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THE 2018 IRHA/IRHBA/NRHA OPEN FUTURITY: FONCK RIDES SPOOK SUNBURST TO THE LEVEL 4 OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP AND UNOFFICIALLY SURPASSES THE NRHA TWO MILLION DOLLAR MARK



An amazing night of competition in front of a full house closed the €647.000-added IRHA/IRHBA/NRHA Futurity. The event not only made history by offering the highest added money in Europe, it also attracted the largest number of horses ever taking part in a European reining event — over 700. Yet another National Reining Horse Association (NRHA) milestone was crossed in Cremona: unofficially, NRHA Professional Bernard Fonck crossed the Two Mil-

lion Dollar mark becoming the first European to do so; Cira Baeck became Europe's first lady reiner to cross the NRHA Million Dollar Mark and the only female open rider to join the elite club from the Old Continent.

Two professionals from Belgium also took top honors in the €265.000-added Level (L)4 Open Championship; Fonck claimed the Championship and Baeck the Co-reserve title.

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Fonck rode Spook Sunburst, a gelding by multiple past NRHA Open and Non Pro World Champion Great Sun Burst out of All About Spook. The duo performed to perfection; their incredible spins thrilled the crowd, as did the rest of the pattern. The fans in the stands cheered him on from the first to last maneuver. Once they closed their run, a 227.5 appeared on the score board. “This week, I didn’t feel that my horse was responding the way I wanted him to, but then he started getting better and tonight he was great,” said Fonck about the horse owned by Koen Symoens and bred by Manuel Bonzano. “He is by Great Sun Burst, and reminds me a lot of his sire who I always believed would pass on his great talent. Winning the IRHA Open Futurity title this year was on my wish-list, along with claiming the individual gold at the World Equestrian Games and I have to thank my wife for being my partner in life and in business.”

What wasn’t in the plans for 2018 was surpassing the two-million-dollar mark in NRHA competition, though it has always been one of Fonck’s goals. “This evening has been

amazing and I have to compliment the Italian Reining Horse Association for putting together this prestigious event,” he said.

Fonck was also the recipient of the beautiful Champion’s Ring, sponsored by MS Diamonds TX, as well as a saddle sponsored by IRHA/Serafino Repetti amongst other awards. Renowned non pro and Italian breeder Manuel Bonzano won the IRHBA (Italian Reining Horse Breeding Association) Best Stallion award.

Co-reserve L4 honors with a 226 score went to Cira Baeck and NF Shining Whiz (Colonels Shining Gun x Whowhizthispeppyhic), a mare owned by David Perneel and Kim Windy and bred by David Perneel, and Guglielmo Fontana on Oak Smoking Face (Pale Face Dunit x Genuine Benito Pap), a stallion owned by Giulia Amolaro and bred by Daniel Moro.

CSG Copyshot under Lukas Czechowick wins L3 3-year-old Open Futurity Championship

It took a 224 and a team all about Poland to win the €75,000-added L3 Open Championship: Lukas Czechowick — head trainer for Roleski Ranch, and his mount CSG Copyshot (Colonels Shining Gun x Finest Copyshot), owned and bred by Katarzyna Roleska, gave it all they had laying down an amazing and powerful run. “I truly gave it all I had and risked it all tonight!” said Czechowick. “Winning with a horse that is by a Roleski owned stallion, the great ‘Jo Jo,’ who was born at Roleski Ranch and who I broke and trained is the best thing that could ever happen. This horse is an amazing athlete with a great mind but if I had to define his best quality, it’s his heart!” Roleska also took home the IRHBA incentive program Best Breeders Award trophy.

Taking reserve honors with a 223 was Italian Manuel Cortesi aboard PC Tinsel Whiz (NRHA Million Dollar Sire Hollywoodstinseltown x PC Sliderina Whiz), a stallion bred



CSG Copyshot under Lukas Czechowick wins L3 3-year-old Open Futurity Championship

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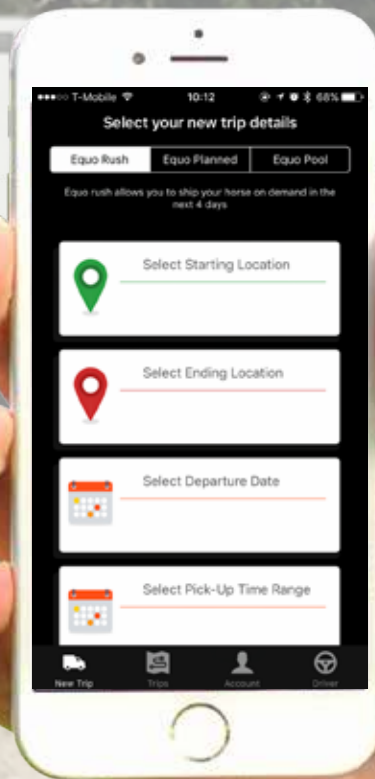
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Walla Whiz A Dun It and Gal Grahelj Dominate L2 and L1 3-year-old Open Futurity Championship

It was a great night for Gal Grahelj of Slovenia who conquered both the €20,000-added L2 and €10,000-added L1 Open Championships by scoring a 222.5 aboard Walla Whiz A Dun It, owned by Katja Zrimsek, between the reins. The stallion by NRHA Two Million Dollar Sire Walla Walla Whiz out of The Bun Is Dun was bred by Susan Jones and is a Marketplace Sale graduate. "When we purchased this horse at the Markel Insurance Marketplace Sale in Oklahoma City and brought him back home, we knew he would be a good one yet, he surprised us all by turning out to be an incredible horse under every aspect," said Grahelj who qualified his horse in four levels in the finals. "I broke and trained him myself and he's always been very easy and extremely talented. Showing here at the Italian Futurity was in the plans and he was great for me from the qualifiers until tonight. I showed for the first time at the 2013 NRHA Euro Futurity so, taking home two titles in Europe's most prestigious event is a dream come true."

The reserve championship in the L2 Open division with a 219 went to Call Me Lil Josie (Lil Joe Cash x Call Me N

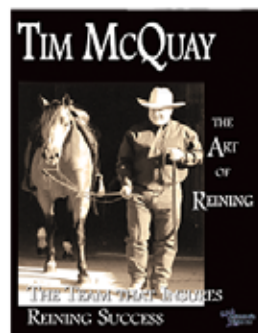
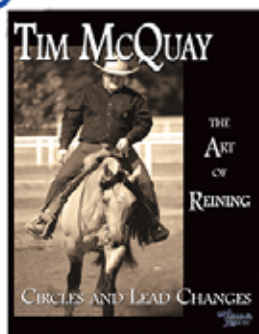
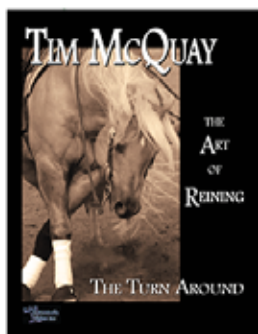
Hollywood), a mare ridden by Tomas Martinek and owned by Wolfgang Hammer.

Tying for reserve honors in the L1 Open Futurity with a 215 were Lena-Marie Maas and her ER Custom Bleach



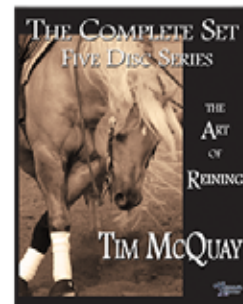
Walla Whiz A Dun It and Gal Grahelj Dominate L2 and L1 3-year-old Open Futurity Championship

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(Custom Cash Advance x Snappy Bleach), a mare bred by Elisabetta Raviola, and Michael Saupe riding Smart N Surprising (NRHA Five Million Dollar Sire Smart Spook x

Just Miss Enterprise), a stallion bred by Nuith Linthorst and owned by Daniela Saupe.

THE SANTA HILL RANCH IRHA/ IRHBA/NRHA 3-YEAR-OLD NON PRO FUTURITY: NOGUE AND A WHIZ N CASH TAKE IT ALL!

The Cremona Fiere oval arena lit up on Friday night as the €100,000-added Santa Hill IRHA/IRHBA/NRHA 3-year-old Non Pro Futurity finalists performed. Making history by being the first rider from Spain to conquer the prestigious title in Italy was Andreu Nogue Puig who took the Level 4, 3, 2, 1 Championships riding his A Whiz N Cash. In a field of 40 riders across the four levels, Nogue laid down an amazing performance and was awarded by the judges with a 218.5.

The young rider showed off his personality both at home and in the show arena with his positively aggressive attitude. "The most difficult moment for me was when I was home, just before flying to the Futurity. This is not an easy show: It is 'the' show. I kept thinking 'it must work and I need to do well,'" said Nogue. "After all the sacrifices my family and myself did to come here, I felt it was my responsibility to do my best. In the qualifier, all went well and, on top of leading the level 1, I also qualified for the finals in all the levels so that gave me a boost and I relaxed a little bit. Tonight, before going in, I was as nervous as ever, but, when the gate opened, the only thing I saw was the show pen and I thought to myself that there was no way back. I think that a competition should always be a positive experience; either you win, or you learn something important. If you don't win, you learn; and if you do win, you also learn."

Nogue took home four saddles, one for each level, offered



Andreu Nogue Puig on A Whiz N Cash wins all levels of the 3-year-old Non Pro Futurity

by IRHA and Selleria Repetti; two bits offered by Donut Bits and Spurs for the L1 and L3 Championships; and a custom-made Greg Darnall Bits & Spurs bit.

Nogue lives in Lloret de Mar, near Barcellona, and rides in a small private family-owned facility. In 2015, he started to ride reining horses under the guidance of Italian professional Eugenio Latorre, now based in Spain.

In 2017 he was selected to be part

of Team Spain taking part in the FEI World Reining Championships for Juniors in Givrins, Switzerland, but he could not find a suitable horse for the event. At that time, it was his present trainer Mirko Midili who saved the day. "I met Andreu and his family two years ago here in Cremona," said Midili. "We started talking, and I understood that he was looking for a horse for the FEI World Championships. At that point, I offered him my black horse to ride; Arc Sparkle Magnetic, aka 'Black Panther.' Andreu and his family were thrilled and, since then, have been part of my heart." Following the World Championships, the search for a prospect for Nogue to show in the 'big Futurity' began. "I saw A Whiz N Cash as a 2-year-old. He was broke and trained by Mattia Nadalini, and I loved his attitude," added Midili. "He definitely turned out to be a great horse!"

A Whiz N Cash is by Custom Cash Advance out of A Whiz N Wranglers and was bred by Carlo Sala. His first and only show before the Futurity was the LR Prefuturity held in Manerbio where the pair won the Non Pro Futurity Champi-

onship. “Initially plans included Mirko showing him in the Open Futurity,” explained Nogue in his perfect Italian. “In the summer things changed: Mirko moved to Luga Quarter Horses and, since they gave him three horses to ride at the Futurity, he could not show any more. At that point I suggested that I could try to show him in the Non Pro Futurity and, since then, that was our new goal. In the beginning it was a disaster and I could not even love him. He was strong but so sensitive ... he as an open horse. Mirko always said that probably this was the best horse he had ever had. But it was not easy for me to build up a nice feeling with him. I just went back and forth from Spain to Italy to ride him in the weekends [leading] up to the Futurity. I even changed my school program in order to have more time to dedicate to the preparation for this show. It didn’t take long to understand each other.”

“Andreu is a special guy,” states Midili. “He is polite, very intelligent and is an incredibly talented rider. I am certain a bright future in the show arena lies ahead of him.” Future plans for Andreu include a well-deserved Christmas vacation with his family and rest for him and his mate. Their plans for 2019 include the NRHA European Futurity and the IRHA Derby. There is no doubt that we will hear again

about this special ‘Olé’ team!”

Taking the L4 and 3 Reserve Championship, a point behind Nogue, was Carlo Ambrosini and his mare Jac N Lime (Tinsel Jac x ARC Yellow N Lime) owned and by Ambrosini Quarter Horse ASD. In the quaifier, the pair claimed the fourth highest score (215.5) and they also boast the ARHA L4 and L3 Non Pro Futurity Championships.

The L2 Non Pro Reserve Championship goes to Sabine Schmid and All Niter (Gunners Special Night x Dun Made By Chic) with a 216. The stallion, bred by Susi Hutchins, was previously ridden and shown by Justin L. Michels in the U.S.

The L1 Co-Reserve Championship, with a 215 score, went to Mattia Cosio riding his White And Whizzy (Spat Split And White x Rooster Roohide), a stallion bred by Letizia Selvi, and Francesco Pedretti with his Could You Be The One (One Gun x Star Dun Its), an American Paint Horse Association mare bred by Claudio Carraro.

IRHA/NRHA 4-YEAR-OLD OPEN: THE FINALS

The IRHA-NRHA 4-year-old Open Final closed the night with an almost predicted success: on the podium were two riders that were both in the lead in the qualifier with a change of horse for the Reserve Championship where Gennaro Lendi conquered second place honors with Frozen N Rooster rather than with Maytheforcebewhizyou. In the lead in a field of 11 finalists in the Level 4 and of 17 in L3, was a very thrilled and touched Mirko Midili riding Angelina Shining Gun (Colonels Shining Gun x Miss Alex Cody), owned by Asia Vimercati.

“This is one of the best mares that I have ever ridden - not only because of how she works, but also because of her attitude in the barn. I wasn’t able to show her in the 3-year-



Mirko Midili on Angela Shining Gun wins the 4-year-old Open Futurity

old Futurity because she arrived at Luga Quarter Horses only two months before the show and was too green. Also, she wasn’t an exceptional spinner, so I decided not to push her too hard and to bring her to the Futurity the following year. I felt that it was better to do things nice and slow and evidently it turned out to be the right choice. She always progressed, starting from the NRHA European Futurity Open L3 Reserve

Championship with a score of 220.5. We then came directly here and we went up to a 223 in the L3 and L4 and I believe that there is even more room for improvement. I’m sure next year she will reach even higher scores,” explains Midili. “I also would like to underline that I particularly love Colonels Shining Gun’s offsprings, which are remarkably coming out,” adds Midili who has had a year full of events:

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the return as head trainer at Luga Quarter Horses, which he had to leave some years ago due to a bad accident; his first time taking part in Team Italy for the FEI World Equestrian Games in Tryon and, most importantly, the birth of his daughter Beatrice.

“Beatrice has brought me a lot of serenity. She gave a meaning to my life and everything today seems more ‘light and simple.’ I face everything with less stress. Previously I put too much weight on work and, as we say ‘he who wants it all may lose it all.’ Paradoxically everything also works out better in the arena since I’ve sorted out my priorities.”

Earning the 4-year-old L4 Open Futurity Reserve Championship was top Italian trainer Gennaro Lendi (score 221) at the end of an important season which saw him as the leading professional in the main European aged events. Lendi rode Frozen N Rooster (Rooster Nic x Sailor N Glo) to the win for owner Alberto Amici. In the L3 division, with a score of 220.5, Massimiliano Ruggeri rode Anty Snappy Miki (ARC Antares Surprise x Oak Snappy Miki) owned by Federico Cattin to the reserve championship as well as to fourth place in the L4.



Moreno Sacchi on Spatspook And Sailor Wins the L2 4-year-old Open Futurity

German-based Polish rider Patryk Peszke riding Bernice Engle’s Gumpatrashya, a mare by NRHA Two Million Dollar Sire Gunnatrashya out of Bubblicious Gump BB who, to date, has won over \$10,000 in NRHA competition not only lead the L1 qualifier; he also took home the Level 1 Championship and the Level 2 Reserve Championship. Bred by German Rüdiger Diedenhofen, Gumpatrashya was purchased by her owner when she was in training with Cira Baeck, head trainer for CS Ranch Switzerland. With the Belgian trainer in the saddle, she claimed the reserve championship in the 4-year-old Belgian Open Futurity and was a finalist in the NRHA Germany Breeders Open Bit Futurity and in the ARHA Open Futurity. Last October Engel

brought her home to Engels Performance Horses in Freystadt, Germany.

“This is a really special mare,” said Peszke. “She was very good for me in the go-round and was even better here for me tonight. All her manoeuvres are amazing and, at the same time, she is really quiet and easy to train and



Gumpatrashya with Patryk Peszke earn the Level 1 4-year-old Open Futurity Championship

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show. I am thrilled that Bernice [Engle] purchased her for me to show.”

“We’ve only been involved in the reining world for the past three years and we immediately hired Patryk because we truly believe he is talented,” said Engel. “We’ve had this mare since October and decided to buy her not only because she’s very talented, but because we knew she would fit Patryk and he proved it here!” The 25 year old Polish trainer worked for German professional Volker Schmitt until three

years ago when Engel hired him. His major results include the 2017 NRHA Germany Breeders Derby, the Bavarian Maturity Co-championship and seventh place in the 2018 German Breeders L1 Bit Futurity.

The title of L1 Open Reserve Champion goes to Claudio Riso’s Rs Apple Lena (Spat Olena x Rs Linkwood Jac) and Mattia Nadalini, with a score of 215.

THE IRHA/NRHA 4-YEAR-OLD NON PRO FUTURITY FINALS



Laura Dalla Gassa on Gunners Special Olena won Levels 4 and 3 of the 4-year-old Non Pro Futurity

The finals of the 2018 IRHA/NRHA 4-year-old Non Pro counted 27 finalists representing six nations (Italy, France, Germany, Great Britain, Poland and Switzerland). Taking home the L4 and L3 Championship was Laura Dalla Gassa of Italy riding Gunners Special Olena, an own daughter of NRHA Two Million Dollar Sire Gunners Special Nite out of Dolly Special Lena.

“This is a truly special story,” said an emotional Dalla Gassa after winning both the Level L4 and L3 Championships. “It all started last year when my dad [Diego] and I were looking for a mare that could in the future become our top brood mare. We had seen quite a few mares but “Dolly”, who had been shown by Nicola Cordioli, was the one that I immediately fell in love with — there was something about her.”

Laura and her father decided that the mare would be rid-

den under the guidance of Ann Fonck. “Ann and Bernard are amazing people and amazing trainers; and Ann proved that she was the right one as soon as she took over the reins. She was already a good mare but is becoming better and better every time Ann puts work on her,” added Laura. “Our mare did well at the NRHA European Futurity, she won the Belgium Futurity and was third at the NRHA Germany Breeders Futurity with an amazing 227.5. We knew she was a good horse, but never imagined she would be so good.”

Plans made with Ann for the mare also included the 2018 IRHA/NRHA 4-year-old Non Pro Futurity with Laura in the saddle. “We took her home to Ongaresca Reining Horses where [NRHA Professional and Judge] Ricky Bordignon and my dad would help me out when I rode her,” she added. “I would call Ann whenever I needed extra help and she was always there for me. The first time I showed her, we won the regional APCR Futurity and when we got here my goal was



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to win. In the first go-round, I was very nervous because I wanted to make the finals. Tonight, I was a lot more relaxed and things went exactly as planned! Next year, after a well-deserved break, Ann will be showing her again.”

Taking the L4 Reserve Championship was Manuel Bonzano and his Zedd Sunburst (Great Sun Burst x Ms Sanditch

Whiz) a mare bred by 23 Quarter Horses. In the L3 division, renowned breeder Claudio Risso claimed second place honors riding Rs Twitter Jac (RS Great Jac Feona x RS Countach Olena).

Andrea Castrucci and KN Taco Whiz Claim the L2 4-year-old Non Pro Futurity Championship

Andrea Castrucci and KN Taco Whiz, a stallion by Skeets Dun out of KN Skeets Miss Badger, posted a 212 to take the title in the Level 2 Championship. “Tako was bred by us and is an own son of one of our stallions. He is out of a mare, also bred by us, who was never shown because of injury but who has already proven herself as a brood mare,” said Castrucci. “I have two full-brothers to Taco and am very happy with them.” KN Taco Whiz was trained by Gennaro Lendi who showed him to the Lazio Futurity Championship. In the IRHA/IRHBA/NRHA Futurity he was shown by Luca Dossetto, who unfortunately spun him five times, and following the year-end event he made his way back to Castrucci’s facility, KN Resort.

“This is a really good horse and, after having been shown by a great trainer such as Lendi, put me in the position of having to adapt to him. This is the very first time that I’ve shown him and, because I don’t know him that well, I wanted to stay on the safe side,” he said. “I will certainly ask more in the derbies and, even though he is not easy for me to show, I like him a lot and I am happy that I did not sell him,” concluded Castrucci who has been showing

reining horses since 2004. The non pro has won over \$150,000 NRHA LTE thanks to his impressive show record which includes a past NRHA Non Pro World Championship won in 2009 with Skeets Dun and an AQHA World title.



Andrea Castrucci and KN Taco Whiz Claim the L2 4-year-old Non Pro Futurity Championship

Claiming the L2 Reserve Championship was Lara Lorenzo riding Heidi Whiz (NRHA Two Million Dollar Sire Walla Walla Whiz x Heidi Sailor), an NRHA Europan Futurity L3 Open finalist.



Andrea Castelli and his Miss Playguns Take the Level 1 4-year-old Non Pro Championship Title

Andrea Castelli and his Miss Playguns Take the Level 1 4-year-old Non Pro Championship Title

Andrea Castelli and his Miss Playguns (Great Sun Burst x Playguns Chick) had already left their mark in the CremonaFiere arena on Tuesday after the pair had taken home the IRHA/FISE Novice Horse Non Pro Championship with a 142.5 score. “My goal was not only to slide on the highest step of the podium in the Italian Championship, it was also that of making the finals and, possibly,

take home a title in the 4-year-old Futurity,” said Castelli who qualified for both the L2 and L1 finals. “I still cannot believe that we won the L1 title. I’ve had this mare for the past year and, even though she’s always been consistent, this year she proved that she could do better both at home and in the show pen. As a matter of fact, she has matured a lot. Tonight, we could have done even better but, my mistake, we had an over spin penalty. I’m really happy and my thank you goes to my girlfriend, Giulia Mandaletti, and to [NRHA Professional] Mattia Nadalini who will collaborate with Mandaletti Quarter Horses as of next year.”

A half-a-point behind Castelli’s 209.5, Alessia Simoncini and her Ot Great Sun (Great Sun Burst x OT Taris Me) took reserve honors. The 20-year-old who rides under the guidance of Gennaro Lendi, last year took the IRHA/IRHBA/NRHA L1 Non Pro Futurity Championship.

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Great Reining Show: NRHA Bronze Trophy Open and Non Pro

For more than 30 years, reining has been one of the main highlights of AMERICANA. In 1988, the event offered the first big Bronze Trophy, and many times, AMERICANA indicated the NRHA World Champion. The big purse plus the chance of riding in front of 5,000 people, attracts international reining stars to Augsburg. In 2019, the AMERICANA Bronze Trophy Open will offer a purse of €35.000-added. There will be €10.000-added in the Non Pro Bronze Trophy. The final of the Bronze Trophy Open will be part of the Friday evening show.

Focus on Cattle classes: EUR 12.000-added European Championship Cutting Open / €17.000-added ERCHA Futurity

For Cutting and Cow Horse riders, AMERICANA has always been the highlight of the year. There is the European Championship Cutting with a purse of €12.000-added in

the Open and €6.000-added in the Non Pro as well as the Masters Cutting. A very important part of AMERICANA is the ERCHA Futurity, with a total purse of €17.000-added in the Open. Also, there will be further attractive Cow Horse classes as well as the ERCHA Nations Team Cup.

Highlights: the evening shows – order your tickets well in advance!

The finals of these three disciplines are part of the evening shows which require extra tickets that should be booked well in advance. On Friday, September 6, there will be the "Reining Festival and Cow Horse Top 5", on Saturday, September 7 the "Cutting Spectacular & Cow Horse Futurity" with the finals of the European Championship Cutting Open and the Cow Work of the ERCHA Reined Cow Horse Futurity. Tickets for one of the AMERICANA evening shows and events are available on www.Americana.de. Tickets for the Friday and the Saturday evening shows include entry during the day as well. Tickets for Wednesday and Thursday night are available either with or without day entry. Also, there is a whole show pass which includes all evening shows plus the events on Wednesday and Thursday and entry to the fair during all days.

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Mike McEntire and Pale Face Whiz Level 3 and Prime Time
Austin Roush and Gunna Stop Levels 2 and 1

Non Pro: Tish Fappani and Icecube Level 4
Samantha Smith and Neverthoughtiwould Level 3
Madison Steed and Into The Nite Level 2
Sam Florida and Hollywooddirtysecret Level 1 and Youth
Chad Clark and Think Im Gunna Shine Prime Time Co
Stoney Russell and Whata Special Nite Prime Time Co



CIRA BAECK JOINS NRHA'S MILLION DOLLAR RIDER LIST

The National Reining Horse Association (NRHA) welcomes NRHA Professional Cira Baeck as the second female, and first European female, to join the list of Million Dollar Riders. Baeck flew into the next level of her career with two top qualifying rides during the Italian Reining Horse Association (IRHA) Futurity Level (L) 4 Open Finals this past weekend atop NF Shining Whiz and Sailorsarcofpride BB.

Under Baeck, NF Shining Whiz, owned by Kim Windey and David Perneel, clinched the title of the L4 Open Reserve Championship with a score of 227. She also rode Sailorsarcofpride BB, owned by Ruediger Diedenhofen, and exited the arena



Photo by Andrea Bonaga

with her total earnings amounting to about \$50,000 throughout the 2018 IRHA Futurity that ran from December 7-15 in Cremona, Italy.

The Belgian trainer and NRHA Judge won her first NRHA paycheck in 2002 and has actively competed in European and North American NRHA events ever since. Beginning as a youth competitor, Baeck has received multiple honors during the past decade and a half, including the following:

- Three-time NRHA Open World Champion Top Ten: 2013 on Whizasunnysailor BB (3rd), 2015 on Whizasunnysailor BB (2nd), and 2017 on Gunners Snappy Chic

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(3rd)

- Two-time NRHA Non Pro World Champion, plus six other Top Ten placings in the same division: 2007 on Don Quixote Escapes (1st), 2008 on Peek A Boom (1st), 2008 on Whizashiningwalla BB (3rd), 2010 on Gumpy Grumpy BB (3rd), 2009 on Whizashiningwalla BB (4th), 2007 on Little Gump (6th), 2009 on Gumpy Grumpy BB (6th), and 2005 on Little Gump (7th).
- Three-time FEI World Equestrian Games medalist: 2010, 2014, and 2018 Team Silver Medalist for Belgium
- 2013 IRHA Derby L4 Open Champion on Whizasun-

nysailor BB

- 2014 NRHA European Derby L4 Open Champion on Colonels Shining Gun

Cira Baeck credits NRHA legend and Hall of Fame Inductee, Bill Horn, for her drive and passion for the sport as he continues to be her biggest inspiration. Other NRHA Professionals, such as Brent Loseke and Bernard Fonck, NRHA's first European based Two Million Dollar Rider, also have been influential in Baeck's career.

BERNARD FONCK PUTS AN INTERNATIONAL SPIN ON NRHA'S MILLION DOLLAR RIDER LIST

The National Reining Horse Association (NRHA) welcomes NRHA Professional Bernard Fonck as the newest Two Million Dollar Rider, unofficially. Fonck sealed the deal on the next level in his career with three top qualifying rides at the Italian Reining Horse Association (IRHA) Futurity Level(L) 4 Open Finals this past weekend atop Spook Sunburst, CSG Shinethingun, and GP Hot Revolution.

Fonck and Spook Sunburst, owned by Koen Symoens, slid out of the arena holding the L4 open champion title with a score of 227 1/2. On CSG Shinethingun, owned by Katarzyna Roleska, Fonck tied for 4th with a 224 score. Another successful ride aboard GP Hot Revolution, owned by Golden Paint Ranch, brought Fonck's total earnings to exceed \$122,244 throughout the 2018 IRHA Futurity that ran from December 7-15 in Cremona, Italy.

The Belgian rider has competed in European and North American NRHA events since 2002. Fonck has received multiple honors including the following:

- Seven-time NRHA World Open World Champion: 2008 on Lenas Pegesis (with Ann Fonck), 2010 and 2011



Photo by Andrea Bonaga

on Great Sun Burst, 2012 on Sail On Top Whizard; and 2015, 2016, and 2017 on What A Wave

- Multiple FEI World Equestrian Games medalist: 2018 Individual Gold Medalist on What A Wave and three-time Team Silver Medalist for Belgium
- 2009 NRHA European Futurity L3 and L4 Open Champion riding Sail On Top Whizard
- 2013 NRHA European Derby L4 Open Champion On Smart N Sparkin
- 2014 IRHA 3-Year-Old Futurity L4 Open Champion on Lil Ruf Whiz N Tag and Reserve Champion on Big Fat
- 2016 NRHA Germany Breeders 4-Year-Old Futurity L4 Open Champion on Gunners Big Chex and Reserve Champion on Spook Shine Spook

Other reiners who have surpassed the Two Million Dollar NRHA Lifetime Earnings mark include Tim McQuay (2005), Shawn Flarida (2006), Craig Schmersal (2010), Andrea Fappani (2010), Duane Latimer (2014), Mandy McCutcheon (2014), Jordan Larson (2015), and Todd Bergen (2015).



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TRIPLE CROWN FOR PARA REINER FRED WIN AT 2018 ALL AMERICAN QUARTER HORSE CONGRESS

Fred Win is riding high after topping a competitive field at the 2018 Dechra USEF/USA Reining Para Reining Championship for the third straight year, though he admits it's getting tougher to stay on the top rung. His score of 214 took the blue in Grade 4 and overall high point for the national title.

"I really have to stay on top of my training and even have to push beyond my training to risk myself to win now." He says unlike few years back, having penalties or not having plus 1/2 on almost each maneuver will knock you out of contention.

His mare, Friday Night Sailing, aka "Stella" is a fairly recent purchase from Bob Santagata and Santa Hill Ranch. "We are still learning about each other, but when I asked, she gave me her maximum. This is my best ride with her since I bought her."

Win has gone from rough and ready to polished performances over the last several years and credits the guidance from his trainer Dean Brown (member of Canadian Reining WEG Team) and for matching him with "Stella" and enabling his success.

Win is a true American immigrant success story. When he emigrated from Burma (now Myanmar), he made his own way through hard work, learning English and putting himself through law school. He also brought with him his deep passion for horses.

Born with his right foot attached below his hip, due to his mother being prescribed Thalidomide during pregnancy never stopped Win from riding as a young boy. He loved speed and jumping and mastered trick riding in his native Burma.

Building his law practice in New Jersey, he had to put horses aside but when para reining was introduced, he jumped at the chance to ride and compete again. Win also likes to lead by example for his own children and others, that limitations equal motivation.

"To me, para reining today is a very challenging sport," he says. "I am so proud of how para reining has grown and be-



Fred Win's winning streak extends as 2018 Dechra/USEFUSA Reining Para Reining National Champion

come accepted. The amount of support and cheering from the audience sounded like thunder in the arena!"

For Dean Brown, coaching a para rider in itself hasn't been a big deal. "We may have to come up with different ideas or come at problems from a different angle but all in all, I teach Freddie the same as everyone else. The hardest part is keeping him under control and focused."

Brown says Win's big personality and overdrive can be a challenge at times, but that his client's enthusiasm, determination and willingness to learn stand out. "He's not afraid to put in the time in the saddle in order to accomplish his goals," he says.

Brown is gratified that Win is now appreciating the finesse and the control that goes with reining not just the speed aspect. "Getting control of his need for speed and adding smoothness and finesse have been our major hurdle. But I can now say in the future, I defiantly see Freddie expanding his goals and being a very tough Non-Pro to beat."

As to that innate feel from Win's lifelong passion for horses, Brown has noticed that connection. "I also must say that whatever horse in the past three years that we have chosen to be his show horse, he does have a special bond with his horses, more so than I have seen with other riders. His horses are very in tune to him and they trust him."



Holly Jacobson, from MA, on Shiney Juice is 2018 Dechra/USEFUSA Reining Para Reining Reserve National Champion

Holly Jacobson riding Shiney Juice earned the Grade 3 Champion and overall Reserve National Champion with a score of 210.5. She purchased the Smart Like Juice palo-



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mino from Shawn Florida exactly one year ago at Congress, so it was an exciting anniversary marker.

“I’m so impressed with the quality of riding and horses showing now, but a really special part of para is the support among riders helping each other with everything from equipment, advice, friendship and support.” She says it’s about building awareness and a supportive network.

“Everybody has a unique story coming in but we all love riding,” she said. Jacobson was severely burned in a car fire, losing her right arm above the elbow and all the fingers on her left hand.

Coming from dressage, she’s had to learn a whole new discipline but says her special horse and the enthusiastic support of Tom and Jennifer Hoyt of Hoyt Training in New York, make it incredibly worthwhile.

“Dechra stepping up as the title sponsor is a huge boost and USEF partnering with USA Para Reining is great recognition. I feel so privileged to ride here at Congress,” she says.

Jennifer Flanagan, from TN, rode her Chromed Out Swagwagon to the Grade 2 Championship with a 208.5 and finished fourth overall. Mindy Davis, from AR, took the Grade 3 Reserve Champion and fifth place nationally with her gelding Outlaw Whiz.

As the title sponsor, Dechra Veterinary Products Marketing Manager Shelly Derks says it felt like a natural fit for their products with para reining.

“Ospfos has been a game changer for so many horses. It has brought horses that were crippled with Navicular and given them a show life again. I feel the same way about the Para Reining events. It gives riders the chance to get in the show ring again and do what they love!”

Dechra put up \$5000 in prize money, USEF donated winner chairs and coolers, along with wonderful prizes from Congress Sponsors Tinseltown Flash, Ruoff Dietter Reining Horses, Rick Clark, Shawn Florida Reining Horses and A/S Trail Equipment & Services.

2018 Dechra USEF/USA Reining Para Reining Championship

Results:

Fred Win/Friday Night Sailing - 214
Holly Jacobson/Shiney Juice 210.5
Anne Dunnam/Whizzin 209
Jennifer Flanagan/Chromed Out Swagwagon 208.5
Mindy Davis/Outlaw Whiz 207
Alexis Mann/Stepin Up 204.5
Beth Kelley/Czgunnacashbigchex 202
Louis Zamboli/Magnum Moonstone 199
Cole Jacobs/Pinstripe Benz E

Grade 4

Fred Win/Friday Night Sailing
Anne Dunnam/Whizzin
Alexis Mann/Stepin Up
Elizabeth Kelley/Czgunnacashbigchex
Louis Magnum/Moonstone

Grade 3

Holly Jacobson/Shiney Juice
Mindy Davis/Outlaw Whiz
Cole Jacobs/Pinstripe Benz

Grade 2

Jennifer Flanagan/Chromed Out Swagwagon



For more information on how to participate, find a trainer or get involved, please visit: USAREining.us or contact Jennifer Hoyt: Hoyttrain1@gmail.com

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YOUTH SPOTLIGHT - MCKENNA IVEY



Age: 13 years
Seventh Grade

Accomplishments:

- 2018 Year-End Champion:
 - Yankee Reining Horse Association
 - Central Ohio Reining Horse Association
 - Buckeye Reining Series
- 2018 Top 5 at Quarter Horse Congress
- 2018 Youth 13 & Under World Champion

Which horse has carried you to most of your accomplishments?

Guns Fortunate Son. His barn name is Sonny with an "O."

How has this horse helped you along your way?

He has definitely improved my riding because he was a really hard horse at first, but he has progressed SO much! He has such a personality! I love it!

How long have you been reining?

I've been reining a little bit under a year, and I've been riding since I was four.

Did you come from a different discipline before reining?

Yes - reined cow horse.

How was the transition from reined cow horse to reining?

I hopped right into it because there is a reining pattern in cow horse. I think I'm having a lot more fun in reining than I did in cow horse.

Do you miss any part of reined cow horse events?

I do miss the cows! I wasn't very fond of the reining patterns there, but I like the reining patterns in reining.

How has reining impacted your life?

It has brought me closer to my house, and it's given me a brand new horse family that I run around with and cheer them on. Cienzo [Santos] and Shannon [Quinlan] have made me a lot better rider than I was in cow horse.

Where do you hope to be in 5 to 10 years?

I hope to be in college or preparing for college, and still competing in aged events, and still training with Cienzo and Shannon.

What do you hope to study while you are in college?

I hope to be a vet, and I hope to be a horse trainer also.

Has your trainer had any impact on your future plans?

Cienzo and Shannon have totally renewed me because I am a better person. I'm a better rider, and they tell me I can do it even when I think I can't. They are amazing people.

Do you have any advice for younger reiners?

Always cheer for your peers and have fun most importantly. Always put your work into it; you'll become a lot better rider.

LOOKING FORWARD TO THESE UPCOMING 2019 NRHA EVENTS

1/3 - 1/6	Arizona National Quarter Horse Show	Scottsdale	AZ	USA
1/3 - 1/6	Entry Level Arizona National Quarter Horse Show	Scottsdale	AZ	USA
1/12 - 1/13	SFRHA All Sand No Snow Slide (T)	Ocala	FL	USA
1/12 - 1/13	SFRHA All Sand No Snow Slide II (T)	Ocala	FL	USA
1/12 - 1/13	Entry Level SFRHA All Sand No Snow Slide II (T)	Ocala	FL	USA
1/12 - 1/13	Entry Level SFRHA All Sand No Snow Slide (T)	Ocala	FL	USA
1/13	RAM Invitational Freestyle Reining	Denver	CO	USA
1/19 - 1/19	Mexico Reining Breeders Classic	Atlixco	PU	MEX
1/19 - 1/19	Entry Level Mexico Reining Breeders Classic	Atlixco	PU	MEX
1/19 - 1/19	Mexico Reining Breeders Classic Derby	Atlixco	PU	MEX
1/31	Southwestern Expo & Livestock Show	Fort Worth	TX	USA
2/1 - 2/3	Entry Level 2019 Winter Slide	Ardmore	OK	USA
2/1 - 2/3	2019 Winter Slide	Ardmore	OK	USA
2/1 - 2/3	Winter Slide Red River Equine Non Pro Challenge	Ardmore	OK	USA
2/1 - 2/3	Winter Slide Axtell Derby	Ardmore	OK	USA
2/1 - 2/3	Winter Slide Axtell \$10,000 Novice Horse Derby	Ardmore	OK	USA
2/1 - 2/3	2019 Winter Slide II	Ardmore	OK	USA
2/1 - 2/4	Jacs Lil Spook Futurity	Oaxtepec	AG	MEX
2/1 - 2/4	Expo Ecuestre	Oaxtepec	AG	MEX
2/1 - 2/4	Entry Level Expo Ecuestre	Oaxtepec	AG	MEX
2/8 - 2/10	One HOT Reining - HOT Winter Slide	Waco	TX	USA
2/8 - 2/10	Entry Level One HOT Reining - HOT Winter Slide	Waco	TX	USA
2/14	2019 Dixie National Quarter Horse Show	Jackson	MS	USA
2/14	2019 Dixie National Quarter Horse Show Freestyle	Jackson	MS	USA
2/14 - 2/24	ARHA Arab Futurity	Scottsdale	AZ	USA
2/14 - 2/24	ARHA Half Arab Futurity	Scottsdale	AZ	USA
2/15 - 2/17	Rome Shoot In (T)	Roma	AG	ITA
2/19 - 2/24	Florida Reining Classic I	Jacksonville	FL	USA
2/19 - 2/24	Florida Reining Classic II	Jacksonville	FL	USA
2/19 - 2/24	Florida Reining Classic Derby	Jacksonville	FL	USA
2/19 - 2/24	Florida Reining Classic Novice Horse Derby	Jacksonville	FL	USA
2/19 - 2/24	Florida Reining Classic 4 Year Old Challenge	Jacksonville	FL	USA
2/19 - 2/24	Florida Reining Classic Triple 7 Challenge	Jacksonville	FL	USA
2/19 - 2/24	Entry Level Florida Reining Classic I	Jacksonville	FL	USA

**FROM OUR STAFF
TO YOU AND YOURS,
HAPPY NEW YEAR!**