

Little bit History

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Little Bit, the stallion that was with JR Luna Azul, was named after my tenacious dapple brown with a flaxen mane and tail Shetland pony I got for my birthday when I was 8 years old. She used to bite hunks of fur off of any dog that came into her pen. She even bit one of my babysitters in the head and tore her hair out as she cleared the fence. Good thing Vicki was a Champion High School steeplechase track star. It was one of the most amazing jumps I ever saw. So when Little Bit was born he had the same look in his eyes, ears back, lips curled. So Little Bit it was it. But I never knew he would live up to his names sake and tear chunks of hair off the wolf attacking little JR. Little Bit and JR Luna Azul were full brothers. Their dam is Peppy Sana Hickory an own daughter of Doc's Hickory one of the top Quarter Horse stallions of all time. She was born on the Allan Funt Ranch in California (Candid Camera) and was trained by Matlock Rose. She even went to the Cutting Horse Futurity in Fort Worth. We purchased her from Bruce Willis after she bit him on the back and tore his shirt. She was a \$50,000 cutting horse from Texas. I got her for a great price as they just wanted her gone. When I looked at her at his stable, the Mexicans working for him had pitch forks in their hands for protection when I went into her stall. She was all of the testarosa I wanted in a horse. I signed a paper saying I would never divulge what I paid for her and she was ours.

April Fools Luna Azul sired both Little Bit and JR Luna Azul and was an incredible sire from Joseph Oregon. His blood lines go back to all the top Idaho horses bred by Bud Godby. David Stoecklein's book, *The Western Horse* features both his sire Calgary Stampede and his dam Bueno's Bambi Bar. The combination produced powerful smart horses. Azul always had to be penned at night after he chased a wolf lingering around in the horse field. He took off after it and went right into a barb wire fence and grabbed the wolf in the back and flung it. I told all the wolf hunters that year that if they shot one with horse teeth marks on its hide I wanted to see it. That incident took 100 metal sutures to mend his shoulder. It gave him more character with that special scar. The one secret weapon we have always had against the wolves has been stallions. We run them together with mares and geldings and they always rule with an iron hoof. If we did not run stallions with the other horses we would have lost all of them a long time ago. The wolves have been very aggressive but are no match for three or four stallions. Last year we found a wolf skull in our field with a horse shoe mark in the top. He should not have tried that. We gave up riding mares and geldings in the woods because when they encounter wolf scent they just want to run. Stallions drive into the pressure and would rather fight the wolves than run. As odd as it sounds, they are much safer to ride. There was a reason why soldiers have, throughout history, ridden stallions.