



North American Regional Affiliate Finals

Northeastern U.S. Regional Affiliate Finals and the Tradition Futurity

BY KAREN SHEDLAUSKAS • PHOTOGRAPHY BY KIRKBRIDE

COMPETITION HIGHLIGHTS

Schoeller Sweeps Affiliate Open Finals; Smith and Bell Share Futurity Win

THE CHAMPIONS CENTER, SPRINGFIELD, Ohio, was alive with reining action September 6-9, and provided a fabulous showcase for the sport of Reining. The Northeastern U.S. Regional Affiliate Finals were hosted by the Ohio Valley Reining Horse Association (OVRHA) and held in conjunction with The Tradition Futurity, sponsored by Leonard Truck & Trailer, Inc.

When the dust settled after a weekend of tough competition, Robin Schoeller was an affiliate finals standout, and Sam Smith and Brian Bell co-championed the futurity.

Affiliate Open

McMega Mac owned by Beth Himes, Millersport, Ohio, and ridden by Schoeller was the McChampion in multiple classes. "This was a goal for us from the beginning of the show season," explained Himes. "Earlier this year I wanted to see Robin qualify to take Mac to the finals and win a trophy saddle with him. We got both done today!"

Schoeller, who is an assistant to NRHA Leading Money-Earner, Two Million Dollar Rider and NRHA Professional Shawn Florida, marked a 144 to claim the open and intermediate open affiliate championships as well as the NRHA intermediate open class and the NRHA Pard's Saddle Series open championships. "He was so good today," said Schoeller. "He was right where he needed to be every time."

Mac has been shown throughout the season by both Schoeller and Himes and is leading several divisions in the OVRHA standings and put quite a few points on the board for the OVRHA team.

The six-year-old chestnut gelding is sired by NRHA reserve world champion and United States Equestrian Federation Gold and Silver medalist Marthas Mega Jac and out of Nurse Heiry.

William Clark, riding Docs Peppy San Two for Karen Black, Winchendon, Massachusetts,

earned the limited open affiliate finals title. Docs Peppy San Two is a seven-year-old bay stallion by Dots Warbler and out of Peppys Missy Thumb. Clark was riding for the Northeast Reining Horse Association (NERHA).

Rand Hillman was named the eastern affiliate rookie professional champion as well as topping the NRHA rookie professional class. Representing the OVRHA in the team competition, Hillman rode Special Kinda Jazz, owned by Lovern Puccio, Middletown, Ohio. The horse is sired by NRHA open world champion Gunners Rambo and out of Docs Pistol Jazzi.

The NRHA novice horse open division and affiliate champion was Cutter Senbar, owned by Jonny Rath, Leeds, New York, and ridden by Dutch Chapman representing EPRHA. The four-year-old sorrel gelding is sired by Smart Like Juice and out



Riding Beth Himes' McMega Mac, Robin Schoeller won the open and intermediate open affiliate finals and the NRHA Pard's Saddle Series Open.

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Sam Smith (left) riding The Dude Is Ruf battled for the Tradition Futurity title with Brian Bell riding Big Stoppin McCain. In the end, the two NRHA Professionals decided a co-championship was best for their horses.

of Miss Cutter Senbar. This fancy gelding has been doing double duty all year and has taken both Chapman and Rath to the winner's circle.

Affiliate Non Pro

Domenick Bianchi rode his own Custom Attraction to the non pro affiliate championship with a score of 144. They also earned the NRHA non pro co-championship when they tied with Rick Christen aboard Enchiladas Tuff Kid, as well as the non pro division of the NRHA Pard's Saddle Series. Custom Attraction, a seven-year-old bay gelding, is by Million Dollar Sire and NRHA Futurity champion Custom Crome and out of Dry Reba. Custom Attraction and Bianchi represented EPRHA.

"I couldn't believe how good he showed today," Gloria Bradley said about her limited non pro affiliate champion. Colonels Smokin Bueno stepped up to the plate with a nice score of 143.5; the duo claimed the title as well as the limited non pro class.

The very next day, Bradley saddled her four-year-old Paint gelding and never expected to find herself in the winner's circle again. "I would never have thought it would happen again, let alone the very next day," she said about her back-to-back wins. Gloria and "Geronimo" marked another 143.5 the next day and captured the intermediate non pro championship as well as the co-championship in the NRHA intermediate non pro class.

To top off an almost near perfect weekend, the duo also claimed the non pro reserve championship. Colonels Smokin Bueno is sired by the newest Million

Dollar Sire and Hall of Famer, Gunner, and out of Talley's Crystal. Gloria represented the Central Kentucky Reining Horse Association (CKRHA).

Kimberly Tillman rode her own Dualin Jac to win the novice horse non pro affiliate championship as well as the novice horse open reserve championship. Dualin Jac, a four-year-old gelding, is sired by Dualin Gun and out of Flashy Tackie Jac.

The Prime Time non pro affiliate championship class was a shoot out between friends and neighbors Roy Flynn and Rick Ramsey. Each boasted in the make-up pen and challenged the other. It was quite a sight! In the end, Flynn, Rush, Kentucky, triumphed riding his own Silver Benz with a score of 142. Flynn, who has been a novice horse non pro reserve world champion, is currently leading the Prime Time non pro standings and is being chased down the road by his wife, Sue. Silver Benz, is a handsome sorrel stallion by Smart Starbuck and out of Cow Patty (AQHA Silversnow Pinestep). Flynn has been showing the blaze-faced stallion for the last two years in aged events as well as Category 2 competition and was representing the OVRHA at the affiliate finals.

The rookie class competition is always top notch at the Northeastern finals and this year was no different. Thirty-five rookie riders competed to earn a spot in the coveted *Performance Horse* Rookie of the Year finals. This year, two riders rose to the top and shared the championship. Rebecca Frost, Lexington, Kentucky, and Jaime Matheson, Cambridge, Ohio, tied to win the affiliate rookie class as well as the NRHA rookie class.

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Frost was riding her own RHM Nus Flash and represented the CKRHA. RHM Nus Flash is by multiple NRHA world champion Nu Chex To Cash and out of Zans Red Gold. The-eight-year old sorrel mare has been a consistent performer for Frost throughout the show season, and they are currently leading the rookie standings for CKRHA.

NRHA NORTHEASTERN U.S. REGIONAL AFFILIATE FINALS

OPEN

HORSE	RIDER	OWNER
1. McMega Mac	Robin Schoeller	Elizabeth Himes
2. A Genuine Remedy	Toby Tyler	Toby Tyler
3. Hesa Tivito	Stephen Siadik Jr	Nikki Payne
4. (tie) Kali The Great	Scott Loomis	Pamela Goldfield
4. (tie) West Coast Melody	Margaret Fuchs	Frank Costantini

INTERMEDIATE OPEN

HORSE	RIDER	OWNER
1. McMega Mac	Robin Schoeller	Elizabeth Himes
2. A Genuine Remedy	Toby Tyler	Toby Tyler
3. Gunners Pearl	David Williams	Michael Foxx
4. Hesa Tivito	Stephen Siadik Jr	Nikki Payne

LIMITED OPEN

HORSE	RIDER	OWNER
1. Docs Peppy San Two	William Clark	Karen Black
2. Saucony Chex	Cindy Bryden	Marie Cavallon
3. HQH Check Please	Martina Morell	Cecilia May Hylton
4. (tie) Pale Slider	Martina Morell	Val Halbantian
4. (tie) Lenas Noble Prize	Jennifer Hoyt	Leigh Garber

Rookie Professional

HORSE	RIDER	OWNER
1. Special Kinda Jazz	Randi Hillman	Lovern Puccio
2. (tie) Ima Lucky Chexalena	Zane Scofield	Cedar Rock Farm
2. (tie) Chexys Lady In Red	Anja Kuhlmann	Elizabeth Pino
2. (tie) Beautiful Lil Whiz	Scott McFarland	Helen Chamberlain

Novice Horse Open

HORSE	RIDER	OWNER
1. Cutter Senbar	Dutch Chapman	Jonny Rath
2. (tie) Zaragosa	Mal McGuire	Anna Zinkhon
3. (tie) Dualin Jac	Kimberly Tillman	Kimberly Tillman
4. SCF Wont Miss	Nicholas Baar	Lorri Petersen



Left to right: Randi Hillman and Dutch Chapman.



Jose Vazquez won The Tradition Futurity non pro division for the second year in a row on offspring of his stallion, Smart Like Juice. This year's mount was Dun It With A Flair, who also captured the non pro mare division and the non pro division of The Tradition Sale Futurity.

The second member of the championship duo was Jaime Matheson riding her own Scoopers Last, representing the OVRHA. Matheson purchased the show-ring veteran last fall and has been earning rookie class pay checks all year long. In fact, this duo is leading the OVRHA rookie standings. Sired by Scooper C Poco and out of NRHA reserve world champion Royal Blue Berry, Scoopers Last is a 17-year-old palomino gelding who returned to the show ring last year after a 10-year break.

Affiliate Youth

The youth divisions and team tournament took precedence on Sunday and all the kids had a great time. Winning the youth 13 & under affiliate championship was Sammy Head riding the veteran show horse Just A Bit Of Pine. Head and her trusty palomino gelding represented the CORHA. The 12-year-old gelding is sired by Rollin With The Flow and out of Little Bit. Head also earned the reserve championship in the NRHA youth 13 & under class.

Ian Barnard and his trusty gelding, Got it Dun, rode to the 14-18 youth championship for the Michigan Reining Horse Association (MRHA). Barnard has teamed up with this talented bay for the last few years, accumulating many wins including the 2005 AQHYA Youth Reining world championship. Got It Dun, seven, is by Five Million Dollar Sire and Hall of Famer Hollywood Dun It and out of Last Little Lena. This fancy team also earned the NRHA 14-18 youth class reserve championship.

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Freestyle Action

For the second consecutive year, Kim Crupper, Paris, Kentucky, dominated both the open and non pro freestyle divisions. Last year she entertained us as Mustang Sally on her way to the NAAC non pro freestyle championship. This year, her costume was a little more demure as she donned her wedding gown and Quick Enterprise, owned by Allen Crupper, sported two large wings. She performed to the song "My Last Dollar" by Tim McGraw and brought the crowd to their feet.

Quick Enterprise, who has been her freestyle partner for the last few years, is a seven-year-old gelding sired by multiple world champion Jac Be Quick and out of Prise N Shine. Quick Enterprise has also been an NAAC intermediate non pro champion with Kim's husband, Allen, in the saddle.

The open and non pro reserve champion was Big Show Stopper, owned by Alan Frye and shown by Kara Frye. The seven-year-old bay gelding is by Big Stop and out of Steppin Betsy.

Tradition Futurity

The Tradition Futurity is an annual stop on many reiners' calendars each fall. This year was no different with 11 futurity divisions as well as two special divisions related to the Tradition Sale. The futurity was the main event on Saturday afternoon and NRHA judges Terry Thompson, Sherry Dooley, and Mark Turner marked the cards.



Jeff Kirkbride rode KR Hickory Hurricane to the intermediate non pro division championship and reserve in the non pro division.

Co-champions

The \$15,000-added open futurity boasted 23 entries and provided a lot of great reining for spectators. Ohio NRHA Professional Sam Smith set an early pace aboard The Dude Is Ruf, a gelding owned by Smart Like Juice, Inc. Despite his early draw, Smith gave the crowd something to cheer about with his dynamic circles and deep stops. The judges liked what they saw and Smith posted a score of 216.5. With 43 horses in the draw, Smith put up his horse and found a seat in the bleachers to wait.

OVRHA TRAINER CHALLENGE

Earlier this year Ohio trainer Ron Kohlhoff was diagnosed with and is currently receiving treatment for multiple myeloma, a rare type of leukemia. Ron and his wife Sylvia are both horse trainers, and, although they have health insurance, a portion of expenses for chemotherapy and prescriptions aren't covered by insurance, which has created a financial burden for the family.

It can be said that when one of our own is down, others will reach out to help. During the Northeastern U.S. Regional Affiliate Finals and The Tradition Futurity, Ron's fellow horse trainers reached out to help in a big way. The Trainer Challenge came about in an effort to help ease the financial burdens brought on by any serious illness.

NRHA Professional and Two Million Dollar Rider Shawn Flarida and his wife Michele stepped up to the plate first and pledged \$3,000 and challenged other trainers to donate until a goal of \$20,000 was reached. Not only was the goal reached, it also exceeded everyone's expectations.

Anyone who's tried to gather a group of trainers at one time in one place knows it's like herding pigeons; they're sort of all over the place. But when they learned it was to support Ron, they were all where they were supposed to be, and when they were supposed to be. Show Manager Beth Himes explained the Trainer Challenge concept, and the pledges immediately came rolling in.

Mike Flarida pledged a portion of all his clients' training bills for the month of September, which was matched by NRHA Professional Mike McEntire. It was moving to watch the out-pouring of support for Ron.

The Trainer Challenge was supplemented by a silent auction organized by Terry Bayless. Carlee Mahajan, from the Central Ohio Reining Horse Association (CORHA), sold squares in custom quilts, which would raise \$8,000 per quilt.

If you would like to make a donation to Ron and his family, you can find details at www.ovrha.com.

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Smith remained unchallenged until almost the end of the draw. NRHA Professional Brian Bell, aboard Dee Dee Callahan's Big Stoppin McCain, entered the pen. Bell called on his mare in every maneuver and she delivered every time. As he strolled to the out-gate, his matching score of 216.5 was announced.

When he caught his breath, Bell met up with Smith, and they discussed what they would do if their tie stood up. "I told him we were going to run," Bell said with a big laugh. "And run fast!" The good friends quickly decided that a co-championship would be best for both of their horses and headed for the awards ceremony.

The Dude Is Ruf is a three-year-old by NRHA Million Dollar Sire Lil Ruf Peppy and out of Miss

Great Dude by Hall of Famer Great Pine. "I traded for this horse as a yearling," explained Jose Vazquez of Smart Like Juice, Inc. "I really liked him, and I was pleased when Sam liked him too." Smith has had the horse in training for over a year and was equally pleased with his performance in Springfield. "I had shown him once before, and we were second in the OVRHA Futurity in Jackson, Ohio," added Smith. Not only did The Dude Is Ruf tie to win the open division, he also took home the gelding division paycheck for Vazquez.

Big Stoppin McCain is a three-year-old mare by Big Stop and out of Miss B H Pine (AQHA Misty Eyed BH Pine) by Crome Plated Pine. "Dee Dee bought this mare from my dad as a yearling," Bell said about the pretty sorrel mare. "I showed her at

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NON PRO

HORSE	RIDER
1. Custom Attraction	Domenick Bianchi
2. Colonels Smokin Bueno	Gloria Bradley
3. (tie) Got It Dun	Ian Barnard
3. (tie) Silver Benz	Roy Flynn

INTERMEDIATE NON PRO

HORSE	RIDER
1. Colonels Smokin Bueno	Gloria Bradley
2. (tie) Got It Dun	Ian Barnard
2. (tie) Silver Benz	Roy Flynn
4. Brilliant Guns	Rick Ramsey

LIMITEDNON PRO

HORSE	RIDER
1. Colonels Smokin Bueno	Gloria Bradley
2. A Genuine Remedy	Ryan Tyler
3. Show Me The Chick	Dawn Burnett
4. (tie) Kali The Great	Pamela Goldfield
4. (tie) Coyote Sunset	Dr. Ronald Kantner
4. (tie) Sailor In Command	Michael Shassberger

PRIME TIME NON PRO

HORSE	RIDER
1. Silver Benz	Roy Flynn
2. Brilliant Guns	Rick Ramsey
3. Ima Ugly Stick	Susan Flynn
4. WF Talk About Thing	Joe Wolfe

NOVICE HORSE NON PRO

HORSE	RIDER
1. Dualin Jac	Kimberly Tillman
2. (tie) Coyote Sunset	Dr. Ronald Kantner
2. (tie) Whiz N On The Spark	Bill Bradley
4. (tie) McMega Jac	Elizabeth Himes
4. (tie) WF Talk About Thing	Joe Wolfe



Top to bottom: Domenick Bianchi, Gloria Bradley and Kimberly Tillman

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the Double Run Futurity in July, but we had a few penalties that kept us out of the money. She was great here though!" The other half of the co-champion team earned the mare division for Callahan. Both horses were headed to the All American Quarter Horse Congress as well as the NRHA Futurity.

Pretty Nifty Win

Brandy Murphy, another Ohio trainer, topped the intermediate open and the limited open divisions aboard her own Skeets Nifty. With a little bit of everything in the plus column, Murphy squeaked by the early leader with a half point. The sorrel gelding is by Skeets Peppy and out of Pretty Nifty BH by Hall of Famer Be Aech Enterprise.

Skeets Nifty has been in the Murphy's barn for over a year and was purchased by Murphy earlier

this year. He was ridden as a two-year-old primarily by her husband, Terry, and Brandy took the reins earlier this summer. "I showed him at the OVRHA Futurity in early September," she explained. Although they had a great ride, too many steps back in the middle of the pen resulted in a zero score. It was clear that Murphy had those issues resolved when she walked through the gate in Springfield.

Deon Locke, the 2006 Tradition Intermediate Open and Limited Open Co-champion, returned this year to claim the intermediate open division reserve championship. This year he was riding Annas Lil Gun, by Lil Gun (APHA Colonels Lil Gun) and out of Fancy Anna by Scenic Star Mark, owned by Sable N. Allen. Dunit Little Star, owned by Priscilla Jacquard and shown by Pete Defreitas, earned the limited open reserve championship.

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NON PRO

HORSE	RIDER
1. (tie) Scoopers Last	Jaime Matheson
1. (tie) RHM Nus Flash	Rebecca Frost
3. Whizards Wright On	Jason Montague
4. Hollywood Potential	Daphne Ross
4. Torque	Audrey Engberg

YOUTH 13 & UNDER

HORSE	RIDER
1. Just A Bit Of Pine	Sammy Head
2. Miss Holly Skipper	Kristen Wesoja
3. Dodsons Start	Bradley Hill
4. Lenas Grace	Royce Kantner

YOUTH 14-18

HORSE	RIDER
1. Got It Dun	Ian Barnard
2. Wittle Man Whizard	Vincenzo Santos
3. Travel Whiz Me	Austin Griffith
4. A Genuine Remedy	Ryan Tyler



Top to bottom: Jaime Matheson and Rebecca Frost.
Left to right: Sammy Head and Ian Barnard.