

FUTURE FORUM

The Up and Coming of Young Trainers

by Leeann Mione

This is another segment in a Saddle Horse Report series featuring the stories of young trainers from across the country. There isn't a school for horse training outside of the "school of hard knocks" so it's interesting to follow the paths taken by these young professionals as they pay their dues in their quest for making a successful career out of their passion for horses.

This week we are featuring Eduardo Castillo who is owner, along with wife Stacia, and trainer of Castillo Stables at Glacier Peak in Arlington, Washington.

Give us a breakdown of where it all began for you.

How did you get involved in horses and at what age?

EDUARDO: I have been around horses with my family since I was a kid. I moved to Washington when I was 17 and started working for Laurel Nelson at the barn where Dick Boettcher was working out of. I was just cleaning stalls. I became really interested in watching Dick work horses and watched him as much as I could. Eventually Dick hired me to be a groom and pretty soon he was letting me jog horses and do more and more.

What made you decide to become a professional trainer?

EDUARDO: Watching Dick work is what made me want to become more involved with show horses. Watching him work Be Happy was just so cool. I'd always sneak away from whatever I was doing to watch him work him.

Have you worked under any other trainers? If so, who?

EDUARDO: Dick is the only trainer I've ever worked for.

Who are your role models/mentors? Why?

EDUARDO: Again, I owe it all to Dick.

What is your favorite thing about being a trainer?

EDUARDO: My favorite thing about being a trainer is starting and developing young horses.

What is the hardest thing about being a trainer?

EDUARDO: The hardest part is probably that horses are so unpredictable. Anything can change in an instant and you can't guarantee anything.



What advice do you have for the younger generation who have their eyes set on becoming horse trainers?

EDUARDO: My advice would be to always keep trying and pushing yourself even when things don't go your way.

What do you think is essential for the industry to focus on to ensure its success?

EDUARDO: I think the future of our industry is in young horses and young people. Breeding quality babies, and getting kids involved in lesson programs and showing so they can learn about the breed and keep it going in the future.