



Highlights

of the High Life!



By PAT FEUERSTEIN

From short sleeves, to sweatshirts, to goose downs and snow boots — the weather at this year's NRHA Futurity & Adequan North American Affiliate Championship Show presented a challenge to all who gathered in Oklahoma City from November 23 through December 2. But, of course, Reining enthusiasts take things in stride. Besides, there were bigger challenges to face in OKC. And those challenges took place in the show pen!

Randy Paul and Taris Designer Genes Win 2006 NRHA Futurity Open Division!

Randy Paul's NRHA career has spanned 20 years and it's been an undeniable success. He had over \$732,000 in NRHA Lifetime Earnings, but then added \$125,000 plus to that figure on December 2. He 'ran for the roses' and walked out of the show pen with the coveted garland across his horse's neck.

Randy and Taris Designer Genes, owned by Rancho Oso Rio, won the \$100,000 added Open Division of the 41st NRHA Futurity with a score of 227. Taris Designer Genes is by Mr Boomerjac and out of Taris Little Vintage, dam of the 1999 NRHA Futurity Champion Hollywood Vintage, then owned by Kay and Alan Needles and shown by Dell Hendricks. Taris Designer Genes also earned the first place Sire & Dam Program's Futurity Open Sire Award, \$18,614.10 for Mr Boomerjac's owners, Bob LaPorta and George Easterday.

Brian Bell was Reserve Champion by just a half point on Collenas Finest Taty (Footwords Finest x Collena Chic Olena), owned by Double Run Farm. Spurred on no doubt by his boisterous cheering section (led by Brian's dad, George), Bell was primed and ready to win himself a prize — and he did — \$103,110.96! Mike McEntire rode The Great Guntini (Gunner [APHA Colonels Smokingun] x Miss Wicked Filena), owned



Photo by Bucky Harris

Randy and Andi Paul share the 2006 NRHA Futurity Open Division victory at a press conference after the event. Randy won the prestigious title on Rancho Oso Rio's Taris Designer Genes.

by John Faulkner, to third place. He earned \$76,542.49 plus an additional \$2,500 from the American Paint Horse Association as the Paint Preferred Award Winner.

Shawna Sapergia won the Futurity's \$50,000 added Elite Trailer Intermediate Open Division the hard way — in a runoff with Matt Florida. Shawna rode This Chics On Top (Smart Chic Olena x This Chex On Top), owned by Outrider Ranch, Ltd. Matt rode Custom Blackberry (Custom Crome x Be Berry Sweet), owned by Craig Jobe.

The winner of the \$10,000 added Limited Open Division is determined by the composite score of the two qualifying go rounds. Arno Honstetter's score of 441 on Gunnin For Dia-



Kelle Smith, shown here with husband Sam, and JD Conquista Anna won the Cinch NRHA \$60,000 added Non Pro Futurity. This was Smith's second Non Pro Futurity win.

monds (Like A Diamond x BH Top Gun), owned by Juston Palmer, won the Division and earned a slot in the Open Finals as well as the APHA \$5,000 Gelding Incentive Award. John Irish was the Limited Open Reserve Champion on Chex This Melody Out (Chex That Out x Tularosa Melody), owned by H.J. and Terry Hanscom. Irish also performed in the Open Finals.

Roberta McCarty won the Futurity's Prime Time Open Division on Shine All The Chex (Shine On [AQHA Shiny Fandango] x Taco Chex), owned by Sherilyn Held. Western Whiz, ridden by Shawn Florida for owners Sam and Nell Ely, won the NRHA Open Gelding Incentive Award.

It was "Ladies Night" in the Futurity's Open Divisions this year. Taris Designer Genes is a mare, as is Collenas Finest Taty. This is the first Futurity Open Division victory for a mare since Silver Anniversary (AQHA Two T Whisky Royal), ridden by Doug Milholland for Terry Hunt in 1990. The Intermediate Open Champion, This Chics On Top, is also a mare. The clean sweep spoiler was Honstetter's Gunnin For Diamonds — a gelding.

Kelle Smith Wins Cinch NRHA Non Pro Futurity

Carrying the "Ladies Night" theme a step further — Kelle Smith won the Cinch NRHA \$60,000 added Non Pro Futurity on JD Conquista Anna, a daughter of Conquistador Whiz and out of Hollywood Anna. This was Smith's second Non Pro Futurity win; she also won the event in 2003 on See Ya At Seven. George Shifrin, owner of Conquistador Whiz, earned \$6,204.70 in NRHA Sire & Dam Sire Award money as the owner of the sire of the Cinch NRHA Non Pro Futurity Champion.

Mandy McCutcheon was the Reserve Champion on I Spin For Chics (Tangys Classy Peppy x Chics Koko Angel), owned by her father, Tim McQuay, and third on SLJ Sweet N Juicy, owned by Mandy and her husband Tom. SLJ Sweet N Juicy is a daughter of Smart Like Juice and out of Jacks My Sugar Daddy.

John McCarty won the \$25,000 added Intermediate Non Pro Division and the Prime Time Non Pro Division on his gelding Top Dun Cody Rose (Top Dun [AQHA Top Dun Cody] x Fritzie Rose). There was a tie for second place between Melony Jayne Jackson riding her Lil Ruf Whiz Quiz (Lil Ruf Peppy x Pretty Ms Qhiz) and Chad Clark riding Hailstorm Jaci (Shine Like Hail x Cowboys Mysti Jac).

Seventeen-year-old Clayton Eggers made his first trip to the Cinch NRHA Non Pro Futurity worthwhile. Following a runoff with Nadine Galbraith, he won the \$10,000 added Limited Non Pro Division, the inaugural Non Pro Youth



Roberta McCarty was the one and only woman in the Futurity Open Division Finals. She earned the Prime Time championship on Shine All The Chex owned by Sherilyn Held.