

Drought Buster Derby

April 16-18, 2010

Mc Cook, NE

Rhoda Rein 303/618-0749

WOW is the way to describe the 2010 Drought Buster Derby, April 16-18 in McCook, Neb. WOW! The entries were up 50% from 2009! There were 54 derby horses and the total payout increased to \$36,514. And, WOW, the weather was great! The April show earned its name at inception for the rain, cold and sometimes snow that always would accompany it.

The show wanted to WOW the people of McCook, and so it structured the weekend to offer some excitement for spectators. "We had the top 15 open derby contestants (top scores from herd and reined work) show their fence work runs at 6 p.m. in front of an audience," said show coordinator, Todd Thieszen. New for 2010 was a team calf branding held at 7 p.m.

"I wanted to get my community in McCook to see what the reined cowhorse is all about, so we showed them the fence work finals and a calf branding," said Thieszen. "This is a rural and horse-oriented community, they appreciate having activities in town for entertainment and also for the economic impact this show brings in."

Darren Miller, Watkins, Colo., and Monty Bruce, Northwood, Iowa, were proclaimed co-champions of the 25-entry open derby division. They had tying scores in the fence work and did not want to run off for the title. Miller rode Todd Thieszen's buckskin gelding, 5, Shiner Bock Nic, to score 72 points and tie Kyle Trahern riding his gelding MH Bold Intentions for second place in the reined work. Miller scored 73 points and tied for first place in the fence work with Bruce and Robbie Boyce riding Inna Calbar Spin.

Miller cashed a paycheck for \$2,578 aboard the gelding raised in McCook by Thieszen. He is by Night Time Shiner out of Diggers Diamond Nic. "He has gotten mature and solid this year in the reining, which has enabled him to succeed in the composite score and win some derbies," said Miller. "He is really cow smart and he takes care of himself in those categories. He is also really brave down the fence."

Monty Bruce rode Calzona Dancer, 4, to the open derby co-championship and also won the 22-entry \$5,000 Novice Horse Open Derby to earn \$4,001 in all. Owned by Stanley Tipman, she is by Boonlight Dancer. "She is a little bitty thing but has a ton of heart and try. This was her first big show, and she was good in the cutting, and I did not run her hard in the reining. I boxed a long time in the

fence work since it was her first run,” said Bruce. “I want to credit the man who provides me with cattle at my facility, Monty Branstead, without his help, I could not get my horses trained.”

Bruce participated in the team calf branding with his friends Cathy Coleman, Blue Allen and Jamie Olson. “That was the most fun that I have had in years,” said Bruce. Robbie Boyce was reserve champion in the novice horse derby riding Inna Calbar Spin for owners Peter and Debra Watson.

Colorado cowboy Kyle Trahern made his trip to Nebraska worthwhile, winning the limited open derby division and placing fourth in the open to earn \$1,659 riding his five-year-old gelding, MH Bold Intentions. “He is such a fun horse, I have shown him a lot this year and he has stayed so good,” said Trahern. “He is fun to ride down the fence and can handle any cow. It is great to have so many horse shows in our area. I have gotten better and more comfortable showing because of getting more experience. There are lots of opportunities to put a little money earnings on your horse.”

Trahern also participated in the calf branding contest with teammates Justin Tolle, Matt Cook and his younger brother, Chase Trahern. “It was a great show and it was so good to see friends from Texas and Minnesota,” said Trahern. “I think everyone will look forward to coming back to this show next year.”

EJ Laubscher, Colby, Kans., was reserve champion in the limited open derby and high score in the fence work portion riding Haidas San Sonita for owners Jane and Theron Johnson of Colby, Kans.

John Keller, Pueblo, Colo., won the 14-entry non pro derby and the 13-entry amateur derby class to earn \$1,270 riding his horse, Soula Nova, by Soula Jule Star. “This was his first show and my first derby ever,” said Keller. “My motto is ‘you can’t beat anyone else if you beat yourself’, I don’t pay attention to where I am in the standings.”

Trainer Jay Henson, Hugoton, Kans., trained the gelding for Keller, who owns and operates Equine Enclosures with his wife, Gretchen. Ted Swanson, Wellington, Colo., was reserve champion in both divisions riding Smokum Nicci.