



News from the National Reined Cow Horse Association

Tuesday, Sept. 24, 2013

Cushing, Phillips & Rice Claim Top Scores After Day One of NRCHA Futurity Herd Work Prelims

The first day of Open, Intermediate Open and Level 1 Limited Open preliminary competition at the National Reined Cow Horse Association Snaffle Bit Futurity is complete, with 95 3-year-old horses testing their herd work skills at the Reno-Sparks Livestock Events Center in Reno, Nev.

History repeated itself as Scottsdale, Ariz., horseman Corey Cushing scored a 221 aboard One Big Time Secret (One Time Pepto x I Know A Secret x Freckles Playboy) to lead the Futurity Open herd work preliminaries after the first day of competition.

A year ago, Cushing marked a 221 to lead day one of the 2012 Futurity Open herd work prelims aboard another One Time Pepto foal, Lenas Last Time, owned by Cathy Corrigan Frank.

Cushing and One Big Time Secret, a gelding owned by Karilyn Crolius of Bold Creek Farm, Canyon Country, Calif., made their high-scoring run from the last working position in set six.

Close behind in the Futurity Open herd work prelims is Boyd Rice, Spearman, Texas, who guided Royal Smart Fletch (Royal Fletch x Little Smart Ginger x Smart Little Lena), a stallion owned by Kit & Charlie Moncrief, to a 220. Another 220 score belongs to Bed Head Cat (Wild Haired Cat x Isabellena x Quejanaisalena), shown by Kelby Phillips for Garth & Amanda Gardiner, Ashland, Kansas. Phillips and Bed Head Cat lead the Futurity Intermediate Open and Limited Open divisions.

Scoring the action at this year's Snaffle Bit Futurity are judges Andy Adams, Al Dunning, Carl Gould, Darren Miller and Sam Rose.



Herd Work Preliminaries Complete in the Snaffle Bit Futurity Open, Cinch Intermediate Open and Limited Open Divisions

At the National Reined Cow Horse Association Snaffle Bit Futurity in Reno, Nev., riders in the Open, Cinch Intermediate Open and Limited Open Divisions are one step closer to knowing whether they will qualify for the Finals as the first leg of preliminary competition, the herd work, wrapped up today.

Corey Cushing, Scottsdale, Ariz., and Karilyn Crolius's stallion, One Big Time Secret (One Time Pepto x I Know A Secret x Freckles Playboy), maintained their lead in the Futurity Open with the 221 they marked on Tuesday. However, they now share the top spot with Clayton Edsall, Clements, Calif., who scored a 221 in the sixth set today on his own horse, an unregistered gelding named Johnny. Edsall and Johnny also top the Futurity Intermediate Open leaderboard.



Clayton Edsall shares the lead in the Futurity Open, and leads the Intermediate Open, after the herd work prelims.

Kelby Phillips, Ashland, Kansas, retained his first-place position in the Futurity Limited Open. He scored a 220 yesterday aboard Bed Head Cat (Wild Haired Cat x Isabellena x Quejanaisalena), owned by Garth & Amanda Gardiner. Phillips also holds second place in the Futurity Limited Open aboard another Gardiner entry, Hickory Holly Time (One Time Pepto x Hickory Holly Cee x Doc's Hickory), after scoring a 218 in today's herd work prelims.



Kelby Phillips and Hickory Holly Time

Tomorrow's schedule at the Reno-Sparks Livestock Events Center contains another full day of herd work preliminaries - this time for riders in the Level 1 Limited Open, Non Pro, Intermediate Non Pro, Novice Non Pro, Amateur and Non-Pro Limited divisions.

Thursday, Sept. 26, 2013

Snaffle Bit Futurity Herd Work Prelims Wrap Up for Non Pro and Level 1 Limited Open Divisions

The first test of the Snaffle Bit Futurity is over for all the three-year-old horses here in Reno, Nev., as the herd work preliminaries concluded today in the Non Pro, Intermediate Non Pro, Novice Non Pro, Amateur, Non Pro Limited and Level 1 Limited Open divisions.

Working deep in the fifth set of the day, Tish Wilhite, Clovis, Calif., scored a 217.5 aboard her mare, Bless Your Hart (Heart Of A Fox x Oaks Jewel Doll x Doc Jewel Bars) to lead the Futurity Non Pro preliminaries. Bless Your Hart is a full sister to The Fresno Fox, a gelding who Wilhite has shown to multiple NRCHA titles.

Two riders scored a 217 for second place in the Non Pro and first place in the Intermediate Non Pro. Stuart Bozeman, Idalou, Texas, earned a 217 aboard Checkers Live Oak (Im Countin Checks x Cats Live Oak x High Brow Cat) at the bottom of set three, and Jayson Fisher, Arroyo Grande, Calif., maneuvered Keg Of Jules (Soula Jule Star x Shes A Hickory Girl x Doc's Hickory) to the same score midway through set four. Bozeman's 217 also leads the Futurity Novice Non Pro and Amateur divisions.

The lead in the Futurity Non-Pro Limited belongs to Nicole Petty, Roseburg, Ore. Petty rode Tangy Chexinic (Tangys Classy Peppy x Buenos Double Okie x Bueno Chexinic) to a score of 207.

The lead in the Level 1 Limited Open was unchanged today - still topping that division with a 214 is Mama Mia Lotta Lena (Little Lotto Lena x Mia Gunna Smokum x Smokums Prize), shown by Russell Probert for owners Lori Lucchetti & Sharon Wright.

With the herd work now complete, Friday's schedule consists of a full day of rein work preliminaries for the Level 1 Limited Open, Non Pro and Amateur contestants. The first of the horse show classes, the Open Two Rein, also happens tomorrow, following the rein work prelims. The action resumes at 8:00 a.m. and can be viewed on the live webcast at www.GallopingVideo.com.

Friday, Sept. 27, 2013

Snaffle Bit Futurity Rein Work Prelims Wrap Up for Non Pro and Amateur Divisions



Jayson Fisher (center) with wife, Teresa and son, Wyatt, is tied for the composite lead in the Futurity Non-Pro after two events.

Two out of three events are now complete for Non-Pro competitors at the NRCHA Snaffle Bit Futurity at the Reno-Sparks Livestock Events Center in Reno, Nev.

A pair of California horsemen are tied for first place in the Non-Pro and Intermediate Non-Pro composite with identical 430 scores. Dave Ferguson, Cottonwood, Calif., rode Smart Shiney Pistol (Smart Chic Olena x Shiners Lil Pistol x Shining Spark) to a 212.5 in the herd work and a 217.5 in the rein work. Jayson Fisher, Arroyo Grande, Calif., reached his 430

composite by scoring a 217 in the herd work and a 213 in the rein work. Jayson is riding Keg Of Jules (Soula Jule Star x Shiners Hickory Girl x Doc's Hickory).

Today's top score in the Non-Pro rein work belonged to Tammy Jo Hays, Nocona, Texas. She rode SDP Got Fancy Genes (RC Fancy Step x SDP I Got Good Genes x Dual Rey) to a 219. Hays currently is in third place in the Futurity Non-Pro composite with a 429.

In the Novice Non-Pro division, Bubba Petty, Roseburg, Ore., owns the lead on two events. He rode Pepinics Lil Outlaw (Smart Little Pepinic x Pand Delight x Grays Starlight) to scores of 211 in the herd work and 215.5 in the rein work for a total 426.5.

Bubba's wife, Nicole Petty, is leading her division - the Futurity Non-Pro Limited - with a 421.5 score after two events. Nicole is riding Tangy Chexinic (Tangys Classy Peppy x Buenos Double Oakie x Bueno Chexinic). She scored a 207 in the herd work and a 214.5 in the rein work - the high score of the round.

The Futurity Amateur division leader is Grant Lindaman II, Plymouth, Minn. He rode Truckin Miraclena (NMSU Truckin Chex x Little Miraclena x Smart Retsina) to a 207 in the herd work and a 214 in the rein work.

All the Non-Pro and Amateur Futurity competitors show in the cow work on Sunday, Sept. 29. At that time, the Amateur and Non-Pro Limited Champions will be crowned, and the finalists in the Non-Pro, Intermediate Non-Pro and Novice Non-Pro divisions will be determined.

Friday, Sept. 27, 2013

Abby Mixon Rides Julgun to Open Two Rein Championship



Abby Mixon and Julgun scored a 149 in the cow work on their way to the Open Two-Rein Championship.

The National Reined Cow Horse Association Snaffle Bit Futurity is the signature event for 3-year-old cow horses, but on Friday night, Sept. 27, older horses took center stage with the first of the Snaffle Bit Futurity horse show classes, the Open Two Rein.

Abby Mixon, Marietta, Okla., claimed the Open Two Rein Championship aboard Julgun (Playgun x Julie Christie x Peppy San Badger) with a 297 composites score (148 rein/149 cow). The win paid \$2,660, and came with a Bob's Custom Saddle sponsored by Stuart Ranch; a custom saddle rack donated by Sunmoon Ranch; a CR Morrison Trophy from the NRCHA; a Gist buckle sponsored by WW Ranch, LLC; Platinum Performance from Doug Herthel; Back On Track therapeutic equine products from Back On Track; and a monogrammed Cinch jacket from Bob's Custom Saddles and The New West.

"It felt awesome. He did everything pretty perfect for me," Mixon said. She has trained the stylish 7-year-old gray stallion, known around the barn as "Hugo," since he was two. Julgun is bred and owned by Jon and Norma Sather of Winfield Farms, where Mixon is the resident trainer.



Julgun's strong reining maneuvers added up to a 148 score.

Julgun's career began in the reining arena, where he has accumulated more than \$97,000 in earnings, including the 2010 National Reining Breeder's Classic Open Championship. He crossed over into the reined cow horse arena, qualifying for the 2011 NRCHA Celebration of Champions. While showing there in the Open Hackamore class, Julgun sustained an injury that veterinarians feared was career-ending.

"He actually fractured his sesamoid and chipped it in three places. He had surgery and a year and a half off," Mixon said. "We had a couple of vets tell us they didn't know if he would ever be able to show again. For him to get this sound, and be able to come here and do this, is pretty awesome."

Mixon's cow horse mentor is NRCHA Hall of Fame Horseman Don Murphy, who taught her "everything I know. I couldn't have done it without him," she said. Before she competed in Reno, Murphy urged her to stop worrying about Julgun's past injury.

"I was a little cautious with him and just kind of scared to hurt him. Don had to tell me, if I'm going to do it, I better do it and get in gear. He helped us out a lot this morning and it definitely paid off this afternoon," she said. "He told me to keep an eye on my cow, and he got after me about riding past it and making the turns."

She also thanked the Sathers for being "the best owners in the world. I couldn't have better people to work for. They got to watch it on the live feed and they're really excited!" Mixon said.



Jake Telford and Sheza Dancingdiamond were the Open Two Rein Reserve Champions.

The Open Two Rein Reserve Champion was Sheza Dancingdiamond (Diamond J Star x Sheza Shinette x Shining Spark), shown by Jake Telford, Caldwell, Idaho, for owners Del and Susan Bell. They scored a 295.5 (147.5 rein/148 cow), earning \$2,090. The Reserve Championship also came with a monogrammed jacket from Bob's Custom Saddles & The New West; Platinum Performance from Doug Herthel; and Back On Track products from Back On Track.

Saturday, Sept. 28, 2013

Lindsay Wadhams Rides Spursuasion to Dual Non-Pro Bridle Championships

At the National Reined Cow Horse Association Snaffle Bit Futurity in Reno, Nev., Lindsay Wadhams, Pueblo, Colo., claimed dual championships in the Non-Pro and Intermediate Non-Pro Bridle classes aboard her gelding, Spursuasion

(Ray Gay Quixote x Mist N Smoke x Doc Tom Tucker). They scored a combined 292 (146.5 rein/145.5 cow), earning \$3,420 for the Non-Pro win and an additional \$1,697 for the Intermediate title.



Lindsay Wadhams' father, Jay Bridenthal, missed his tee time to see her show.

The Championships also came with a Bob's Custom Saddle sponsored by Matacorp, Ltd.; a custom saddle rack donated by Sunmoon Ranch; a pair of CR Morrison trophies from the NRCHA; two Gist buckles from the NRCHA; a 10 pound bucket of UltraCruz Sand Clear plus a \$50 gift certificate and a coffee tumbler in a cooler tote bag, sponsored by San Juan Ranch, a division of Santa Cruz Animal Health; Back On Track Equine Therapeutic Products sponsored by Back On Track; and two monogrammed Cinch jackets from Bob's Custom Saddles/The New West.

Wadhams was near the end of the working order in a large class, and knew she and "Booger" had to perform at their best.

"My goal today, I was second [in the Non-Pro Bridle] here last year, and I really wanted to win today," she said. "I was a little intimidated going into the run because there were so many high scores before I went in. Booger was great today and I was really proud of him."

Wadhams and Spursuasion have accumulated numerous major event titles together in the past three years. They were the Novice Non-Pro Bridle Champions here at the Snaffle Bit Futurity in 2012. In May, they won the Non-Pro Bridle Spectacular at the NRCHA Hackamore Classic, and they also have an American Quarter Horse Association Amateur Reining World Championship on their resume. They also have qualified for the the AQHA World Show in Amateur Working Cow Horse multiple times, but the finals have eluded the pair, and Wadhams has her sights set on that goal this fall.

"I just want to make the finals in the cow horse [at the AQHA World Show] and after that, it's gravy," she said.

Wadhams' parents, Jay and Connie Bridenthal, were in Reno to help her celebrate her win, and her dad even "missed his golf tee time to watch me show," she said. Wadhams' sister, Amy, is also a steadfast supporter.

"She sends me a quote every horse show I go to. The quote she sent me a week ago was, 'Practice like you've never won and ride like you've never lost,'" Wadhams said. "I also thank Shadd Parkinson and Corey Cushing for helping me all the time and giving me tips every time I go into the pen. I have a great program with them, and I owe all my success to them."

The Non-Pro Bridle and Intermediate Non-Pro Bridle Reserve Champion was Shelly Franklin, Camarillo, Calif., who rode A Dazzlin Prize (Smokums Prize x Two B Dazzled x Canyon Creek Rojo) to a combined 291 score (145 rein/146 cow). The Non-Pro placing paid \$2,394 and Franklin collected an additional \$1,333 for the Intermediate division.

Novice Non-Pro Bridle Champion



Meryl Reber and her daughter, Megan Kosty.

Meryl Reber, Kent, Wash., checked an accomplishment off her "bucket list" when she won the NRCHA Snaffle Bit Futurity Novice Non-Pro Bridle Championship aboard her 10-year-old gelding, Ima Chic Please (Chic Please x Smokums Chex Mint x Smokum Oak). Reber and "Bullet" earned a combined 287.5 score (140 rein/147.5 cow), taking home a \$1,554 check. The win also came with a Gist buckle sponsored by Robin Flournoy; a CR Morrison Trophy from the NRCHA; Platinum Performance; Back On Track Equine Therapeutic Products sponsored by Back On Track; and a monogrammed Cinch jacket from Bob's Custom Saddles/the New West.

The crowd came alive when Reber entered the arena, and the cheering grew still louder as the buckskin gelding executed a fast-and-furious fence run - although his rider hardly heard it.

"I heard a little bit of screaming during the reining, but not when the cow came out. I quit hearing things. We were on auto pilot," Reber said, smiling. "I can't think I touched the reins during the cow work. He just did his thing. The cow was really good. I thought he was a little dead on the end but once we got him going down the fence, he was perfect. We got a good turn each way, and it stayed on the fence and I thought about doing another turn, but I knew Bullet could circle a fast cow so off we went!"

Reber, a former hunter-jumper competitor, decided it was time to change disciplines, so she purchased Bullet, her first cow horse, in the winter of 2010. Their future plans may include a trip to the NRCHA Celebration of Champions in February, but in the meantime, Bullet will be busy soaking up plenty of attention and eating his favorite treats.

"I love this horse. He's worth his weight in gold. I bought him 25 pounds of carrots when I got here," Reber said.

The Novice Non-Pro Bridle Reserve Champion was Parke Greeson, riding Lenas Alley (Smart Little Lena x Doc Alley x Dual Pep). They scored a 140.5 in the rein work and 147 in the cow work, taking home \$1,243 and some prizes: a monogrammed Cinch jacket from Bob's Custom Saddles/The New West; Platinum Performance; and Back On Track Equine Therapeutic Products sponsored by Back On Track.

Sunday, Sept. 29, 2013

Youth Champions Crowned at NRCHA Snaffle Bit Futurity

When Kelly Valdez schooled Smart Tic Tack (Smart Mate x Tic Tackatoo x Freckles Playboy) the night before the Youth Bridle class, things didn't go according to plan.

"We just weren't in sync. I wasn't with her at all," the 15-year-old Swink, Colo., ninth-grader said.

But when it came time to enter the show pen, horse and rider had the teamwork figured out. Smart Tic Tack, owned by Kelly's parents, Robert and Betty Lou Valdez, carried Kelly to scores of 143 in the rein work and 146 in the cow work to win the NRCHA Snaffle Bit Futurity Youth Bridle Championship.



Youth Bridle Champion Kelly Valdez and Smart Tic Tack.

"I went in there and showed her like I always do, and she was perfect," Valdez said. "I drew the perfect cow. He boxed real good, and when it was time to go down the fence, he went with me and stayed on the fence."

The Youth Bridle Championship came with a pile of great prizes: a Bob's Custom Saddle sponsored by Aaron Ranch; a saddle rack donated by Sunmoon Ranch; a C.R. Morrison Trophy from the NRCHA; a Gist Buckle sponsored by Primo Morales Photography; a 10 pound bucket of UltraCruz Sand Clear plus a \$50 gift certificate and a coffee tumbler in a cooler tote bag, sponsored by San Juan Ranch, a division of Santa Cruz Animal Health; Platinum Performance from Doug Herthel; Back On Track Equine Therapeutic Products sponsored by Back On Track; and a monogrammed Cinch jacket from Bob's Custom Saddles/The New West.

Valdez won the NRCHA Youth Bridle World Championship aboard Smart Tic Tack early this year in San Angelo, Texas. Kelly's mom, Betty Lou, piloted the mare to a top 5 finish in working cow horse at the American Quarter Horse Association Select World Show in August.

When she's not riding cow horses, Valdez is practicing aboard her high school rodeo horses. She competes in barrel racing, breakaway roping, pole bending and cutting. She thanked her parents for all their support, and also thanked NRCHA Hall of Fame horseman Don Murphy and his daughter, Nelle, for their coaching and friendship.

The Youth Bridle Reserve Championship was Jorge Cid, riding Peppy Nicolena (Nic It In The Bud x Chelsea Lena x Smart Peppy Doc). They scored a 140.5 in the rein work and 143 in the cow work, earning \$1,050. The placing also came with Back On Track product sponsored by Back On Track; Platinum Performance sponsored by Doug Herthel; and a monogrammed Cinch jacket from Bob's Custom Saddles and The New West.

Youth Limited Champion & Reserve Champion

Rene Ferini, Santa Maria, Calif., had two horses in the Youth Limited class, and finished in the top two places, winning the Championship on Soula Boom Star (Soula Jule Star x Savannah Lee 2000 x Boomerlic) and taking the Reserve Championship on Pennys From Prize (Smokums Prize x Pennys Starlight x Grays Starlight).

"It was surprising - but very exciting for me!" the 17-year-old high school senior said.

She was concerned about Soula Boom Star; the night before her class, the 7-year-old gelding had a mishap in his stall and lacerated his lip. The fairly serious cut required sutures, but "Rusty" performed well despite his sore and swollen face.



Youth Limited Champion Rene Ferini and Soula Boom Star.

"It didn't seem to bother him. It was more worrisome for me," Ferini said. "We've been working really hard on our lead changes and we got both of them, and we've been working on our cow work, and it was good."

The Youth Championship came with a \$780 check; a Bob's Custom Saddle sponsored by Carol Rose; the saddle rack are donated by Sunmoon Ranch; a C.R. Morrison Trophy from the NRCHA; a Gist Buckle sponsored by Jay Holmes/Triple J Ranch; Platinum Performance from Doug Herthel; Back On Track Equine Therapeutic Products sponsored by Back On Track; and a monogrammed Cinch jacket from Bob's Custom Saddles/the New West.

Ferini's other horse, Pennys From Prize, scored a 142 in the rein work and a 143 in the cow work for the Reserve Championship. She collected more prizes for the placing: a monogrammed Cinch jacket from Bob's Custom Saddles/The New West; Platinum Performance from Doug Herthel; Back On Track Equine Therapeutic Products sponsored by Back On Track; and a 10 pound bucket of UltraCruz Sand Clear plus a \$50 gift certificate and a coffee tumbler in a cooler tote bag, sponsored by San Juan Ranch, a division of Santa Cruz Animal Health.

Sunday, Sept. 29, 2013

Non-Pro Limited Champions Crowned at NRCHA Snaffle Bit Futurity

It was an emotional win for Bobbie Masellis, Tracy, Calif., when she took the NRCHA Snaffle Bit Futurity Non-Pro Limited Championship aboard Lil Land Slide (Peptoboonsmal x Chex Rio Hickory x Doc's Hickory) on Saturday, Sept. 28 in Reno, Nev. Masellis and her bay stallion scored a 142.5 in the rein work and a 146 in the cow work, besting a huge field of 50 entries.

"He felt really good. He felt the best he's ever felt," Masellis said, through tears. "It's a bittersweet run because it's my last run on him. I sold him - but it's a really good way to go out."

Masellis said this has been her first full season competing on Lil Land Slide in reined cow horse. He also is a trained cutting horse, qualifying for the AQHA World Show in Amateur Cutting with Masellis in 2011. She branched out into cow horse because "I felt confident that I could do it on this horse."

Although she's selling Lil Land Slide, Masellis will continue his legacy in the show arena.



Non-Pro Limited Champion Bobbie Masellis and Lil Land Slide

"I have his baby that I'll be coming back with and showing here as a 3-year-old. I really want to do the 3-year-old thing, so I figure his babies can take me there."

Masellis, a massage therapist, rides regularly with California trainer Brian Gruenig.

"I want to thank him for all the faith and work he's put into me. He's like my family. He's like a brother," she said, and then laughed as she recalled his final words of advice as she entered the arena. "He told me to sit up straight and quit riding like a monkey, and to trust my horse. Tonight, I did - I gave it all I had."

For the Non-Pro Limited Championship, Masellis won \$1,400; a Bob's Custom Saddle sponsored by Wilson & Susan Lyle/Lyawile Ranch; a custom made saddle rack donated by Sunmoon Ranch; a C.R. Morrison Trophy from the NRCHA; a Gist Buckle sponsored by Boyd & Halee Rice; Platinum Performance from Doug Herthel; Back On Track Equine Therapeutic Products sponsored by Back On Track; and a monogrammed Cinch jacket from Bob's Custom Saddles/the New West. Thanks also to ProPanel, for sponsoring an additional \$500 in added money for the Non Pro Limited Division!

The Non-Pro Limited Reserve Champion was LeAnn Bayles, who rode Diamonds Are Smokin (Like A Diamond x Shirley Smoke) to scores of 145 in the rein work and 144 in the cow work. The placing paid \$1,120.

\$5,000 Non-Pro Limited

Fifteen-year-old Trea Rice, Spearman, Texas, borrowed her dad's bridle horse to win the \$5,000 Non-Pro Limited Championship. However, it's no ordinary horse; Trea was mounted on Oh Cay N Short (Oh Cay Quixote x Bit Of Shorty x Shorty Lena), the 2007 Snaffle Bit Futurity Open Champion and 2013 World's Greatest Horseman Reserve Champion, trained and shown by Trea's father, Boyd Rice.

The polite and bubbly teen admitted to some show nerves while in Reno.



\$5,000 Non-Pro Limited Champion Trea Rice and Oh Cay N Short.

"I haven't shown in the cow horse in like four years, so I was pretty nervous. I was going to draw out, but my dad told me just do it. I was nervous about the reining because I don't like being out there all by myself but once I was in there, it was fine. He did really well in the cow work through the whole run. It was fun," Rice said.

She piloted "Coyote" to scores of 141 in the rein work and 150 in the cow work. When her cow work was finished, she took a little teasing from a pair of Futurity Champions.

"My dad and Corey Cushing, they were on the side, and they started hollering at me after the buzzer went off, 'Take it down the fence!' but I was like, 'I can't do that,'" she said, laughing.

The \$5,000 Non-Pro Limited title came with a check for \$770; a Bob's Custom Saddle sponsored by Santa Ynez Valley Cow Horse Classic; a custom saddle rack donated by Sunmoon Ranch; a C.R. Morrison Trophy from the NRCHA; a Gist Buckle sponsored by Lazy TD Performance Horses LLC; Platinum Performance from Doug Herthel; Back On Track Equine Therapeutic Products sponsored by Back On Track; and a monogrammed Cinch jacket from Bob's Custom Saddles/the New West.

Trea, an avid cutting horse competitor, won the NCHA Summer Spectacular Youth Scholarship Finals in July, riding CR Sun Reys (Dual Rey x Play Peek A Boon x Freckles Playboy). On Sept. 15, just before her trip to Reno, she won the Senior Youth Scholarship Cutting at the El Rancho Futurity in California, aboard Dual Lights (CD Lights x Graciela Dual).

The \$5,000 Non-Pro Limited Reserve Championship ended in a tie between Bobbie Masellis aboard Lil Land Slide and LeAnn Bayles on Diamonds Are Smokin. Both competitors took home a check for \$558.25.

Sunday, Sept. 29, 2013

Non-Pro Two Rein, Non-Pro Hackamore & Run To Reno Champions Crowned at NRCHA Snaffle Bit Futurity

Leading NRCHA non-pro Tish Wilhite, Clovis, Calif., did not have the run of her dreams Saturday in the Non-Pro Bridle class, when she drew some tough cattle and missed a lead change on her 6-year-old gelding, Smokin My Cash (Smokums Prize x Cash My Lean x Nu Cash). She planned to make up for the disappointing run in Sunday's Non-Pro Two Rein class.

"I guess you could say I was out for revenge on the cows, and I had a bobble in the lead change so I wanted to improve that maneuver and generally step it up in the reining today," she said.



Tish Wilhite and Smokin My Cash

Mission accomplished: Wilhite and "Marley" scored a 143.5 in the rein work and a 149 in the cow work to win the Non-Pro Two Rein Championship, which came with a check for \$645; a CR Morrison Trophy and Gist Buckle from the NRCHA; Platinum Performance from Doug Herthel; Back On Track Equine Therapeutic Products sponsored by Back On Track; and a monogrammed Cinch jacket from Bob's Custom Saddles/the New West.

Wilhite, who has career NRCHA earnings of more than \$266,000, trains her own horses under the guidance of leading professional horseman Lance Johnston, Lindsay, Calif. She credits Johnston for helping her simplify and improve all facets of her horsemanship.

"There are so many different aspects to what we do. He's really helped me with focusing and breaking everything down and making it make sense," she said. "Any time you have a cow and a horse and a human brain involved, nothing is easy, but Lance has made everything seem uncomplicated."

Wilhite plans to continue showing Smokin My Cash in the bridle next year and beyond. She recently sold two of her show horses, which brought her herd back to the size she prefers.

"I like to keep one aged event horse and one bridle horse, and [Smokin My Cash] will probably be my bridle horse for a while. This horse makes me smile every time I look at him," she said.

Non-Pro Hackamore Champion

Shawn Renshaw's 5-year-old gelding, Gennys Prize (Smokums Prize x Genuinely Perfect x Genuine Doc), who carries Irish Oaks Ranch's cloverleaf brand on his shoulder, wore show number 777 when he rode into the arena for the Non-Pro Hackamore class on Sunday afternoon.

"It was either going to work out great, or be the kiss of death," Renshaw said about the lucky symbols.

Whether it was the lucky sevens, the cloverleaf or just good old-fashioned preparedness, Renshaw and Gennys Prize scored a 144.5 in the rein work and 140 in the cow work, besting a field of 25 Non-Pro Hackamore competitors for the Championship, which paid \$3,780.



Shawn Renshaw with his wife, Kim, and Gennys Prize.

The title also came with a Bob's Custom Saddle sponsored by Bear Creek Ranch Quarter Horses/Dan & Toni Heath; a custom saddle rack donated by Sunmoon Ranch; a C.R. Morrison Trophy from the NRCHA; a Gist buckle sponsored by Cannon Quarter Horses; Platinum Performance from Doug Herthel; Back On Track Equine Therapeutic Products sponsored by Back On Track; and a monogrammed Cinch jacket from Bob's Custom Saddles/the New West.

Renshaw, a past NRCHA Futurity Non-Pro Champion with nearly \$300,000 on his lifetime cow horse record, took a "less is more" approach to training Genny's Prize in the hackamore.

"He felt really good today. I've only worked him maybe five times in the hackamore. I come from the Ted Robinson school of thought: don't put it on until you absolutely have to. He had his one hackamore run," Renshaw said, laughing.

Renshaw has his sights set on one more big show with Gennys Prize in 2014: the National Reining Breeder's Classic. Other than that, he plans to turn the gelding's reins over to his wife, Kim.

"My wife says she wants her horse," he said, smiling. "I'm going to train on him a little bit this winter and probably give him to her to go show."

The Non-Pro Hackamore Reserve Champion was Ze Kit Cat (Zeze's Pepto Cat x Hickory's Diabola x Doc's Hickory), shown by Lorna Neel. They scored a 135 in the rein work and a 144 in the cow work, earning \$2,970.

Run To Reno Champions

The first-ever Run To Reno Champions were crowned today at the NRCHA Futurity. The Run To Reno is a new cow-work-only competition for Non-Pro and Youth horse show competitors. The top fence work scores and the top boxing scores from the horse show classes at the NRCHA Stakes, Derby, Hackamore Classic, East Coast Reined Cow Horse Classic and Snaffle Bit Futurity were invited to compete, free of charge, in Reno. One cow - one run - with a \$1,000 paycheck and a Gist buckle to the Champion in both the fence and the boxing divisions.

The Run To Reno Fence Champion was Patty Ralls, Gainesville, Texas, riding her trusty Chromium Cowboy (A Chic In Time x Marvelous Miss x Mountain Creek). They scored a 146 to lead the field of 11 finalists.

In the boxing division, Trea Rice and Oh Cay N Short were tops among the 12 Run To Reno competitors, earning a 148 from the judges. Congratulations to all the Run To Reno finalists!

News from the National Reined Cow Horse Association

Sunday, Sept. 29, 2013

NRCHA Snaffle Bit Futurity Amateur & Non-Pro Limited Champions Crowned

When Tara Sagniere, Canyon, Texas, brought her home-bred mare and first futurity horse, Spark A Sunrise (Lena Spark x Kona Sunrise x SMF Lenas Award) to the NRCHA Snaffle Bit Futurity, she never dreamed she would bring home the Amateur Championship.

"It's been amazing. I thought we'd just skirt through and get this first one out of the way. I had no idea this would be a possibility," Sagniere said, smiling from ear to ear. "We knew she was good. We knew she had it in her. Being my first futurity, and it's such a big event, I just wanted to get my feet wet and get through it."



Tara Sagniere and Spark A Sunrise

Sagniere guided "Jenny," who is owned by the Sagniere Quarter Horse Partners, to scores of 202 in the herd work, 211.5 in the rein work and 211.5 in the cow work. The 625 composite score was tied with the Reserve Champion, Grant Lindaman II and Truckin Miraclena, but Sagniere had the higher fence score and won the tie breaker.

"She's a natural fence horse. That part's been easy for her. The dry work was her weakness and she really stepped it up with a 211.5 there. She got us a go-round check there. It's all just a little overwhelming. Way more than I expected," Sagniere said.

The Championship paid \$4,225 and came with numerous prizes: a Bob's Custom Saddle sponsored by Larry & Ellen Bell; a custom saddle rack donated by Sunmoon Ranch; a Gist Custom Buckle sponsored by Missy Capone; a CR Morrison Trophy from the NRCHA; a Classic Equine Polar Fleece Cooler from Classic Equine; a monogrammed Cinch jacket from Bob's Custom Saddles/ The New West; Platinum Performance Equine sponsored by Platinum Performance; Back On Track products from Back On Track; a custom framed Western print from John Arnoldussen of In Cahoots Gallery; and a 30x Hat from JW Brooks Custom Hats.

Sagniere trained Spark A Sunrise with help from Zeb Corvin, who stayed home from Reno awaiting the birth of his child. While competing at the Futurity, Sagniere relied on help from her childhood cow horse trainer, Lyn Anderson, who coached Sagniere from age 12 through 21. Sagniere also reconnected with some old friends; top NRCHA non-pro Tish Wilhite and her mother, Jo, who guided Sagniere's earliest riding career.

"Tish and Jo Wilhite taught me to ride when I was five, and got me into cow horse with Lyn. It's been a special event," she said. "I want to thank my family and friends for being so supportive, and Zeb for all of his help."

The Amateur Reserve Champions, Lindaman and Truckin Miraclena (NMSU Truckin Chex x Little Miraclena x Smart Retsina), scored a 207 in the herd work, 214 in the rein work and 204 in the cow work. They took home \$3,380, a Gist Custom Buckle sponsored by Crawford Performance Horses/Todd & Pam Crawford; a monogrammed Cinch jacket from Bob's Custom Saddles/ The New West; Platinum Performance Equine sponsored by Platinum Performance; Back On Track products from Back On Track; and a 30x hat from JW Brooks Custom Hats.

Non-Pro Limited Champion

The Non-Pro Limited Futurity, a herd work/rein work/boxing division for competitors who are not ready or able to compete in the ultimate challenge of the fence work, made its debut in Reno this year. The first ever NRCHA Non-Pro Limited Futurity Champion is Nicole Petty, Roseburg, Ore., who returned to cow horse competition after a five-year hiatus.

Petty rode Tangy Chexinic (Tangys Classy Peppy x Bueno Double Oakie x Bueno Chexinic), a gelding she owns with her husband, Bubba, to scores of 207 in the herd work, 214.5 in the rein work and 210 in the boxing. The combined 631.5 score paid \$1,280.

"I have a lot of health problems, and going down the fence was not an option for me any more. In order for me to show in the NRCHA, I had to get my Non-Pro Limited card back. I was very excited that the NRCHA added this 3-year-old event. You still feel included even though you can't go down the fence any more," Petty said.



Nicole Petty and Tangy Chexinic.

The Pettys bought Tangy Chexinic at the 2011 NRCHA Classic Yearling & Broodmare sale. He was a narrow, homely, big-headed colt, but there was something about him Nicole liked. The Pettys bought him for \$1,400. He developed into a solid performer, and quiet-natured enough that the Pettys' 3-year-old son rides him daily.

"He was a rough 2-year-old but Bubba got him really broke for me. Bubba was going to show him initially, but he found a different one, so I ended up with him back. He wanted to be amazing in the herd. I was super scared, and totally screwed up my first cut, but once I got settled back down he was great. He's really good on a cow. In the rein work, he was as good as I could have asked. In the boxing, our cow didn't want to move. It never even looked at us, but he stayed good and honest."

Petty thanked her family and friends for their support as she returned to the competitive arena.

"There is a huge group of people who made tis possible. My husband, who got my horse so broke for me, and Lance Johnston - he's been our dear friend and trainer for a lot of years, and my mother-in-law. If it wasn't for her, I wouldn't be able to ride, since I have three kids [ages 7 years to 20 months]. She comes and takes care of the kids every day so I can ride my horse."

The Non-Pro Limited Championship came with a Bob's Custom Saddle sponsored by Wilson & Susan Lyle; a custom saddle rack donated by Sunmoon Ranch; a Gist buckle sponsored by Chandler Ranch/Linda Wood & Polly Potocar; a CR Morrison Trophy from the NRCHA; a Classic Equine Polar Fleece Cooler from Classic Equine; a onogrammed Cinch jacket from Bob's Custom Saddles/ The New West; Platinum Equine sponsored by Platinum Performance; Back On Track products from Back On Track; and a 30x hat from JW Brooks Custom Hats.

The Non-Pro Limited Futurity Reserve Champion was Katie Wilson, riding High To You (Mr Boonsmal To You x MK Cats Little Kitty x High Brow Cat). They scored a 627 composite (205 herd/211 rein/211 cow). The Reserve Championship paid \$960 and came with a Gist custom buckle from the NRCHA; a monogrammed Cinch jacket from Bob's Custom Saddles/ The New West; Platinum Equine from Platinum Performance; Back On Track products from Back On Track; and a 30x Hat from JW Brooks Custom Hats.

Monday, Sept. 30, 2013

Jay McLaughlin and Blind Sided Lead NRCHA Futurity Open Rein Work Prelims and Open Composite

The dirt flew and spectators whistled as big scores highlighted the first day of Open, Intermediate Open and Limited Open rein work preliminaries at the National Reined Cow Horse Association Snaffle Bit Futurity in Reno, Nev.

Blind Sided (Peptoboonsmal x Lil Miss Shiney Chex x Shining Spark), shown by Jay McLaughlin for Aaron Ranch, turned in the high score of the rein work round, a 225. The roan stallion also leads the preliminary composite. He scored a 218 in the herd work for a total 443 on two events.



Blind Sided, shown by Jay McLaughlin and owned by Aaron Ranch, topped the Futurity Open rein work prelims and leads the Open after two events.

In the Intermediate Open division, the top rein work score, a 221.5, belonged to Smoking Red Pepper (Smokeelan x A Red Belle Pepper x Mister Dual Pep), shown by Shadd Parkinson, Scottsdale, Ariz., and owned by Alexis Murray.

The composite leader in the Intermediate Open division is Johnny, a grade gelding owned and shown by Clayton Edsall, Clements, Calif. Johnny won the Intermediate Open herd work round and tied for the lead in the Open with a 221, and then he scored a 216 in today's rein work, for a total 437 on two events.



Clayton Edsall and his own horse, a grade gelding named Johnny, lead the Futurity Intermediate Open preliminary composite.

Erin Taormino, Eagle Point, Ore., scored the high rein work in the Limited Open, a 220. Erin is riding Sugar Frosted Cat (Cats Merada x Sugar Her Freckles x Freckles Playboy), a mare she owns.

The composite leader in the Limited Open is Hickorys Holly Time (One Time Pepto x Hickorys Holly Cee x Doc's Hickory), shown by Kelby Phillips and owned by Garth and Amanda Gardiner, Ashland, Kansas. Phillips piloted Hickorys Holly Time to a 218 in the rein work and a 216.5 in the rein work for a total 434.5 on two events.

Phillips also is riding the second place horse in the Futurity Limited Open composite, Bed Head Cat (Wild Haired Cat x Isabellena x Quejanaisalena), also owned by the Gardiners. Bed Head Cat has a total 433 on two events (220 herd/213 rein).

The NRCHA Futurity preliminary action resumes Tuesday, Oct. 1 at 8:00 a.m. Pacific, with the conclusion of the Open rein work preliminaries. Horse show classes are also on the schedule: the Open Bridle and the Open Hackamore prelims take place in the afternoon, along with the Limited Open Bridle and Limited Open Hackamore classes.



Hickory Holly Time, shown by Kelby Phillips for Garth and Amanda Gardiner, leads the Futurity Limited Open after two events.