futurity, he was entered in the Alberta Morgan Show and won impressively, capturing the In Hand class, first place in Western Pleasure and Trail, and second to Quizman in the English Pleasure and the Pleasure Horse Stake.

The highly anticipated Cutting Horse Futurity was held in September at Williams Lake, British Columbia, about 700 miles from home. The Futurity consisted of three go-rounds with the top five horses going into the Finals. The first "go" was held outside where the surroundings proved detrimental to Dandy as well as many seasoned horses, such as World Champion Peppy San. The second go-round was indoors, under three judges — all Quarter Horse men. Dandy rated 3rd place. The third "go" saw him in 4th place and thrust him into the Finals. There, Dandy and rider-trainer George Oxtoby were the first to compete. While they worked, the announcer gave some history of the breed and the fact that Dandy was the only Morgan in the Futurity. When the dust cleared — Dandy was in 2nd place, and captured much applause from the audience.

What the future holds for this young Morgan remains to be seen. He's just beginning in the show ring and the cutting arena, so you can be sure many more will learn about the Morgan breed through the abilities of this versatile Morgan, Northwinds Commander.