

Smokes Dude retires in style

"For a horse to be officially retired at the Cow Palace, the home of the Grand National Rodeo and Stock Show, the horse has to have done something. The horse entering the arena has done everything."

These were the words spoken by announcer Bob Talbman on April 13 at San Francisco's Cow Palace as APHA World Champion Smokes Dude performed one final reining pattern before officially retiring from the competitive cow horse ranks.

"Dude's" owner, Jackie Robertson of Petaluma, California, wanted her 21-year-old bay overo stallion to complete his career in style at the Cow Palace, and, judging by Dude's extensive lifetime winnings, her wish was justified.

Sired by Winnerinic AQHA and out of Smoke's Belle AQHA, Dude was bred by Pat and Judy Hubbert of Sabastopol, California. Pat trained the stallion and rode him throughout his career. The duo won several reining and working cow horse events at the Cow Palace from

1991–1996. They captured their APHA world championship title in working cow horse in 1995 and earned a National Reined Cow Horse Association Supreme Reined Cow Horse designation in the process. Dude also owns APHA Superiors in both reining and working cow horse.

Pat retired Dude for the first time when the stallion was 11, only to bring him back into the spotlight to compete at the AQHA World Show in 2002. That show would be the last in which Pat and Dude rode together. Pat was diagnosed with bone cancer and passed away in August of 2005.

Stallion manager Shilo Bishop rode Dude for his final reining pattern at the Cow Palace. After the pattern was completed, Miss Grand National presented a Grand National Award to both Dude and Jackie, in recognition of their years of dedication to the reining and working cow horse events.

Dude will now begin the second phase of his life—as a breeding stallion—in January 2007. 🐾🐾🐾



COURTESY JACKIE ROBERTSON

Stallion manager Shilo Bishop rides "Dude" in the Cow Palace arena for the final reining pattern of his career.