

2012 Mid-America Summer Spectacular

August 7-12, 2012 Colorado State Fairgrounds, Pueblo, CO

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It was an exciting week in Pueblo as cow horse competitors showed top derby horses and tested their futurity horses in a \$54,000 added money show. The show paid out \$128,970 among 528 entries. This was the second year for this show, which had paid out over \$90,000 last year.

Because of the EHV-1 virus last year, the annual June NRCHA and NRHA show, Sagebrush Slide and Cowhorse Classic, was moved to early August. The club kept the date and created the Mid-America Summer Spectacular. Although entries remained the same, more money was added and entry fees were increased to sweeten the total payout. Both futurity and derby divisions had \$20,000 added money, and the horse show classes had \$14,000 added money. A good schedule allowed time to socialize and time to ride.

Members of the CRCA sponsored evening parties with live music at the grassy area east of the arena. Bill and Janiejill Tointon provided morning Peaberry coffee service near the bleachers.

Two slates of horse show classes were held and awarded handmade Gary Wiggins buckles to overall champions in the Non Pro Bridle and Non Pro Limited as well as most futurity and derby divisions.

It was very exciting to see the futurity horses make their debut performances during the week. When reading the derby results, you might think you have picked up a back issue of Quarter Horse News, as several top horses dominated their divisions once again.

OPEN FUTURITY

Robbie Boyce won the 36-entry open futurity riding Nic It Starlight, a black gelding bred and raised by Barbara Cowan of Cowan Select Horses. He is by Nic It In The Bud, out of Okie Starbella. Todd Crawford rode him for Cowan until Robbie came to work in Purcell, Okla, last December.

"He was real even in all 3 events, he was very mature and serious about his business in the show pen," said Boyce. He scored 144.5 points in the herd work, 147.5 points in the reined work and 144 points in the cow work to total 436 points and earn \$4774 in all.

Jay McLaughlin was reserve champion riding Smart Nu Annie owned by the Neal family, Trey, Sandra and Mattie, to win \$3001 in all. Bred by Carol Rose, she is by Smart Shiner out of Annies Nu Lena. Mattie Neal also had a great horseshow, winning the overall \$5k non pro limited championship buckle riding her horse, Instantee. She scored 287 points to place 4th of 20 entries in the first show, then won the second show by scoring 294 points to top 17 entries.

“What a great show, I love to come here and show outside,” said McLaughlin. Steve Metcalf made the highest mark of the futurity division, scoring 150.5 points to win the reined work aboard Carolyn Edson’s Vintage Nic Nac. Todd Crawford and Jay McLaughlin each score 149 points in the reined work. Crawford rode Wishu Pona Star for Garth and Amanda Gardiner. McLaughlin rode Shiners Nu Cash for Bob and Kate Ballew.

Todd Crawford and Justin Lawrence shared top scores in the herd work, 146 points. Crawford rode Oh Cay Meriah for Russ Mothershead and Lawrence rode I Eat Red Meat for Bill & Janiejill Tointon.

Jay McLaughlin and Brad Lund shared the fence work high score money with their 147.5 point runs. McLaughlin rode Shiney Diamond Jackie for Salt Fork Cattle Co. Lund rode Star Of The Cats for Corey Bender, and earned 428 composite total to earn the reserve intermediate open futurity title and place 8th in the open to take home \$2,734 in all.

INTERMEDIATE OPEN FUTURITY

Matt Koch won the 17 entry intermediate open futurity riding Stylin Up for the Haythorn Ranch. Bred by Cathy Cox, the gelding is by Stylish Rey out of Hickorys Promise. Stylish Rey, a Holmes Cutting Horses stallion, was the #4 top sire of the 2011 Snaffle Bit futurity.

“The cattle were all pretty honest, and I trusted him and showed him like my older horses,” said Koch. “He is a cow fighter. I feel real fortunate to have good three year olds two years in a row.”

His 146 point score in the fence work gave him the lead in the intermediate division and a 7th place paycheck in the open to earn \$3,065 for his efforts. Koch, who nicknamed his colt “Lloyd”, worked for Lloyd Cox during his Lamar Community college internship and then started colts for several years while managing a ranch near Cox in northeastern Colorado.

LIMITED OPEN & LEVEL 1 FUTURITY

Lavert Avent continued his winning streak in Pueblo in the futurity and derby divisions, winning all four limited open and level one titles. “I had another great show, but now I am off to show with the big boys next year,” said Avent, acknowledging the flipside of success, winning his way out of both divisions in 2012.

Avent was thrilled with his futurity mare, Jojo Tari, scoring 422 points and earning \$2,005 and two Gary Wiggins buckles. “I had no idea that she would show so good, so I came home and bought slots for Reno,” said Avent, who purchased the mare last November at the Western Bloodstock sale held during the Working Ranch Cowboys Association finals in Amarillo, Texas.

She is by Little Polo Joe (by Grays Starlight) out of a daughter of Bob Acre Doc. The sale offers a \$30,000 added futurity this fall for horses sold last fall, with a guaranteed \$10,000 to the winner.

Colorado cowboy Jeff Veitch was reserve champion in the 12-entry limited open riding Ill Be Jolie for the Coal Creek Ranch, Ridgeway, Colo. Christian Lybbert was reserve champion in the 14-entry Level 1 division riding Mister Dual Pepinic for owner Kenneth Jones.

NOVICE HORSE FUTURITY

Darren Miller won the 10-entry novice horse futurity division riding his gray gelding, Very Smart Aleck (Very Smart Remedy x Kaimana Wana Wiggle x Diggers Rest). Miller raised the colt, a full brother to his 2010 Snaffle Bit Futurity finalist, Lil Remedy Pep. Blue Allen was reserve champion riding RPL Autumn Dance for Donna Kennet and Gavin Warne.

NON PRO & AMATEUR FUTURITY

Arizona cowboy Grant Lindaman II made his trip worthwhile by winning 2 Gary Wiggins buckles, \$2,606 and the reserve non pro bridle championship.

“I don’t have much opportunity to do the cow work, so I have tried to keep my horse confident and always end on a good note,” said Lindaman, who trains his own horses following the Will Howe horsemanship methods. “I watched the herd settle in the cutting for soft cattle.”

His 143 point score in the reined work helped him stay in the hunt for the win. He purchased his gelding, Whiz N Thru Hail, from Matt Mills as a green broke colt, he is by Shine Like Hail out of a Topsail Whiz mare.

The non pro bridle championship buckle went to Lori Wyman of Osceola, Neb, riding her pretty dun mare Little Doc Lady. She was “cowgirl tuff” wearing a fresh cast on her off-rein arm from an injury two weeks earlier.

Longtime NRCHA contestant Kirk Druey enjoyed his time in Pueblo and won the reserve non pro and select championship titles aboard his horse, Oaks In Montana, earning \$1,190. Druey represents the love of our sport and how far the interest in reined cowhorse has spread across our country. A native Californian, he rode with Russell Dilday. He resides in Maryland, participates in their affiliate, and rides with Todd Crawford, Purcell, Okla.

OPEN DERBY

Part of the excitement of the limited age events is the selection of young prospects. Owners and trainers take a gamble to see if their pick will develop into a great and solid horse. Chris Dawson’s decision to buy Travelin Jonez from breeder Steve Roseberry just keeps paying off at show after show. He was the #2 intermediate open cow horse in 2011 and the top earning horse in Dawson’s string that enabled him to top the 2011 intermediate open riders list.

He tallied another open derby win at the Mid America show, scoring 442 points and earning \$4,085 in all. The big hearted bay stallion is by Smart Chic Olena x Travelin With Sass x Travalena.

In a talented 30-entry field, he topped the herd work with 150 points, and his other good marks of 145.5 in the reined work and 146.5 in the cow work did not win any high score money.

No doubt that Dawson also loves showing at the state fairgrounds in Pueblo. In just this year and counting only his Travelin Jonez mount, he has earned \$19,177 at the past 3 shows in Pueblo. He and the 4-year-old stallion are nearing the \$75,000 mark in career earnings.

Wade Meador marked a whopping 152.5 in the cow work riding Smart Chico Highbrow for owner Bill Perry, but had trouble in the herd work and did not place overall. Matt Koch and SDP Blue Blood won the reined work with 148.5 points. He rode Above Da Best Tenino to tie with Blue Allen and TF The Gus Man for second place in the cow work with 148.5 points.

INTERMEDIATE OPEN DERBY

Blue Allen won the 23-entry intermediate open derby and reserve open derby titles riding Susan Lyle's new stallion, TF The Gus Man, to earn \$5,131 in all. "He is very user friendly, Tina Fry did a great job training him," said Allen, boosting the horse's earnings total to \$58,833 to date.

The horse was the top ranked intermediate open horse in 2011, bred by Michael and Sandra Focht and owned by Travelers Farm. He is by WR This Cats Smart x Classy Remedy.

Matt Koch was reserve champion riding his horse, SDP Blue Blood (Laredo Blue x SDP I Got Good Genes) and placed 5th in the open division to win \$3,344 in all. "Both of my derby horses were fresh and playin' around in the herd work (scoring 140 points each)," said Koch. "So I decided I was would go fast in the reining. The ground was deep, by they are used to that, so I laid it all out there."

He got plenty of teasing from his buddies for winning the reined work with a rope tied to his saddle.

NOVICE HORSE DERBY

Brad Lund is having a stellar year in the reined cowhorse world, with earnings of nearly \$60,000 to date. He won the 17-entry novice horse derby riding Eric Dunn's Wright On Tari (Lenas Wright On x Shiney Tari x Shining Spark). The duo earned paychecks in 3 divisions, placing 3rd in the intermediate, 7th in the open to pocket \$3,008 in all. Wright On Tari has played an important role in boosting Lund's 2012 earnings. The horse won \$1,100 in 2011, and his 2012 earnings now top \$23,500 to date.

He also won the \$3,500 added 16-entry open bridle class riding his horse Nic N Chics. The 8-year old gelding was 147 in the reined work and 148.5 in the cow work to earn \$1,818 in all.

“Pueblo has been a good place to show for me this year,” said Lund, who won the NRCHA Hackamore Classic intermediate open and placed 5th in the open aboard Wright On Tari. “I enjoy the cowhorse showing because it is anybody’s ball game, you never know how it will end up.”

LIMITED OPEN & LEVEL ONE DERBY

Lavert Avent and T Tari Freckles topped both divisions to earn \$2,084 for his efforts. The consistent gelding also competes in the AQHA versatility events. He is bred and raised by Robert Norris’ Tee Cross Ranch and is by Tari Pines For You x Joses Freckle Girl x Smokin Jose.

NON PRO DERBY

It takes patience to breed horses, waiting years for that foal to be a show horse. Rhoda Rein is enjoying her 5-year old mare and her non pro derby win. “It has been a long time since I have won a buckle,” said Rein. “I showed this mare’s mother when she was carrying this foal.”

Her mount, Dig My Peppy Steps, is by her stallion Diggers Rest out of Pep In My Step (x Hickory Chic Olena).

AMATEUR DERBY

Janiejill Tointon is getting to enjoy her 2011 Snaffle Bit Futurity open champion, Shiners Dun Juan, winning the amateur derby class. She scored 146 points in the reined work and 148 points in the fence work to earn \$630 in all.

NON PRO LIMITED DERBY

Elise Blake probably also considers the state fairgrounds in Pueblo to be one of her favorite horse show arenas. She won the NRCHA Hackamore Classic and returned to win the Mid America non pro limited derby riding her mare Jills A Little Blue (Mecom Blue x Jills CD x CD Olena).