

Daily Chatter

SATURDAY, MAY 3, 2003

AN OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE NATIONAL CUTTING HORSE ASSOCIATION

Derby Day

Several of today's favorites in the 129th running of the Kentucky Derby have Western connections. If he prevails, Indian Express, at 12 to 1 on the morning line, would become the first Derby winner bred in Utah. The Indian Charlie son was sold for \$4,500 at the fall Fasig-Tipton Sale and sent to Panama, where Hall of Fame rider Laffit Pincay spotted him and recommended him to trainer Bob Baffert, a three-time Kentucky Derby winner. Baffert began his training career with Quarter Horses.

Buddy Gil was bred by Billingsly Creek of Hagerman, Idaho. The Santa Anita Derby winner will be ridden by three-time Kentucky Derby winner Gary Stevens. If he is victorious, Buddy Gil will be the first gelding to win the Derby since 1929.

Bold Venture, who was owned by King Ranch, is the only Kentucky Derby winner to sire two Derby winners - Assault (1946) and Middleground (1950). Unbridled, sire of this year's heavy favorite, Empire Maker, and 1996 winner, Grindstone, could be the first to tie Bold Venture's record.

SATURDAY'S SCHEDULE

Beginning at 8:00 am

Non-Pro - 1st go
\$10,000 Novice/NP - FINALS

SUNDAY'S SCHEDULE

Beginning at 9:00 am

\$50,000 Amateur - FINALS
Non-Pro - FINALS
Open - FINALS

8:00 am to 10:00 am
Breakfast sponsored by
Weber County Commission

Brannon marks 220.5

Kirby Smith takes \$20,000 Non-Pro
Janice Eaton wins \$2,000 Limited Rider



Sandy Brannon, of San Antonio, TX, scored 220.5 on Montanas Mark to win the \$10,000 Amateur division.

Sandy Brannon was thankful for Ty Cunningham's 219.5-point run deep in the second bunch. "Ty rode right before I did and it kind of helped set my mind," said Brannon, who scored 220.5 to win the \$10,000 Amateur division. "I felt bad for him, but it's like running a race. You know who you have to catch."

Riding her 12-year-old stallion, Montanas Mark, Brannon had qualified for the Finals with 217.5 points. She also qualified for the finals of the \$20,000 Non-Pro and the \$50,000 Amateur.

"He's really dependable," said Brannon, whose first big win on Montanas Mark was the \$10,000 Amateur division at the 2000 National Finals in Jackson, MS.

Brannon, who previously

showed pleasure and halter horses, switched to cutters in 1997. "The first cutting I went to I'd never actually worked a cow," she said. "I'd only worked a flag. I went in there and didn't know what I was doing. I thought, 'The dish rag doesn't move like this.'"

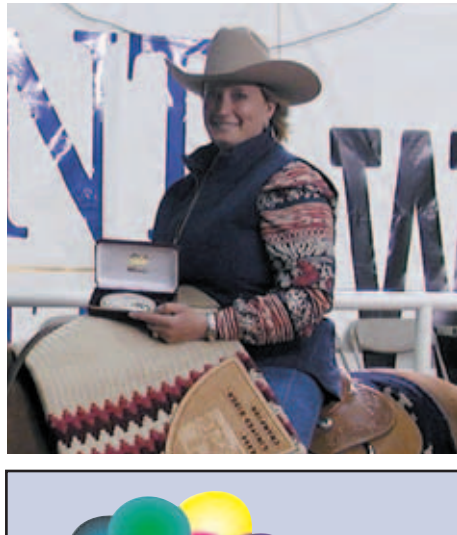
Ty Cunningham, of Tulsa, OK, took reserve in the \$10,000 Amateur and placed third in the \$20,000 Non-Pro on An Original Joke, a gelding owned by his wife, Jennifer Cunningham, who gave birth to the couple's first child, Keaton Belle, this past January. Jennifer had competed successfully with An Original Joke before she became pregnant.

"She gets along with him better than I do," said Ty, who

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Left to right: Kirby Smith, winner of the \$20,000 Non-Pro division; Karon Johnson, reserve champion in the \$20,000 Non-Pro; Ty Cunningham, reserve champion in the \$10,000 Amateur and third in the \$20,000 Non-Pro.



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scored 223 on the gelding in the go-round. "I qualified him, but I almost didn't bring him because I really don't like him. He has a different style than my mare."

Cunningham has been riding seven-year-old Playboys Powder Puff for the past two years. "She's got a lot of flash and she's bright and quick," he said. "And she likes to squat and jump in the middle of the pen. That's what's fun about her."



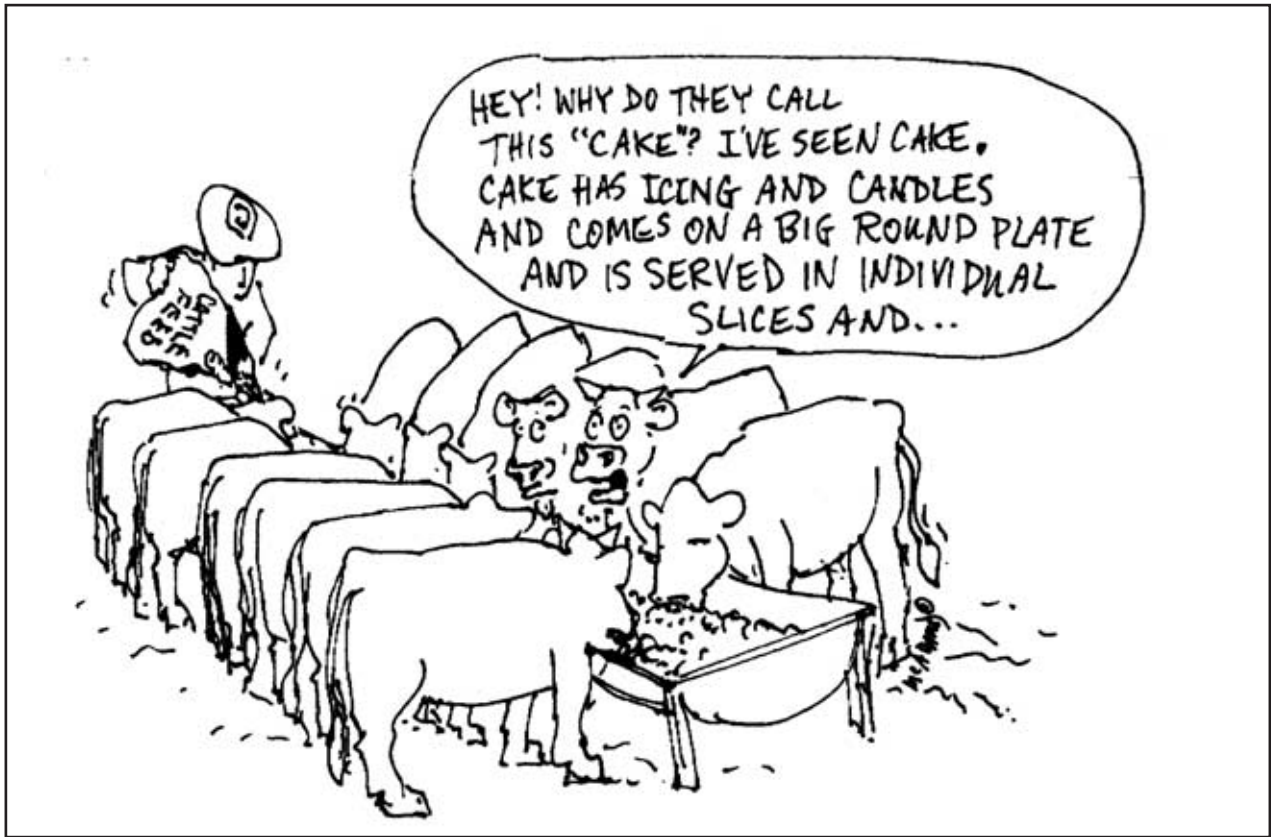
Counter-clockwise above, Janice Eaton, \$2,000 Limited Rider Champion; Kim Buckmaster and Laura Fenimore, co-reserve champions of the \$2,000 Limited Rider division.



You say it's your birthday!

*These NCHA members
are celebrating their birthday today.*

Marguerite Abel.....Elgin, TX	Wiley Kimbell..... Lubbock, TX
Herbert A Allen New York, NY	Ronny Leach Graham, TX
Treva Beebe.....Potlatch, ID	Barbara Lenocker..... Tulare, SD
Roger Bradberry.....Piggott, AR	Jerry Lupo.....Rome, GA
Robin Brewer.....Ash Flat, AR	Deborah O'Brien..... Weatherford, TX
April Burns.....Perkins, OK	Robin Railsback.....Rockwall, TX
Gregory Cromwell.....Canby, OR	Shelly Santucci Prineville, OR
Terry GodwinHobbs, NM	Richard Schinazi..... Novato, CA
Allan GoldbergBeachwood, OH	Michael Allen Schwalke ... Shreveport, LA
Guy (Rick) Griffith..... Madison, GA	Bonna Vance Inavale, NE
John Hancock.....Santa Fe, NM	Dulcy Zoellner Whitefish, MT



Cartoonist Jerry McAdams, "that cow art guy," is publisher of the Hico News Review and a nationally recognized artist whose favorite subjects are horses and cattle.



The American Quarter Horse Association, located in Amarillo, Texas, is the world's largest equine breed registry.

Through their Strategic Marketing Alliance, NCHA will be acknowledged as the authority for cutting competitions and the AQHA will be acknowledged as the foundation breed which provides the bloodlines for the majority of horses used in NCHA competition. Both Associations will work together to actively promote the sport of cutting.

For more information on AQHA's programs and events contact AQHA at 806-376-4811 or visit AQHA's Web site at www.aqha.com.

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★ *Daily Chatter* ★

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