

THE FUTURITY *April 11-13, 2003*

SMALL BREEDER OF THE YEAR 2003. I was really trying for that title. This makes it 4 out of 5 times now. It's quite an accomplishment for my fuzzy alpacas to have achieved....but...FYI it's just such a pain to have to make an additional line on my website that starts "reserve".

Tim Vincent notified me by email that I won the reserve position. That was OK..Sort of. I'm getting spoiled and I'm not sure I'll be eligible next year as my alpaca girls are breeding like fleas and for sure I'll have more than 20 females (that being the cutoff number.) I wanted to go out with a bang. As it turned out, it was only through faults, mishap, and a misunderstanding that I arrived at the top of the heap once again. Only ***Magnum, my fawn stud with his vicuna face took a blue ribbon in the Yearling Fawn Male Huacaya class.***

It was a good-sized class and an important one too affecting the money in stud fees for these young males. Dr. Sumar, in his standard dark blue jumpsuit came down the line, probing and examining. He gave us a quick once over and gone. That was it. Gee, didn't he like us? It is hard not to take it all personally. It's not just Magnum. It is Magnum and Mary, a team in that super dusty arena. At this show, they decided to place to the 4th position.

Dumb move. Hey, we are here for the enjoyment of it all and the more prizes the better. The attending helper, was that Tim Levan, pointed out the winners starting with 4th... 3rd...2nd...and then Sumar points to us, first. Magnum took it all in stride as he's prone to do and I was doing an internal hopping motion which is totally typical of me. Only this time, I did not yell yippee. Sue Bailey, of Silver Creek Alpacas, whom I bought Magnum from was at ringside telling Magnum that he had better do a good job or she would yell at him. I'm not kidding either. As soon as he sees her his tail goes up in submission...maybe he thinks Sue is his real mom. Hmmmm. (that's me not Magnum.)

Coco Pari was a proud second in the Fawn Female Huacaya Class and that is all we did. I had Justinian and Limoges there...nothing. Hard to believe. We will just wait and see.

Greg Mecklem and some other breeders did well with the offspring of ***Caligula*** so I scored points for that. Nothing fancy about this win at all. The points were in and the confusion straightened out. (Passing Tim while making my way to my stalls at the Nationals, one month later, he said, "hey Mary, come here, I've something for you." He handed me what I thought was the wrong ribbon. It read ***Small Breeder of the Year, not reserve.***" I was confused and looked at him while balancing my ½ bale of hay on one shoulder. "You won," he said smiling. "I spoke to the show committee and it's yours. The check is in the mail." How cool is that?"

