

Cosequin Presents OTTB Showcase: Seems Like a ‘Shore’ Thing

by [Jen Roytz](#)

Courtesy PaulickReport.com



Jackie Johnson and Galway Shore, aka Shore-ty have found a good thing together

Jackie Johnson loves Thoroughbreds. She loves to ride them, watch them race, work with them in their formative years, and learn about their breeding. As a professional eventing trainer with a penchant for off-trackers and as an employee of Werk Thoroughbred Consulting, a Thoroughbred pedigree research firm, Jackie's days are full. Long story short ó the girl knows her way around a horse, both on paper and in the flesh.

That's why when the Retired Racehorse Project announced it wanted to hold the annual Thoroughbred Makeover in Lexington, Ky., the week before the Breeders' Cup this year, it was time for Jackie to go horse shopping.

Growing up in Illinois, Jackie wasn't born into the horse world. Rather, she earned her way in at a young age, mucking stalls, leading trail rides and doing pretty much anything else around a local riding stable to earn lessons and riding time.

She started out riding Western, but by the time she was a teenager she had transitioned to English, discovered jumping, and later was coached in eventing under the tutelage of a United States Olympic Team alternate.

Having to earn one's riding time has its benefits. Jackie not only worked hard, she often rode the horses others didn't want to in order to gain experience. Riding tough horses makes one a tough rider, and Jackie has ridden her share of stinkers.

“I developed my skills riding young, green horses, and eventually decided to start my own training business,” said Jackie. “I mostly got on young or naughty horses that had issues, so I didn't have much of a show record, but I liked the challenge.”

Jackie started getting noticed for riding the horses that others would shy away from, and eventually developed a base of clients who enlisted her services for training. She was off and running.

With so much crossover in her life between on-track and off-track Thoroughbreds, when the Thoroughbred Makeover location was announced as the Thoroughbred epicenter of the United States ó Lexington ó naturally, Jackie was paying attention.

“As soon as I decided I wanted to sign up for the Makeover, I started looking for a horse,” she said. “I’ve had a few OTTBs that I’ve started and trained myself, and I think more people need to see what incredible horses they are for any kind of discipline.”

Jackie, who now lives in Wichita, Kan., asked friend and local breeder Steve Taubert if he had any horses suitable for the Thoroughbred Makeover available for purchase. When he came up empty, he put her in touch with Lance Gabriel of Rocking G Horses and Cattle, a local horseman, pinhooker and all-around rancher.

“He said he had five horses I could drive up to see,” explained Jackie. “Bev McLean Tetrick, my partner in this venture, her husband, my farrier Brice Tetrick, and I drove up to Lance’s farm. They were all nice horses, but the little gelding he’d recently gotten and didn’t know anything about stood out to me.”

That gelding was Galway Shore, a winless Illinois-bred who had just come off of the track after fourteen starts on the Hawthorne ó Arlington circuit.



Jackie and Shore-ty have started slow, learning the basics before trying new things

Lance was under the impression that the horse was a 3-year-old, which was younger than what Jackie was looking for, but upon research of his lip tattoo, he was found to be a 4-year-old.

Since getting “Shore-ty” in February of this year, Jackie has been focusing almost exclusively on the basics with him.

“Since he was recently raced, he is working on ground manners and lunging,” said Jackie. “He is very curious and likes to see new things. Instead of spooking at things, he would rather march right up and stick his nose right on or in whatever it is.”

The plan for Shore-ty is uncertain at this point. While Jackie would love to sell him if the offer is right, she has also always aspired to do a 4**** (four star) eventing competition and says if Shore-ty can take her there, there is no way she can give him up. Besides that, he's easy on the eyes.

He is very short in his back, wider through the shoulders, deep in his chest, and built uphill. I am currently signed up to compete in Dressage and Eventing at the Thoroughbred Makeover, but we will see how his training goes throughout the year.

THE DEETS:

Name: Galway Shore (a.k.a. Shore-ty)

Born: February 7, 2011

Color: Bay

Sire: Shore Breeze

Dam: Jill Regs Winner

Race Record: 14-0-0-2

Race Earnings: \$5,199

If you have or know of a retired Thoroughbred with an interesting story to tell, we'd love to hear about it! Just email Jen Roytz (Jenlroytz@gmail.com) with the horse's Jockey Club name, background story, and a few photos.

Jen Roytz is a freelance writer and marketing and public relations consultant for various entities, both equine and non-equine. She can also still be found on the back of an OTTB most days.

*Contact Jen on **Facebook** and **Twitter**.*