

# KELLE SMITH



Kelle Smith rode Taka Ticket to the Non-Pro Championship with a 222.

Smith's friends, non-pro rider Karen Shedlauskas and professional trainer Jerry Coleman. "I looked at other horses, but it really was an easy decision."

Taka Ticket was in training with Abby Boyd Mixon.

"As soon as Abby loped him, mom and I loved him," Smith said. "Abby rode him on a huge track where you can really run. He's an unbelievable stopper - a real natural."

Smith's husband, Sam, encouraged the purchase. It was already late in July and he felt his wife needed a horse she could jump on and ride. Taka Ticket filled the bill.

Smith was draw 11 in a field of 15. She had to beat a score of 220. She did so

## Non-Pro Reining Stakes

When Kelle Smith realized that none of her futurity prospects were going to be top contenders, she took action.

"It was getting to be late and I didn't have a futurity horse," she explained. "That's when Joyce and I went on a road trip."

Joyce is Smith's mom, Joyce Chamberlain. The last time they went shopping for a prospect, Chamberlain picked a winner: Smith's 2006 NRHA Non-Pro Futurity Champion JD Conquista Anna.

"We had quite a few horses to look at, but he was the one I was most interested in," Smith said of Taka Ticket, by Gallo Del Cielo out of Significant Shine by Shining Spark. The gelding came highly recommended by two of

very nicely with huge stops, quick spins and her typically precise circles, and scored a 222 for the Championship.

"I think I did incredibly well for getting him so late," Smith said. On the other hand, Kelle has a history of doing incredibly well with 3-year-olds.

"They are my favorites," she



Jose Vazquez and What A Juice Chic were the Non-Pro Futurity Reserve Champions.

explained. "I just really like the whole process. Every experience is a building block. For the first couple of times I show one, I just want to gain their confidence. I don't mind doing that. I get confidence in them and they get confi-

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dence in me. The ones that I can really bond with - it's the best feeling ever."

Jose Vazquez was first in the pen on SLJ Dun Juice. They scored a 220 and finished third overall. But Vazquez still earned second-place money. He was the Reserve Champion on What a Juicy Chic with a score of 221.



Carlie Thompson and Major Smart Buck took the Limited Non-Pro.



Gary Achtenhagen and Shiney Cuff Lynx were the Limited Non-Pro Reserve Champions.

What a Juicy Chic, by Smart Like Juice out of Tari What by Doctor What, is a home-grown product of Vazquez's breeding program. Smart Like Juice is owned by Vazquez's Smart Like Juice Inc.

"We started her at home as a 2-year-old," Vazquez said. "Then Gabe [Hutchins] put the finish on her. She's the easiest horse I've ever ridden. She's great minded. I just have to decide what speed I want to go and she does it."

Vazquez has been known to boogie in the show pen.

"Yes, sometimes I like to go fast," he admitted. "I know it's risky, but when it works, it pays. If the control is there, it shows how broke your horse is, and she's very well-trained."

Vazquez and his filly are heading to Oklahoma City.

"Right now, I'm just thinking how I'll get to the finals," he said. "If I make the finals, then I'll think differently. I'll think to win!"