

# 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 Cashlyn Lovell who is trainer and riding instructor at Cash Lovell Stables & Riding Academy in Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

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

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

**CASHLYN:** My Dad, Cash Lovell, was a third generation show horse trainer. He put me on a horse before I could hold my head up.

**What made you decide to become a professional trainer?**

**CASHLYN:** Being a horse trainer is the only thing I've ever wanted. My birth announcement said, "Welcome Cashlyn Reed Lovell, Head-Trainer-In-Training." It was meant as sort of a joke. Mom says now, "Be careful what you wish for!" She warns me about how hard a horse trainer's life can be. And I know she's right. But training horses is all I want to do.

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

**CASHLYN:** Daddy stopped training in our barn when I was little because of his dementia. I feel very blessed that many of my Dad's friends and colleagues have taken me under their wings. Steve and Julia Joyce, Peter and Kim Cowart, Matt and Whitney Shiflet, Tim Roesink, Smith Lilly, Shelley Fisher, Ellen Beard, Mike Brannon, Kathryn Taylor and so many others, including my trick riding and barrel racing trainer, Madison MacDonald Thomas.

**Who are your role models/mentors? Why?**

**CASHLYN:** My Mom. She has shown me how to stand strong and have an independent mind. She's tough, smart and determined, but she has the kindest heart. Most people know my Mom as the organizer and promoter of CLS. But she's brilliant with the horses and teaching. We teach a balanced seat of riding, which is the foundation of all seats. That's why we can teach Saddle Seat and Hunt Seat and turn around and teach Barrel Racing and Trick Riding.

**What is your favorite thing about being a trainer?**

**CASHLYN:** Putting a small child on a fiery, gorgeous horse and coaching them. It's pure magic.

**What is the hardest thing about being a trainer?**

**CASHLYN:** Getting your heart hurt. We pour our souls into our horses and our kids.



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

**CASHLYN:** Well, since I am a part of the younger generation, I'm not sure I can give anybody advice. I guess the one thing that I know works: Work. We work seven days a week. I have class in the mornings. And at 12:30 each day during the week, and all-day Saturdays and Sundays, I am in the barn working horses, teaching and taking care of them. We practically live in the barn. They say it's not work if you love it, and I love it.

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

**CASHLYN:** Riding lessons. Everything starts with a riding lesson. All of our clients come up through our riding lesson program. Every Up Down lesson, every first canter, every first academy show, they aren't just the building blocks of our business, they are the foundation of our industry.