

CRCA Futurity and Show  
Sept. 9-11, 2005 in Pueblo, Colo.  
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The Colorado Reined Cowhorse Association hosted their 10th futurity show Sept. 9-11 at the state fairgrounds in Pueblo, Colo. The club has flourished since its inception and the increases in attendance and prize money paid out reflect the growth of the sport. The show attracted 292 entries and paid out \$43,208 this year.

"The increase in prize money over a relatively short time is amazing," said club president, Jennifer Unzicker. She noted that since 1996, the show numbers for attendance and money have quadrupled. "The reputation that our show has year after year for great prizes is attributed to Jim and Jill Cook, who have maintained a good relationship with our annual trophy saddle sponsor, Brighton Feed and Saddlery."

Trainer Bozo Rogers of Carbon, Texas, had a great weekend in Colorado. He won the Open Futurity and Open Derby championships, earning lots of prizes and \$3859 in all. The wins were especially satisfying for Rogers as his dad, Ernie, was at the show with him. "Dad came with me in 2001 to this show and I won it that year, so now he claims he is my good luck charm," said Rogers. "I have lots of neat memories of the shows here and it is a fun place to show."

Rogers won the 33-entry Open Futurity riding Joe McWilliams' buckskin stallion, Lite Commander. He is sired by Bay Starlite and out of a daughter of Dun Commander. "He was good for me in the herd work, then I overshadowed him a little in the reined work," said Rogers. His 146 point fence work run earned him the championship buckle and trophy saddle. The show was held in a covered arena at the fairgrounds. Although the weather was nice during the show, there had been significant rainfall earlier in the week and the decision was made to use the covered pen. "It was nice to show in the shade. It was easier on the cattle for the herd work and also easier to get a good fence run going," said Rogers.

Drake Johnson of Wray, Colo., was reserve champion in the open futurity division and won the \$10,000 Limited Open division riding Cuttin My Chex. The pair earned \$2912 in all for owner Wendy Petersen's Little Rose Livestock of Chugwater, Wyo. The sorrel stallion is sired by Bobby Bo Badger and out of a daughter of Boon Bar. His granddam is Panzarita Chex, a King Fritz daughter who won many cowhorse titles.

"I was really happy with him. He was okay in the herd work. He can really turn around and marked 145 points in the reining with a lead drag penalty," said Johnson. "He stayed with his cow in the fence work, he was the most focused that he has ever been." Johnson is a veteran reiner and longtime NRHA judge, but comparatively new to the reined cowhorse sport. "Anyway you look at it, this is won down the fence. You just try to get all the points that you can in the other two events," said Johnson, who tied both his horses to win the reined work portion. He spent a few days earlier this year riding with Andy

Sherrard, Don Murphy and Todd Crawford. "Hats off to them, they all really put things in perspective for me and they had a lot to do with my success here," said Johnson.

Justin Lawrence won the herd work, scoring 145 points aboard Mike Preys' Colonel Nu Chex. Jamie Peters marked 146 points to tie Rogers for the high fence work prize money riding Miss Puro Cat for owner Newt White.

Jason Hershberger was reserve champion in the \$10,000 Limited Open division and placed third in the Open riding Docata Chic to earn \$1994 in all. The stallion is sired by Smart Chic Olena and owned by Hershberger's parents, Jon and Peggy. "My dad and I bought him as a yearling at the AQHA World Show sale. This is his first show and I am really happy with him as he was consistent in all three events," said Hershberger. "I really enjoy this show, it is a good trip from Arizona, I am only gone from home for four days." Hershberger has lots of reasons to be close to home as he and his wife, Nikki, have three boys, Wyatt, 7, Garrett, 3 and Gavin, 2.

Ryan Kelley of Edmond, Okla., won the \$1,000 Limited division riding Texie Callieroani for Kalpowar Quarter Horses. Raised by Kalpowar, she is sired by Masteroani and out of a Texas Kicker mare. Adam Hendrickson of Watkins, Colo., was reserve champion riding Sheza Lil High Mark for owner and breeder Cheryl Zesbaugh. She is sired by Heza Lil Peppia Nic and out of Slip Me A High Mark.

Tim Unzicker won the Stallion Stakes Open futurity division and was reserve champion in the Colorado Owner/Rider division riding Forty Six Redlights for the Magic Dog Ranch of Kiowa, Colo. Owner Jerry Peters purchased the son of Grays Starlight at the Polo Ranch sale as a yearling colt.

Monte Ricca of Cortez, Colo., won the Colorado Owner/Rider division riding Roosters Prima Donna for owner, Doug Simonson. Jack McComber of Rocky Ford, Colo., was reserve champion in the Stallion Stakes division riding A Wild Hangin, owned by his wife, Sylvia.

Mike Major of Fowler, Colo., won the 11-entry Non Pro Futurity and the \$5000 Amateur division riding his bay mare, Whiskeys Chick Stick. He and his wife, Holly, bred and raised the mare. She is sired by Smart Whiskey Doc, a son of Paddys Irish Whiskey, a product of his first colt crop. "I really enjoyed the show and was tickled to death to win," said Major, who primarily has shown in cutting and ranch versatility contests. "I drew a nice cow for my fence work, it ran pretty good down the fence, but was soft enough that my mare could handle it her first time shown."

Wyoming cowgirl Holly Marsh placed second and third in the Non Pro futurity division to earn \$1365 for her efforts. Her gelding, Wahoo Tadoo, had marked the highest score in the herd work to help him finish in the reserve spot. Marsh and her husband, Shawn, purchased him as a yearling from Mike and Tara Miller of Big Piney, Wyo. and he is sired by Colonels Oak. "He is big and laid back, smooth to ride and easy to teach," said Marsh.

Marsh rode Gunners Smart Kitty to win the reined work portion and place third in the contest. Marsh purchased her as a yearling from Don Strain and she is sired by Lenas Loaded Gun. "She is a lot of fun. She is wound a little tighter, but there is lots of potential in there," said Marsh.

Kylie Knight of Arizona was reserve champion in the \$5000 Amateur division riding her horse, Cielo Bonito. Gusti Buerger of Silt, Colo., also rode two futurity horses, winning the Colorado Owner/Rider championship and reserve titles and placing fourth and fifth in the non pro division. "I have learned a lot riding both of these horses and can't believe that I have been able to teach them," said Buerger, whose family raised both horses. Her mare, Little Badger Lena is sired by Starchex Badger and out of Proud Little Mavie. Her gelding is sired by Little Lenas Legend and out of Irish Crankie.

Travis Heare won the Stallion Stakes Non Pro futurity division riding LS Diggers Blues. Jennifer Unzicker was reserve champion riding her mare, Diggers Royal Chic. Both are sired by Diggers Rest, a son of Peppy San Badger.

The Open Derby class attracted 13 entries and paid out \$3900 in prize money. Bozo Rogers won the herd work portion and the overall championship riding One Smokin Chic for owners Steve and Michelle Anderson of Weatherford , Texas . She is a four year old paint mare sired by Freckle Faced Smoke and out of a daughter of Smart Chic Olena. She and Rogers have had a great show season, winning the junior cowhorse at the APHA World show and the Intermediate Open Derby at the SRCHA Summer Show in August. "She is real powerful and can run and stop real hard," said Rogers . "She is tiny but doesn't know it, we call her the Mighty Midget."

The mare was trained by Chubby Turner in cutting and has quickly taken to the reining and fence work. "She really likes circling a cow," said Rogers, who would like to thank Dustin Horn, an employee of Andersons , for recognizing the mare's cowhorse potential.

Tim Unzicker was likely the busiest contestant in the derby division, showing three mares to \$1971 in total earnings. He scored 148 1/2 points to win the reined work and reserve honors riding Smart Plain Pep for Runaway Creek Quarter Horses of Homeland, Calif. She is sired by Smart Little Pepinic and out of Miss Plain Dual. He placed fourth riding Play Missy Val, owned by Jerry Peters' Magic Dog Ranch of Kiowa, Colo. The four year old gray mare is sired by Playgun and out of a Smart Little Lena mare, Doc Missy Val. Unzicker placed fifth riding Paddys Stolen Heart, daughter of Paddys Irish Whiskey, for owner Patricia Geddes of Colorado Springs, Colo.

Travis Heare won the 9-entry Non Pro Derby riding his five year old gelding, Heza Smokin Peppy. The colt is sired by Heza Little Peppa Nic and out of Pennys Smokin Gun. "He is really nice to ride in a hackamore and he can really handle tough cattle so I was confident to show him," said Heare. His patience with the horse has paid off nicely for him. When Heare purchased him he had a severely bowed tendon that required nine

months of recovery. "I like him so much that I just bought his full sister to have and breed."

Heare works as an orthopedic oncologist and his wife, Denise, is a nurse. Between them, they have five children. "Showing young horses is just like taking a three year old kid to a fancy french restaurant, it is highly likely that you may be embarrassed," joked Heare. Gusti Buerger won reserve honors in the non pro derby riding her mare, A Little Too Crankie. "She marked her highest scores in the reining, which is unusual for her," said Buerger. "I enjoyed showing in the covered pen here, it was a nice change."

Judges Debbi Sanguinetti of Farmington , Calif. and Todd Williamson of Eagle, Idaho , called the scores. Two sets of ancillary classes were held and Gary Wiggins buckles were awarded to overall champions in those classes. For the third year, a jackpot contest was held in memory of Tom Wiplinger. Contestants had the option of entering and their fence run scores would count to win the jackpot. New for this year, a traveling trophy was awarded to memorialize Wiplinger. Not just any trophy, but a limited edition (5 of 12) bronze fence run statue created by renowned Wyoming artist, Ben France, a longtime supporter of the CRCA.

Proceeds from the contest are sent to support Wiplingers children, Jed and Nikki Jo of North Platte , Neb. Two non pro bridle contestants tied to win the bronze, each marking 148 1/2 points in their class. Patricia Geddes and John Keller will share the traveling trophy until the 2006 show.