

SPORTS

PROCTOR

From 1B

Newman, now 30-years-old, spends his time with the younger folks in the family, Lauren and Krystal Proctor. The two girls, daughters of Lisa Proctor's husband Melvin Proctor, learned to ride on the 15.3 hands tall horse.

The girls, now teens, compete in opens and NBHA shows. Their mother is Glenda Waters.

Years ago, while attending a horse show, the two girls, then pre-schoolers, were wide-eyed at the other children dressed in colorful outfits riding across the arena. Lisa Proctor asked them if they wanted to ride.

"I didn't get it out of my mouth. They were saying, 'yes, yes,'" she said.

When Lauren first rode Newman her feet didn't fit completely into the stirrups.

During one of her first shows, Newman made a turn and Lauren slid off the horse.

Instead of galloping away, he calmly stood there and turned his head looking at the little girl.

"I knew then we had a baby sitter," Proctor said.

Other parents approached the Proctors after the show, wanting to purchase the horse. No deals were made.

Newman continued to adjust his pace to his rider. Lauren could kick the horse and he wouldn't go above a trot.

With Krystal, who was older, he would go a bit faster.

"I could get on him and he knew it was time for business," Proctor said.

Kings Mountain Mayor Rick Murphrey, attired in a Colonial costume, rides Newman during the city's Independence Day celebrations.

When Proctor loads other horses into their trailer, Newman stands at the fence wanting to join them. Sometimes he still does.

Because the National Barrel Horse Association has a scoring system that makes room for all ages of horses, he can still participate.

"He feels useful," Proctor said.

Angel, a 19-year-old mare Proctor competed with from 1993 to 2000, also continues to race in an older division.

Proctor plans to continue bringing the horse out "as long as she enjoys it."

Angel, bred with Regal Secret, a son of famed triple crown winner Secretariat, has

produced Dollar. The horse has a good chance at success with Secretariat's gene for speed and Angel's "cow shoulders" which enable a horse to go low and turn, a useful ability in barrel racing.

"If they don't have the speed there is nothing I can do," Proctor said.

Dollar's half-brother Troubles, the son of Proctor's horse Gypsy and Regal Secret, is also training to barrel race. Regal Secret belongs to Kenny and Debbie Harris of Maiden.

Melvin Proctor located Regal Secret. A horse enthusiast himself, he rode bulls until 1997 when a work-related injury sidelined him. Today he is Lisa, Lauren and Krystal's biggest fan.

Last week was Dollar's first time barrel racing away from home. Proctor took him to the Double D Ranch for an exhibition run.

The competition is open to men, women, youth and pee-wees.

Proctor says it takes most horses six months to become accustomed to the events.

"It's like a wonderland to them, the lights, the music, the tractor," she said.

Proctor also brings Thunder out to the Tuesday night race most weeks as a warm up for weekend competition in Southern States Pro Rodeos across the southeast, International and National Barrel Horse Association and Carolina Rodeo competitions.

They also practice three to four evenings each week.

The Kings Mountain woman first rode horses as child on her aunt and uncle's farm almost every Saturday along with her cousin.

The horses weren't pedigree, instead they were trail and plow horses purchased at sales.

"We rode with or without saddles; it didn't matter. We were brave then. We jumped creeks, rode trails," she said.

Proctor's parents' yard was too small to keep a horse but she filled her room with statues. After Proctor's father took her to a rodeo, she looked at the other girls in their fancy outfits and "was hooked from then on."

Proctor is a detective sergeant at the Kings Mountain Police Department.

Local youth Haley Craft, Meghan Perrigo and Casey Cerley have competed in NBHA World Youth Competition in Jackson, MS.

Cerley placed in the top five in division competition.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Three members of the Leigh family of Kings Mountain are on the East Gaston coaching staff. Left to right are son Andy, daughter Ashley and father Tony.

Father, son, daughter on East coaching staff

By DWIGHT FRADY
Special to The Herald

There's a Kings Mountain connection on the coaching staff for 2004-05 at East Gaston High School.

Tony Leigh begins his second season as a teacher and football assistant (defensive coordinator) for the Warriors. Principal Eddie McGinnis and Athletic Director Ken Howell hired two of Tony's children, 24-year-old Andy and 19-year-old Ashley, to coach with the Warriors.

Tony came to East Gaston a year ago as an assistant to head coach Mark Latham after having served as a football assistant (coaching the secondary) for 15 years at Kings Mountain. He also was head coach in baseball. He is in his 28th year of teaching and coaching overall. At East Gaston, he teaches health and physical education.

Andy works with the offensive line in football. He was a standout lineman in football at Kings Mountain and later was a solid fixture at offensive guard for four years at

Mars Hill. During his senior year with the Mountaineers, KM advanced to the state 3A finals in football at Chapel Hill before falling to Winston-Salem Carver.

Andy works with the In-School Suspension (ISS) program at East Gaston.

Ashley is currently enrolled in the nursing program at Cleveland Community College. She starred in volleyball, softball and basketball at Kings Mountain and attended Mars Hill for two years, where she was a member of the volleyball team.

While at Kings Mountain, she played on two state title teams in volleyball. Her coaching duties at East Gaston will involve being the head coach of the Lady Warrior jayvees in volleyball and serving as an assistant on the varsity.

Tony Leigh says he is thoroughly enjoying his teaching and coaching jobs at East Gaston and knows that Andy and Ashley feel the same way. "It's a great school with wonderful kids, administration and staff," he said.

Benefit golf tourney set at Woodbridge

The Tee to Green Golf Association's 15th annual sickle cell and scholarship fund raiser golf tournament will be played September 25-26 at Woodbridge Golf Links.

Entry fee is \$125 per person or \$500 per team and includes dinner at the course on Saturday and refreshments each day. Hole sponsorships are also needed.

For tee times call tournament director Eddie Chambers at 487-0902 and for other information call Dan Jolly at 482-1834 or Calvin Miller at 487-9802.

A par three challenge will be held on Friday night at Challenger Three Golf Course.



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