

Zane Schulte 2010 Memorial Award goes to J.B. McLamb

by Jill J. Dunkel

A decade after the passing of Zane Schulte, J.B. McLamb is honored to be the 10th recipient of the Zane Schulte Memorial Award. "This means a lot. It is quite an honor to get the award. To be able to have my name on the list with all the others, it's very humbling to be on the same page as they are...Dale Wilkinson, Bill Riddle, Buster Welch, all those guys."

The award is presented to a professional trainer each year during the NCHA Futurity. It is designed to spotlight an individual who exemplifies the humanitarian values of integrity, service, respect, contribution to the industry and excellence in the arena.

"When Barbra and Tom called me and told me I had been chosen, it gave me a warm feeling all over. I felt very humbled that I was selected for the award, and that I'm that well thought of."

McLamb started training cutting horses in 1985, despite not growing up with the sport. His background was in farming and rodeo, and a young McLamb moved to Oklahoma in 1981 so he could rodeo more. There, he got a job on the side with Pat Earnhart. "I wasn't chasing a cutting career. It was more or less a place to live, a job riding colts, and I could still rodeo," explained McLamb.

After an injury ended his rodeo dreams, he continued to ride colts. A few moves and a few jobs later, McLamb found himself training cutting horses. "The reason I'm training cutting horses is it's what the good Lord wanted me to do. I didn't grow up in cutting, but I guess this is where I belong."

McLamb said one of the best parts of his profession is the friendships with his competitors. "I'm very close to a lot of other trainers. I don't have a customer in my barn that I don't enjoy being there. I enjoy seeing all of them do good. I want my customers to be satisfied with their horses and what we are doing. I enjoy the whole aspect of it."

In a nomination letter to the NCHA, Leslie Troyer said, "J.B. is first of all a good human being. He is always there to help anyone from the start to the last rider."

For McLamb, that's no big deal. "I help a lot of people because I want to, not because I have to, he said. "I enjoy that part of it. I enjoy seeing other people do good. It's not all about me."

Troyer would agree, writing, "The most important thing to me is I know J.B. means what he says. And I never have to worry about the well-being of my horse...winning is not everything; it's how you get there."



2010 Zane Schulte Memorial Award recipient J.B. McLamb.

One characteristic that is very important to McLamb is honesty. "I would list myself as very, very honest. I don't want to tell somebody something just because they want to hear it. In fact, maybe I tell them too point-blank. But I want to be fair and honest with everybody. If you don't know where you stand, then you don't have anything to stand on."

Looking back on his career thus far, he's quick to say he wouldn't change much of anything. "I could look back on my life and say maybe I should have done this different or changed that, but you don't know what the outcome would have been if you had changed that. I don't have any complaints."

According to Brad Buckley, another individual who nominated McLamb, "J.B. McLamb exhibits many characteristics worthy of such a high honor. From always being there to help those in the arena, to working so hard to make sure his horses are prepared and ready for competition. J.B. exemplifies the character by which this honor is awarded."

"Seasoned pros and newbie amateurs can always count on him to help turn back or hold herd, and he is always available to give a quick critique of a performance. New-comers to our sport always speak highly of the man on horseback in the khaki shirt and high top boots." ★