



WorldWide Slide Magazine

MARCH 15, 2024

SET ON REPEAT

CASEY DEARY & DOWN RIGHT

AMAZING

• FAPPANI, MATHISON, AND MCCUTCHEON

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• NON PRO SURVIVAL GUIDE

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Cover: Casey Deary and Down Right Amazing return to Globe Life Field to claim Teton Ridge The American Performance Horseman Reining Championship. (Photo courtesy of Teton Ridge/Getty Images)

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Did You Know?

You can follow WorldWide Slide on Facebook, where the latest news and information from around the reining industry will be posted.

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FEATURE STORY

SET ON REPEAT

CASEY DEARY AND DOWN RIGHT AMAZING NAB SECOND TAPH TITLE

by Savannah Magoteaux
Deary and Fappani photos courtesy of Teton Ridge/Getty Images
McCutcheon photo courtesy of Purple Media Group



Part concert, part horse show. Putting the atmosphere of Teton Ridge's The American Performance Horseman into words is as challenging as the competition that took place on what's normally the baseball diamond of Globe Life Field on March 8.

TAPH debuted in 2023, a competition that brought together the year's winningest riders of the National Reining Horse Association, the National Reined Cow Horse Association, and the National Cutting Horse Association to compete in a unique team format.

With an incredible \$1,000,000 in prize money on the line, the competition thrilled the crowd of thousands.

First up was the cutters of the NCHA, and it was reigning champion Adan Banuelos, riding for Team Royal Blue, who clinched the event win with a score of 230 on Storyteler.

After an intermission with a performance from Ghost Hounds, a jazz-infused rock band, it was time for the reining. The five contestants executed Pattern 10, one of the most exciting patterns of the NRHA, which begins with the signature sliding stop of reining horses.

It was also a repeat from another member of Team Royal Blue, as 2023 Champions Casey Deary and Down Right Amazing rocked the house and took the win with a score of 226.5.

Finally, the evening wrapped up with the cow work of the reined cow horse competition, and it was Corey Cushing and SJR Talkin Diamonds who took the win with a 220.5. Cushing rode for Team Burnt Orange.

Thanks to Banuelos and Deary's wins, Team Royal Blue, including NRCHA trainer Clayton Edsall, was victorious in the team competition.

"The team deal was great, and I really get along well with Adan and Clayton," Deary said. "Clayton came over and rode with me, and Adan has been over in years past getting ready for the World's Greatest Horseman, so I knew both of them already. It made a really cool dynamic this year."

Deary laughed, and added, "Plus, we had three of the prettiest wives there with us."

For the Weatherford, Texas, trainer, the repeat victory was special on many levels. "Obviously, I love to win, and that's a big part of it. The prize money feeds a lot of people and creates a lot of opportunities and jobs," he said. "But to show that horse off and prove to the world that he continues to be great is what means the most."

Amazing

Down Right Amazing, a 7-year-old stallion owned by DAG Ventures LLC, is by NRHA 14 Million Dollar Sire Gunner and out of Shesouttaylorleague, the mare who gave Deary his first NRHA Futurity L4 Open Championship.

Deary and Down Right Amazing have amassed earnings of more than \$730,000, including four \$100,000 wins.

"There are some horses with earnings like him, but they've won the Futurity or The Run For A Million. His biggest checks have been



\$100,000, and he's still won that much. I think that speaks volumes for him," Deary said.

"This horse is great-minded. He trusts me, and nothing bothers him. He's got the ability to acclimate to whatever situation you put him in and will adapt to any ground."

That adaptability is likely one of the factors that helped the pair clinch the win, as heavy rains prior to the event meant the dirt of Globe Life was stickier than typically found at a reining.

"We had so much rain that it never really dried out, but I think that the Kiser team did an amazing job getting it ready for us to compete," Deary said.

Noting that Down Right Amazing is a veteran show horse, Deary said, "Backing up in the very beginning he thought about rolling back. We could have started our right turnaround a little better, but the left turnaround he caught up and stepped really well.

"I thought he circled good for me. He ran and stopped ok the first time and was really, really good with the second stop and rollback. The third rundown, he took me to the wall just a little bit, but he stopped really good. This horse is so talented and so strong that he can make that adjustment and still get the mark."

He paused and added, "It felt like all five of

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us guys had some trouble, and it was just about who could manage it the best.”

Gratitude

As always, Deary took time to thank the many people who have helped him and his team be successful, including the vets, horse shoer, equine dentists, and assistants.

He also added a few special thank yous.

“First and foremost, it’s only by the grace of God that I’m here to compete. His blessings over my family continue to amaze me, and I think he gives me a platform to show Christ’s love to people around me,” he said.

Next, he gave credit to his wife, Nicole. He said, “She is the biggest driving factor of our business. She has pushed me farther than I ever believed I could do. Sometimes I was kicking and screaming, but she still pushed me, and her support is instrumental in the success we’ve had.”

Debbie Good is the face of DAG Ventures and has always been a staunch advocate for her horse. “She is a great owner and a great teammate for Down Right Amazing. She has believed in that horse since the very beginning. We had so many offers to buy him, but she stayed the course and believed in that horse, and she’s played a huge part in making it work,” Deary explained.

Finally, he added a special thanks to the flashy stallion. “Of course, Down Right Amazing is the biggest reason the partnership we have works. I could have chosen a lot of different horses to take in there, but that horse has the ability and the mental fortitude to do his job in stressful situations,” he said. “Without those four components, I wouldn’t be where I am today.”



Top : Andrea Fappani and All Bettss Are Off finished second in the individual reining competition.

Bottom: Cade McCutcheon and Finals Bound rounded out the top three of the individual reining competition at The American Performance Horseman.



Australian Reiner, Scott Burnett, uses Scoot Boots on his horses when out exercising

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Considered one of the most popular equestrian spectator sports, reining continues to attract a growing following across the US, but also Australia and Europe.

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EVENT COVERAGE

THE 2024 OKRHA RIDE & SLIDE

The 2024 OKRHA Ride & Slide, held March 5-10 at the Built Ford Tough Livestock Complex at Expo Square in Tulsa, Okla., has long been an annual destination for many of the industry's top riders. Originally designed as a schooling show to grow membership in the Oklahoma Reining Horse Association, it is strongly focused on grass roots members. The show offers circuit awards and its ancillary classes count for points towards the OKRHA year-end awards. The Celebration of Champions Banquet, held each year in February, will be awarding Kyle Tack saddles to year-end champions in seven divisions after the 2024 season.

In 2016, the event added Open and Non Pro Derbies, and this year, the added money in those divisions increased to \$109,000, making it an even more attractive option for aged event exhibitors.

"While a lot of time is spent schooling and prepping, our derbies have really come into their own. This year, we revamped our show schedule by putting the aged events at the beginning of the week," OKRHA Vice President and OKRHA Sponsorship and Media Coordinator Sarah Flarida said. "The main thought behind this was to not have those classes conflict with the American Performance Horseman competition in Texas. It seemed to work, as all of the riders who qualified for that event in the reining were at our show. As a matter of fact, our Silver Spurs Equine Open Derby had its highest number of entries to date (110 runs) and our Non Pro derby held strong as well."

She added, "Truly, this show has proven to be a right-time, right-place kind of event for us. Tulsa Expo Square is a fantastic facility to compete at, and their team is always great to work with, but with the recent relocation of the NRBC to this venue, we've had an even bigger turnout in 2023 and 2024. It allows people to get their derby horses in the arenas about a month before that event, test drive them, and get a better idea of where they are in their preparation."

The management team has wisely capitalized on that advantageous development and added additional paid warmups to the schedule including some in the Super Duty Indoor Arena which hosts many ancillary classes during the NRBC. Flarida said, "We have tried to develop some continuity for exhibitors, so it gives them every chance to feel prepared going into the rest of the show season."

Andrea Fappani Pilots Vintage Chex to the OKRHA Ride & Slide Silver Spurs Open Derby Championship

NRHA's All Time Leading Rider Andrea Fappani made the nearly sixteen-hour drive from his home near Scottsdale, Ariz. to Tulsa, Okla., and showed in the OKRHA Ride & Slide Open Derby. He felt that the show was well worth his trip. Along with the show's generous opportunities to ride and school horses though its multiple arenas, paid warmups, and schooling classes, the timing was spot on for Fappani.

"The fact that we are going to be back to Tulsa in about a month to show at the NRBC made it a good place to get the Derby horses back in the show pen again," he said. "Plus, I was getting ready for The American [Performance Horseman] so I was able to combine the trip and instead of going there with only one horse, I was able to bring a trailer full of derby horses and get them out on good ground at the Ride & Slide."

He showed two horses in the Silver Spurs \$26,000-added Open Level 4 Derby, but one of those did exceptionally well. "I wasn't even really planning to show Vintage Chex there," Fappani admitted. "He's a 4-year-old that I thought really highly of as a 3-year-old, but I don't usually ask these 4-year-olds to show hard against the older Derby horses. When I saw that he was eligible for both the Novice Horse and 4-Year-Old Stakes in addition to the Derby, I decided that it was a good opportunity to get him out and back in the show pen again."

Vintage Chex scored a 226 and won all three divisions earning \$17,527 for owner Bill Coburn. Having only been shown twice before, his previous experience included a pre-futurity in Tulsa where he missed the win by only half a point. Then going into the NRHA Futurity, Fappani felt like Vintage Chex was his best shot at the Futurity Championship, but, maybe, had him dialed in just a bit too much. Fappani said, "He took a couple steps back when he wasn't supposed to. I put my legs on him and he started backing up more. I think he thought he was in trouble because he didn't stop hard enough, and he just backed up more, so we marked a zero in the first go and never even made it to the semifinals. As disappointing as it was, I knew that he was a candidate to be a top derby horse going forward."

In Tulsa, the son of A Sparkling Vintage and Chex Out The Cowgirl proved his merit. "He's a very powerful stopper, so I was able to show him lightly in the circles and really ask him for his turns and stops to test him in those areas. Keeping in mind that I want to show him the NRBC, I didn't want to put a hard run on him right before it." Fappani explained. "He's a very stylish horse, and that arena really fits him well. He is a little bit bigger-strided horse, so he needs a little more space to get to his top speed, and that



Top : Andrea Fappani and Vintage Chex won the Ride & Slide L4 Open Derby, the Novice Horse Derby, and the 4-Year-Old Stakes. .

Bottom: Arnaud Ferrett and Chexi Chic took home the Open Derby L2 and L3 Championship. (All photos by Traci Davenport Photography, provided courtesy of Ride & Slide)

arena suits him. I'm excited to bring him back next month and hopefully do well."

Fappani thanked Colburn for believing in him from the start. He said, "Bill Colburn has had horses in my program since I first went

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out on my own and it's nice to partner up with people that have believed in you from the beginning and to be able to do good for them.

"From the outside looking in, it seems like I always show for these big breeders like the Arceses or Teton Ridge, but the foundation of my program is small-time breeders that might only breed a few handfals a year. They put their young horses in our hands and that's what our program is based on. We wouldn't be where we are without the people that have supported us from the beginning.

"They breed these few horses and bring the yearlings in, and you know, more times than not it doesn't work out, so my hat goes off to them for being passionate about it. They are not just looking at the bottom dollar, but have a passion for raising good horses and supporting the programs they believe in."

Close Friends Monica Mathison & Mandy McCutcheon Share OKRHA Ride & Slide Non Pro Derby Championship

Monica Mathison and Mandy McCutcheon have been friends since they were in their teens, both are heavily involved in the reining industry and have husbands who train reining horses. Over the years, they have shared many things including lot of laughs and good times and, likely, a trial or tribulation along the way, but never before have they been co-champions, until the 2024 OKRHA Ride & Slide Non Pro Derby where they both scored 219.5 and tied for the Level 4 Championship.

Mathison said, "I can count on my hands the number of times I've managed to beat Mandy, so tying with her is pretty special, because I look up to her a lot. It's a goal for me to try to beat the best, and she's one of the best."

McCutcheon shared her sentiment. She said, "I love to see Monica do well! That's a great mare and she and Gunny really love her, so it's really fun to watch and to be a part of their journey."

McCutcheon is NRHA's leading Non Pro rider with more than \$3 Million in earnings. She is the daughter of NRHA Hall of Famers Tim & Colleen McQuay and is married to

NRHA \$2 Million Rider Tom McCutcheon. Her son is NRHA Two Million Dollar Rider Cade McCutcheon, and her daughter, Carlee, is very successful in the Hunter/Jumper realm.

With nearly \$118,500 in NRHA earnings, Mathison supports her husband, NRHA Million Dollar Rider Justin "Gunny" Mathison, in his career and runs her own highly successful embroidery business, well-known in the reining industry as Just Stitch It, and shows horses when she can. Mathison recently reached a place in her life that has allowed her to get more serious about showing, and mounted on Girlz On Fire, her come back is blazing.

The mare is by Inferno Sixty Six out of Gotta Git Ya Dun. "She is a unicorn. She's unbelievable," a starstruck Mathison said of her 6-year-old mare. "We bred and raised her, and Gunny trained her and showed her as a 3-year-old. I got to show her as a 4-year-old, then Gunny and Luca Fappani showed her last year. Luca was eligible for the levels 2, 3 and 4, and he did well on her. Now I get to show her this year, so far. I am very lucky. She is a great mare. I can't say enough good about her."

This gushing response was after Girlz On Fire, also called "Tyra," carried Mathison to a 219.5 and not only won the co-championship in the Level 4 Non Pro Derby, but also claimed the Level 3 and Prime Time Derbies. They were awarded more than \$7,900 for their wins.

Monica is familiar with her mare's particular style as she owns her dam. "I have not ridden any other Infernos," she said. "Gotta Git Ya Dun, her mother, has produced close to \$600,000, and she herself had won a bunch in the cow horse and in reining, as well. I was fortunate enough to be at the right place at the right time to purchase her from David Silva through the McQuays. She was a good show horse for me as well, and she's been wonderful, wonderful broodmare."

Mathison said that Tyra is similar to her dam in her confirmation and her laid back personality. She believes that Inferno Sixty Six's influence made her a more modern style

horse with her naturally lower head carriage and the fact that she is “slower-legged.” She said, “She fits right into the style of what today’s version of the reining horse is.”

In the show pen, Mathison and Tyra realized their partnership’s full potential. Monica said, “She was there every minute with me. She waited for me and went as fast as I wanted to go. I had an under-turn penalty on her, which was completely my fault. I also blew a stirrup going down to the last stop. She got into the ground so hard, I popped up a little bit. But with me flopping on her neck, it just shows how good of a mare she is because she stayed in the ground while I half hung on her neck. She did her job, though. I couldn’t have asked for anything more from her.”

Mathison feels better prepared and excited to show the mare again in April at the NRBC. She thanked her “village,” namely Gunny for his support and hard work with the mare, saying that he is hers and the mare’s “biggest fan.” She also thanked the many people who offered kind words, advice and support at the show, including Jason Vanlandingham who helped her improve her body position in her turns. She also thanked both the Mathison Reining Horses team and her own team at Just Stitch It for keeping things running



Top : Monica Mathison and Girlz On Fire, Ride & Slide L4 Non Pro Derby Co-Champion, L3 Champion, and Prime Time Champion.

Bottom: Mandy McCutcheon and Modern Starlet, Ride & Slide L4 Non Pro Derby Co-Champion, 4-Year-Old Stakes Champion, and Novice Horse Non Pro Derby Champion.

smoothly while they show. She said, “We couldn’t be more blessed for the people we have in our lives right now.”

Of her friend, she added, “The thing about Mandy is if you ask her a question, she’s

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always willing to help. I mean, she was trotting around getting one ready as we were warming up together. She was probably three or four horses behind me in the draw. As I turned to walk in the pen, I looked at her asked if I should walk in or jog in, and she said, 'you can walk,' and then gave me pointers before I went in. I mean she is there to help you and I couldn't ask for a better cheering section."

The Ride & Slide Derby was the first time Mandy McCutcheon had shown Modern Starlet, so her game plan for the competition was just to let the mare tell her how much she was ready to do. "I didn't want to ask her for more than she was ready to give. I just wanted to let her tell me," she admitted.

By Modern Gun, whom Mandy's son Cade had ridden to great success, and out of Hollywoods Mae West, Modern Starlet has been in and out of the McCutcheon barn much of her life, but even still, has had limited showing. Cade owned the mare her three-year-old year and sold her, but as often happens, her new owner was too busy with work to show her. He eventually brought her back to the McCutcheon barn for them to help him sell her. Although many looked, no one purchased her.

"Everyone kept thinking that something wasn't right about her because she hadn't been shown very much, but I kept insisting that nothing was wrong; she is a really nice mare!" Mandy said.

Frustrated that people kept passing on the talented mare, Mandy bought her. "I've never had a Modern Gun before, but she is a strong turner and a big stopper, and that is ideal for a reining horse," she said.



Jennifer Greenleaf and Custom Made Whizkey claimed the Non Pro L2 Championship and were the Prime Time Reserve Champions.

Of the run, she added, "I felt like I got her stopped and turned quite well, but if there is anything I need to go home and work on, it is getting her to steer a little better in her circles. I knew she was green at that, even when not in the show pen, so I expected it, but when they horse show the same as they practice, I'm never disappointed. She was really quiet and easy. She didn't get nervous or anything, so I really like that."

Their 219.5 matched Monica's to share the L4 Non Pro Derby Championship. McCutcheon also claimed wins in the Novice Horse Non Pro Derby and in the 4-Year-Old Stakes. She pocketed more than \$8,300 for the wins.

McCutcheon has many to thank for her success. She said, "You know, it's always a family affair at my house, and Desiree Kelts did a really nice job on that mare. She rode her mostly from the time we got her back at the Futurity, until about a week before the horse show. She did all the work on her, so I really have to give her a shout out. She did a great job."

Like others, McCutcheon likes the OKRHA Ride & Slide for many reasons. "Heidi [Arvidson], Sarah [Florida], and Kathy [Gould]

do a great job of running that show. They really go the extra mile to make sure everyone is happy, and the exhibitors really appreciate that. Also, it is a great facility and now that the NRBC has been moved to Tulsa, it is a great opportunity to prepare your horses for it. I like to take the ones I haven't shown before to try to feel them out and see where I'm at to help

decide which horses will go to the NRBC, so it's a really good get-your-feet-wet, start-of-the season kind of a horse show."

Even still, McCutcheon doesn't plan to take Modern Starlet to the NRBC. "I think I'm going to save her for the 100X," she said.

PLACE YOUR BID FOR THE 2024 BUY-A-PRO AUCTION

Have you been a fan of reining and want to give it a spin for yourself? The 2024 Buy-A-Pro Auction is officially underway and offers an entry point into the reining industry for those who have wanted to participate or polish up on existing skills. The auction offers buyers a chance to purchase a two-lesson package with National Reining Horse Association (NRHA) Professionals from all over the United States and benefits the National Reining Horse Youth Association (NRHyA). This year, the auction runs through 1 p.m. CST on March 19.

From fans to those with reining experience, everyone can benefit from the elite list of NRHA Professionals, including NRHA Futurity Champions, NRHA Million Dollar Riders, stars from The Last Cowboy, NRHA World Champions, NRHA Horsemen and Women of the Year, expert non pro coaches, and other proven professionals.

A winning bid grants riders an opportunity to travel to their chosen professional's facility and polish their riding skills and their horse's training or, in some cases, try reining for the first time on a horse provided by the professional. From beginners to accomplished riders, everyone can benefit from these private training packages.

"Josiane Gauthier was an excellent trainer and instructor. I loved that she wants to give her student a firm foundation and understanding of what we are doing and what we are about to do," said Angela Johnson-Moore, a previous auction participant. "She provided a fabulous training horse that took excellent care of me! She rode alongside

me for instruction. Never did I think I would actually spin and do sliding stops on my first lesson. This was an amazing experience and taught me I can have confidence stepping outside my box with the right trainer."

Each of the participating NRHA Professionals donates two training sessions per package, and 15% of the proceeds benefit their designated NRHA affiliate. The remaining funds are allotted directly to NRHyA to provide scholarships and other opportunities for young reiners.

Along with making reining accessible, the auction has created life-long bonds, allowed people to purchase their first reining horse, and more.

"For [NRHA Professional] Daniel Schloemer to go so above and beyond is incredible—I am living a dream this week," said Diane Stuart after participating in lessons purchased in 2023. "Sometimes it's hard not to forget there are incredible people out there in this world, but the NRHA world reminds me daily."

Historically, this fundraiser has generated significant funding to support NRHyA. With participating professionals located all over the country, there are options to best suit each buyer's needs. Before bidding, be sure to check if your selected professional offers the amenities you need, such as lesson horses, stalls, or RV hookups.

To view the NRHA Professionals available and to place your bids today, visit 32auctions.com/2024BuyAPro.

INSTRUCTIONAL

VHH TRAINING TIP

by. Stevie White

MARTIN MUEHLSTAETTER – LEAD CHANGES

From a very young age, NRHA Million Dollar Rider Martin Muehlstaetter's heart and soul have been set on becoming a reining trainer. Although reining wasn't really a thing yet in Muehlstaetter's native country of Austria, his dream excelled, and the NRHA Professional currently has lifetime earnings over a million dollars.

While his 2014 NRBC Levels 4 and 3 Open Classic Championships provided his biggest paycheck yet – just shy of \$100 grand, the Scottsdale, Ariz. based trainer was also 4th in the 2019 NRHA Futurity, won the Level 3 100X Reining Classic Stakes in 2023 and was 5th in The Run For A Million. He has been a finalist at every major event and has trained under some of the industry's legends including Bob Avila, NRHA Million Dollar Rider Dell Hendricks, and Todd Sommers.

Muehlstaetter trains with a very quiet, laid-back style that is easy to follow. In this video provided by our partner, Virtual Horse Help, he demonstrates how he ensures that he had proper body control in his horse prior to teaching the lead change.



THE ETERNAL RIDE

JASON VANLANDINGHAM - NRHA TWO MILLION DOLLAR RIDER



Jason Vanlandingham is one of the most respected riders in the reining industry. While his resume for the show pen is impressive, he's also known for his faith and regularly fills in to share the Word of God during events.

Jason is a regular contributor to WorldWide Slide, and has been sharing a unique devotional each issue for more than two years.

Find prior episodes at WorldWideSlide.com



Non Pro Survival Guide with Shannon Rafacz

How Do You Add Up?

It never fails that at least one time at every horse show I see a rider come out of the arena after their score is announced and looking confused and bewildered as to why the score wasn't what they thought it should be. It also never fails that their trainer answers in one word... penalties.

The most complete riders in the reining arena don't just clock time learning how to execute maneuvers and pattern placement. They also put their time in studying the NRHA rulebook and even more specifically, they learn all about the various penalties that can be assessed during their runs.

When I started reining, I was 12 years old. I was fortunate to spend multiple days throughout the week at the barn riding (every day in the summers). Each week, there would be one day where lunch was spent in the house watching videos. Charlie Smith had literally hundreds of videotapes just full of reining runs. We sat down and he would judge and we would scribe and then we would judge and get grilled on why we scored a maneuver the way we did. I can still remember my heart beating fast every time it was my turn to score a run.

I have heard it said that the fastest way to learn a foreign language is to go visit the country. The same can be said about learning our judging system. Incorporate our judging system into your riding. To do that you need to know it, have read it (more than twice) and then implement it. When you practice, have your trainer help you understand what your mistakes cost you and where you would be on the score card. I wholeheartedly think that I was able to sneak in more wins because I had the ability to keep track in my head where I was after each maneuver. I find the best riders are those who know what it costs them and how it affects their score when they miss a lead, over or under turn, trot out of a rollback, etc. They have the ability to keep score in their

NRHA JUDGES SCORE CARD

Judge _____

Event _____

Date _____

Class _____

Pattern _____

MANEUVER SCORES: -1 1/2 Extremely Poor -1 Very Poor -1/2 Poor 0 Correct +1/2 Good +1 Very Good +1 1/2 Excellent

MANEUVER DESCRIPTION			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	PENALTY TOTAL	SCORE
DRAW	EXH#	PENALTY										
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Judge's Signature _____

head as they are showing.

For instance, I go to show pattern 6 and in my first set of turns to the right, I am looking at judge number three's baby blues when I finally get the spin shut off. I had better think fast about my next 6 maneuvers and how I am going to try and make up for that 1-point penalty. That is upping your game. Having a general idea of where you are sitting score-wise on that judges card makes you a threat to your fellow competitors until the last maneuver is completed. As a rider, if you are playing the game but don't know all of the rules, then you are missing out on the strategic part of learning how to win.

I realize that sitting down with the rule book doesn't sound like the most fun way to spend your time however, that "bible" literally hands you, the rider, the judge's expectations of you. As a coach, I want to be able to challenge you to know what that mistake cost you. This also helps a nervous rider become more focused.

It captures your brain and gives it less time to worry about the act of going and showing and more on the job at hand. We will talk more about nerves in upcoming articles but giving yourself more substance to focus on gives your body less time to tense up about walking through the in-gate.

In addition to practice, if you can learn how to scribe and then spend some time scribing or volunteering at your local affiliate, do it! The time spent just listening to scores and penalties being called by the judges ride after ride is invaluable. If you don't have the time to commit to scribing, you never have to look far when attending a show to find an NRHA judge who may be there competing. Don't ever be afraid to ask them questions about a run. You may not be able to talk to the judge in the arena, but you can bet there is one nearby that would be happy to evaluate your latest show video. Judges are passionate about their job and the chance to show someone where they could improve is paramount to them.

If a trainer has a group of riders in at the same time, they are never afraid to turn a lesson into a mini clinic. We trainers put our riders on the spot to execute various maneuvers and then quiz the others there on what they marked and why. Putting riders on the spot in practice is a great way to elevate their heart rates. It creates the nerves they get when they walk in the arena. It's an opportunity to coach them on what they

should be thinking about and if a penalty is incurred, how to overcome the deficit. The opportunity to teach is always there!

Finally, as I write this conclusion, I am sitting on an airplane heading home from my very first NRHA Judges applicant seminar. My best advice is don't be like me. Don't wait this long to find one of these seminars to attend. Some affiliates will host a Secrets of Judging in your area. If you have any interest in hosting one, please reach out to Director of Judges Patti Carter and the committee can help you plan one! You can also apply to attend and/or audit the seminars held in Oklahoma City. These past two days have been extremely informative as a rider and a coach. Looking at patterns from the judges chair showed me perspectives that I didn't always take into consideration before. I may have known every penalty in the book, but each penalty was further defined through the seminar. The execution and expectations became even more abundantly clear to me. It just goes to show that in this business the education never stops and is always evolving.

I hope I have given you some food for thought in your coming rides. I hope I have convinced you to maybe pick up a little light reading. Most importantly, I hope I have convinced you to challenge yourself to raise your bar through knowledge! I Hope to see you all down the road soon! Good luck and go learn!



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INDUSTRY NEWS

Remembering NRHA Hall of Famer Snip O Gun



In early March, the reining industry learned of the passing of NRHA Hall of Famer Snip O Gun, a legendary broodmare whose legacy transcends the show pen.

Snip O Gun was a cornerstone of excellence in the reining world. Owned by Hilldale Farm, the 1993 mare's impact extended far beyond her own achievements.

Sired by One Gun and out of Miss Kim Olena, Snip O Gun didn't find her way to the NRHA Hall of Fame through competition but rather through a larger-than-life breeding career.

As a broodmare, she shaped the future of reining through her offspring. Her exceptional genetics and temperament were passed down to generations of reining prospects, ensuring that her influence would endure for years to come. Her descendants continue to excel in the arena, a testament to the enduring legacy she leaves behind.

Snip O Gun's left a profound impact on the reining community as a whole.

For more information about Snip O Gun and her contributions to the sport of reining, visit reini.ng/SnipOGunHallofFame.

#**1**

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OF GUNNER

2016
2017
2018
2019

**6.8M
SIRE**

2024 BREEDING FEES: \$3,000



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Stallions

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INDUSTRY NEWS

Ranch Fuel to Sponsor Exhibitor Videos at NRBC

Exhibitors at the National Reining Breeders Classic, slated for April 16-27, 2023, in Tulsa, Oklahoma, have even more to look forward to. Ranch Fuel, an exciting new energy drink, has joined the sponsorship team to bring everyone's official run videos into their inboxes, so make sure to have a case handy to pop one open while you relive the fun.

The videos are produced and emailed out by official show videographer Equine Promotion, and each competitor will get their individual runs delivered directly to their inboxes thanks to the generous support of Ranch Fuel.

"Everyone loves to watch and share videos of their runs, and we feel that ensuring they have free access to their competition videos is a great way to support all reiners," shared Carter Smith, president and co-founder of Ranch Fuel.

Smith is a longtime supporter – and competitor – of the reining industry. She's a former National Reining Horse Association Non Pro Derby Champion, having won the title on her standout stallion, the late NRHA Million Dollar Sire Chocolate Chic Olena. In 2023, her company, 100X Equine, sponsored the videos, and she elected to continue to support the show this year with her newest venture, Ranch Fuel.

"We are glad to welcome Carter Smith and Ranch Fuel back to the NRBC," noted Cheryl Cody, NRBC Secretary/Treasurer. "We appreciate the support of this event, and know that our exhibitors value this partnership, too."

Ranch Fuel Energy Drink will officially launch at the American Western Weekend March 8 – 9 at Globe Life Field in Arlington, Texas. While the drinks are already available to purchase on the website, they will be rolled out in stores in Texas and then across the country soon.

RANCH FUEL™



NRBC Exhibitor Videos

Endorsees of the drink include NRHA All-Time Leading Rider Andrea Fappani, as well as Corey Cushing, Justin Wright, Clayton Edsall, Stetson Wright, Zeke Thurston, Ky Hamilton, Fallon Taylor, and Dale Brisby.

So what makes Ranch Fuel a perfect fit for reiners? "Ranch Fuel has 150-200mg of clean caffeine, depending on the can size. It is crisp and refreshing with light carbonation, which is perfect for horsemen and women who need a little pick-me-up! Unlike some other energy drink companies, Ranch Fuel was created by people in the equine industry," Smith said.

About Ranch Fuel

Ranch Fuel Energy Drink is inspired by the spirit of the cowboy! It is more than an energy drink; Ranch Fuel is a tribute to the cowboy way of life. Crafted with precision, Ranch Fuel is designed to provide clean energy, mental focus, and enhanced endurance. We're not just a brand; we're advocates of the Western lifestyle. Experience pure cowboy energy with Ranch Fuel – America's Energy Drink!

Blo Gun

GUNNER X THE HOT JEWEL

2024 BREEDING FEE: \$1,000



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AT TMRH

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Stallions

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INDUSTRY NEWS

Blo Gun / Spooks Grand Slam Masters Non Pro Shootout Debuts at NRBC

After seeing the success of the Rookie Shootout over the past few years, the National Reining Breeders Classic Board of Directors decided to add three more shootouts to the lineup: the Legends Non Pro Shootout for riders aged 70 and older, the Green Reiner Shootout for the very grassroots reiners, and the Masters Non Pro which will be sponsored by Mike and Joanne Garnett and Martin and Kim Muehlstaetter under the banner names of their respective stallions, Blo Gun and Spooks Grand Slam.

The Blo Gun / Spooks Grand Slam Masters Non Pro Shootout, for riders 60 years and older, will be held in the Ford Truck Arena on the evening of Thursday, April 25. To qualify, eligible riders must enter both slates of Master Non Pro ancillary classes held on April 21 and 22 and their composite scores must be ranked in the top five overall.

The Garnetts were eager to support the Masters Shootout. Joanne said, "It is an honor to continue to be a part of the NRBC and sponsoring the Masters Shootout is special to us since Michael also shows in the Masters in the derbies. It is made even more special to us to sponsor this event in the name of Blo Gun. We wish the best of luck to all competitors in the Masters Non Pro Shootout."

Their stallion, Blo Gun, has amassed lifetime earnings greater than \$101,300 through titles such as 2X NRBC Open Classic Challenge Champion and Reserve Champion, AQHA Select Reining World Champion, World Equestrian Games Team Austria, and High Roller Reining Classic Non Pro Prime Time Derby Champion. Foaled in 2010, Blo Gun is by NRHA All-Time Leading Sire Gunner out of The Hot Jewel, whose offspring have earner more than \$144,700. To learn more about Blo Gun and to see his breeding contract, click this [link](#).

"Blo Gun is a wonderful individual and very



special to us," Joanne said. "His outstanding personality allowed Martin Muehlstaetter to show him hard in the open and then a beginning Non Pro was able to show him the next day, and he would take great care of them. He loved showing. Now, he loves attention and being spoiled. He started his career with Tim McQuay, so it is only fitting that he is standing at Tom McCutcheon Reining Horses for his breeding career."

By NRHA \$7 Million Sire Spooks Gotta Whiz, Spooks Grand Slam has earned more than \$150,000 in reining competition. He is out of Shiny Diamond Lady by NRHA \$4 Million Sire Shining Spark. Muehlstaetter Performance Horses and Sleipner, LLC own the flashy AQHA/APHA double registered buckskin stallion that has shown his merit through titles such as 3rd in the NRHA L4 Non Pro Futurity, 2nd in the Cactus Classic Open L4 Derby, and 2nd in the NRHA Non Pro Derby. He is also a The Run For A Million qualifier. To read more about him and how to breed to him, go to this [website](#).

"Spooks Grand Slam has that natural

INDUSTRY NEWS

athleticism that doesn't come around very often. In addition to his talent, he has a golden mind to compete successfully in the L4 Open with me and also win multiple titles with my wife, Kim in the Non Pro competition," Martin said, "The more runs he had, the better he got

and that's a unique quality in itself."

Entry forms for the Masters Non Pro classes to qualify for the Blo Gun / Spooks Grand Slam Shootout and other classes can be found at NRBC.com, along with a complete schedule and the latest news.

Rios Family of Brands Sponsors Inaugural Green Reiner Shootout at NRBC

In the mid-1800s, the Rios family began making boots and saddles for Mexican soldiers and revolutionists, and in 1908, the family moved to the Texas Rio Grande Valley and opened a boot shop. In 1975, Joe and Trainor Evans purchased Rios of Mercedes, and in the five decades sense, the Rios of Mercedes brand has cemented its legacy of quality and endurance.

While the National Reining Breeders Classic has only existed for a quarter century, it, like the Rios Family of Brands, has earned a reputation of longevity and value.

So, it's only fitting for the two long-time partners to team up again.

"We are very excited to announce that the Rios Family of Brands will sponsor our new Green Reiner Shootout," shared NRBC Secretary/Treasurer Cheryl Cody. "Anderson Bean has been a longtime sponsor of the NRBC. When this new Shootout was created, it seemed like a perfect fit – just like one of their handcrafted boots!"

Paul Patterson, Marketing and Product Development Leader of Rios Family of Brands, agreed, adding that the men and women who produce the boots made by the Rios Family of Brands have one major quality in common with those in the reining industry. "We speak the same language. We embrace hard work, and reiners work hard, too. We know that and encourage each other's success," he said.

Patterson added, "Thank you to the reining community for all the support that has been shown to our brands for many, many years. We



THE RIOS OF MERCEDES FAMILY OF BRANDS

wish you the best of luck for success not only at the NRBC in April, but throughout the year."

Thanks to the Rios Family of Brands, the Green Reiner Shootout winner will receive a gift certificate for a premium pair of exotic Top Hand boots, and second through fifth place in the Shootout will receive a pair of non-exotic boots.

"That's not all," Cody said. The winner of each slate of qualifying Green Reiner classes will also receive a pair of boots. We thank Paul and the Rios Family of Brands for their incredible generosity to our contestants."

Winners of the boots get to leave Tulsa with a new pair, as vendor Davis Boot Company will be at the show and can redeem the certificates there.

"Winners can also visit our website for a list of retailers if they would prefer to pick out their boots once they're home," Patterson explained.

The Rios Family of Brands includes Rios of Mercedes, Anderson Bean Boot Company, Olathe Boot Company, Macie Bean, and Horse Power boots. For more information, visit RiosFamilyofBrands.com

INDUSTRY NEWS

From “The Show”

March 15 Episode to Feature Cade McCutcheon as He Discusses TAPH



This week Tom, Joe, and Gunny sit down with NRHA 2 Million Dollar Rider, Cade McCutcheon, to break down Cade's experience at The American Performance Horseman.

Cade showed Finals Bound, owned by Burnett Ranches, and they had a great run together as one of their first times in the show pen.

Cade shares what he felt as a rider for all of the different moments of the event, the impact Teton Ridge had on The American Rodeo, and some of his thoughts on the production. The panel also dives into how the nerves of such a big event can affect a ride and maybe a sneak peek of Tom's tabletop dancing skills can be seen.

We extend a huge thank you to everyone at Teton Ridge for making this event possible. The American has greatly impacted the Western Performance Horse industry, and we

are grateful for such a cool event to showcase what we do.

Cade also thanks Taylor Sheridan and 6666 Ranch for the opportunity to show the incredible Finals Bound.

If you couldn't attend, make sure to watch The American Performance Horseman on Fox, Saturday, March 16 at 11:30 AM EST-1:00 PM EDT on FS1!

Tune in at 6 p.m. Friday, March 15

YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCwBy0o9bwVKiOs_R4aaNWnQ

Spotify: <https://podcasters.spotify.com/pod/show/tom-mccutcheon-reining-ho>

Apple Podcasts: <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/tom-mccutcheons-the-show/id1729258992>

2024 TOM MCCUTCHEON REINING HORSES TM BREEDING ROSTER



MR FARENHEIT

2018 AQHA STALLION
MAGNUM CHIC DREAM X WIMPY LITTLE GIRL



GUNNERS TINSELTOWN

2009 AQHA/APHA STALLION
GUNNER X MISS TINSELTOWN



HOLLYWOODSTINSELTOWN

2004 AQHA STALLION
HOLLYWOOD DIN IT X MISS TINSELTOWN



GUNNERS SPECIAL NITE

2004 AQHA/APHA STALLION
GUNNER X MIFS DOLL



SPAT TOY BOY GUN

2016 APHA STALLION
SPAT SPLIT AND WHITE X SNOWY
RIVER GUNNER



PS MEGA SHINE CHIC

2013 AQHA STALLION
SHINE CHIC SHINE X MEGAS SUGAR BABY



BLO GUN

2010 AQHA/APHA STALLION
GUNNER X THE HOT JEWEL



VS THE FIREMAN

2019 AQHA STALLION
MACHINE MADE X VS LADY IN RED



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