

Daily Chatter

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Greenwell gains \$50,000 Amateur title Bunney gets second buckle



Top: Mindy Johnson, reserve champion in the \$10,000 Novice Non-Pro. Above: Ron Davis, reserve champion in the \$50,000 Amateur.



Lori Greenwell rode Mouse Feathers, a half-Welsh pony gelding, to win the \$50,000 Amateur championship with 222 points.

AMERICAN
QUARTER
HORSE

It was a Mother's Day weekend that Tiffany Bunney and her mother, Cheri Bunney, won't soon forget. On Friday, Tiffany, who is expecting her first child in December, was co-reserve champion of the \$20,000 Non-Pro division and Cheri placed eighth. Yesterday, Tiffany won the \$10,000 Novice Non-Pro championship and Cheri placed in the finals.

"This will be a fun story to tell our child someday," said Tiffany, who scored 222 points aboard homegrown Truly A Hot Pepper. "This whole week has been kind of amazing. I trust my

horse and know that we do good, but it was more than I could have really asked for."

Tiffany's draw as the third rider in the second bunch on Sunday was an improvement over her draw as the second-to-last rider in the \$20,000 Non-Pro finals. Her mother, however didn't fare as well, with the dead-last hole in both finals.

"My mom was really happy to be in the finals, but she had really tough cows being last. And it must have been hard for her to go in and show after I had such an exciting ride," noted Tiffany.

Continued on page 2

“I had already accomplished my goal in the \$20,000 Non-Pro, so the \$10,000 Novice Non-Pro was just fun and I felt more relaxed. It was just about riding my horse good and setting her up. They had switched to steers and they were really good – the kind that show her off, a little bit softer type.

“I was able to set up three right in the middle and on my last cow, my helpers, Jack Hitchings, Mike Bakey and Phil Benadum were cheering me on, telling me to go for the win. That kind of got me excited and I thought, okay, let’s go for it.”

Truly A Hot Pepper was raised by Bunney out of Snow Pepper, a Paint mare she rode to win the 1997 American Paint Horse Association World championship in cutting. Her father, Ike Bunney, trained both Snow Pepper and Truly A Hot Pepper, who is sired by Ima Peppy Chex.

Ike and Cheri Bunney run a guest ranch and training and breeding operation in Tuolumne, CA. Tiffany and her husband, Jeremy, live 45 minutes away in Oakdale, CA.

“Jeremy has really been supportive of my showing,” noted Tiffany. “We were high school sweethearts and both showed together. He kind of lost interest in the showing part which is probably good, because I don’t know if we could both afford to do it.”

Tiffany is an economist for United Dairymen in Modesto and Jeremy is a manager for Frito Lay.

More Mother’s Day delights

It was a great Mother’s Day for Mindy Johnson and her mother, Brenda Michael, as well. Mindy claimed the \$10,000 Novice Non-Pro co-reserve title with 220 points on Busy Dandy, a six-year-old son of Lenas Busy Bee, a stallion owned by Brenda.

“I haven’t had a whole lot of luck with Charlie (Busy Dandy),” said Mindy, who lives in Canyon, TX. “He started doing really good, but then we kind of backslid when my husband, Clint, and my mom were both sick. Now, we’re kind of getting back into it again and I’m really proud of him because he’s come back and is like he used to be.”

Clint Johnson had been undergoing treatment for colon cancer last year while Brenda Michael endured serious bone infections and a broken leg which



Tiffany Bunney, left, with her mother, Cheri. Tiffany won the \$10,000 Novice Non-Pro championship on Truly A Hot Pepper and Cheri finished 15th in the same division.



You say it’s your birthday!

These NCHA members are celebrating their birthday today.

- | | | | |
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required seven surgeries. “Now that we’ve got them both healthy, that’s the main thing,” said Mindy, who is also the mother of Janie, 10, and Ben, 13. Clint qualified for Friday’s \$20,000 Non-Pro division on Lena N Lena, also by Lenas Busy Bee, as the go-round winner with 220 points and finished thirteenth in the finals.

Sunday’s success on Busy Dandy was even more special for Mindy because she won the \$50,000 Amateur championship in 1996 aboard Busy Dandy’s mother, Dandy Miss Hickory. “She’s probably been my best horse,” said Mindy. “But Charlie comes pretty close.”

\$50,000 Amateur champions

Lorie Greenwell was so excited about her 222-point win in the \$50,000 Amateur division, she could hardly remember the details of her run. But she did remember to reward her horse, Mouse Feathers, with his favorite treat – red licorice.

Mouse Feathers is special not only because of what is evident -- his cutting

ability, his small stature, his white coat flecked with red hairs on his rear, and his fondness for licorice – he is also unique because of his pedigree. His sire is a Paint horse, Calico Cat, and his dam is a registered Welsh pony.

Lori Greenwell’s uncle, Bert Greenwell, a retired veterinarian who lives in Yuba City, CA, bred Mouse Feathers and used goats to train him for cutting. Lori, who is 23, but was competing in high school rodeo events at the time, received him as a gift from her uncle.

“I love his character,” said Lori, who has qualified for the National Finals for the past four years on Mouse Feathers. “He has lots of personality.”

Lori, who has been cutting since she was nine, lives in Paul, Idaho where she is a dental assistant during the week and works as an equine dentist on the weekends. Her parents, Van and Kathy, also of Paul, both cut. Van won the Northwest Futurity on Docs Cloe G the same year that Lori won the \$50,000 Any Age class at the same event on Horse Feathers. Lori’s niece, Tiana Stimpson, also qualified for the \$2,000

Limit Rider class on Mouse Feathers earlier this week.

Another title for Davis

It’s been a good 18 months for Ron Davis, who won the \$20,000 Non-Pro World Champion title in 2003 and also placed thirteenth in the \$50,000 Amateur World standings. “It’s been a roll that I hope doesn’t end real soon,” said Davis, a trucking company owner from Ennis, TX.

Davis scored 220.5 points Sunday for the reserve championship of the \$50,000 Amateur division on Hick Warea, a gelded son of Doc’s Hickory. “I give all the credit to my help,” he said. “They had my cattle all picked out for me and I lucked out.”

Davis, who has been cutting for about ten years, acquired Hick Warea from Henry Reichert in Canada. “Don Boone told me about him and said he thought he’d really fit me,” said Davis. “He’s been a dream. There’s not many horses like him. I never have to work him. I never saddle him or do anything with him until it’s time to show.”

AQHA/NCHA Affiliate Challenge Standings as of May 9

Arizona CHA.....	1,940	Minnesota CHA	210	Mid State Illinois CHA.....	35
Northwest CHA.....	1,390	North Texas AQHA CHA.....	155	Bluebonnet CHA.....	30
Utah CHA	1,305	Panhandle CHA.....	155	Northern Illinois CHA.....	30
Canadian CHA.....	1,275	Four Corners Cuttinghorse Club.	150	Kansas CHA	20
Idaho CHA	1,250	Western Oklahoma CHA	135	Louisiana CHA.....	20
Montana CHA	975	Beef Empire CHA	125	North Central Arkansas SEMO	20
Central Utah CHA.....	680	Longhorn CHA.....	125	Northeast CHA	20
Nevada Reined Cow CHA	650	Double Eagle CHA	115	Western Nevada CHA	20
South Dakota CHA	615	Kern County CHA.....	105	Barn Church CHA.....	10
Wyoming CHA	540	Southwest Oklahoma CHA.....	105	Central Savannah Rvr Area CHA .	10
Oregon CHA.....	530	San Diego CHA	80	Florida CHA.....	10
Washington CHA.....	525	West Central Texas CHA	80	Iowa CHA	10
Alberta CHA	470	Southeastern Oklahoma CHA	75	Live Oak CHA.....	10
New Mexico CHA.....	375	Rose Country CHA.....	70	Mid-South CHA.....	10
Chisholm Trail CHA.....	370	Mississippi CHA.....	60	Sowega CHA.....	10
Western States CHA	275	Lone Star CHA	55	Waller CHA.....	10
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Pacific Coast CHA.....	270	Central Texas CHA	45		

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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.

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