

Daily Chatter

Sunday, May 7, 2006

AN OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE NATIONAL CUTTING HORSE ASSOCIATION



**Watkins wins \$20,000 Non-Pro
Dee Acre Doc takes \$10K N/NP
Gerber gets \$50K Amateur title**



Cindy Watkins, \$20,000 Non-Pro champion, won her title with 222 points aboard Mr Gin Corcha aka Stanley.

Thanks

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It's been a good show for Cindy Watkins, Prescott, AZ. Last week, Al Dunning rode her horse Letric Brakes as reserve champion of the \$3,000 Novice division and, on Wednesday, Watkins was a \$10,000 Amateur Finalist on that horse, after winning the go-round with 219 points.

Thursday was Watkins's day to really shine, however, when she won the \$20,000 Non-Pro with 222 points aboard Mr Gin Corcha.

"Everything went to plan," said Watkins. "It doesn't always do that, so it was nice. "Stanley (Mr Gin Corcha) was just fabulous. I'm so fortunate to have him."

Watkins purchased the 12-year-old gelding two years ago on the advice of Dunning and nicknamed him Stanley, after a character played by Jim Carey in the 1994 movie *The Mask*. Elizabeth Queen had ridden Mr Gin Corcha to win the 1998 Augusta

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Left to right: Jessica Hiner, North Powder, OR, reserve champion of the \$20,000 Non-Pro riding Hickorys Rawhide; Paige Kincaid, 16, Peoria, AZ, winner of the \$10,000 Novice Non-Pro aboard Dee Acre Doc.

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Futurity Non-Pro division.

Last summer, Watkins came close to losing the horse, after he developed double abscesses on his front feet, which led to acute laminitis.

"It was scary," said Watkins. "It was a miracle just to get him through it. And the vets didn't know if we could ever compete with him again."

After six months of recuperation, Mr Gin Corcha scored 73 points in his comeback performance.

"We pick and choose the places we take him," said Watkins. "He's very special and we don't want to hurt him."

Watkins also qualified for the \$10,000 Novice/Non-Pro Finals riding Mr Gin Corcha.

Jessica Hiner, North Powder, OR, was a little apprehensive going into the \$20,000 Non-Pro Finals, after a nerve-racking run in the \$10,000 Amateur Finals.

"I had a cow go over the fence," she explained. "So my horse was kind of wound in the herd tonight. He worked a cow and was great, but he was a little hard to cut on."

Hiner, who rode Hickorys Rawhide in both divisions, scored 219 points as runner-up in the \$20,000 Non-Pro Finals.

"He's a pretty neat little horse," she said of the Tangys Classy Peppy son, who was a gift from her mother-in-law, Nicki Hiner. It was Nicki who got Jes-

sica and her husband, Diehl, hooked on cutting. Nicki owned Leanin Eighty Eight, now deceased, Open Champion of the 1997 Western Nationals under Jack Hitchings for Bobby Kennedy.

"Hickory's Rawhide was her horse

after Leanin Eighty Eight," said Jessica. "She thought I would like him better, even though she was getting along with him fine."

The Hiners own Little Creek Ranch in North Powder, where they plan to



You say it's your birthday!

*These NCHA members
are celebrating their birthday today.*

Jana Anderson..... Medina, WA	Binky Moffat	Canada
Brian Bea	Washougal, WA	John Montalbano.....Houston, TX
Margot O Burrell..... Dallas, TX	Eric Niven	Canada
Elaine Carl	Darlington, WI	Sue R Nye
Mike Coleman . Mount Enterprise, TX	Lynn Packard.....	Medicine Lodge KS
Don Drobot	Canada	Carol D Parnell
Ben Duke	Ninety Six, SC	Prosper Peymen.....
Jessica Eaton	Danville, IN	Jack A Richey
Bill Enk	Paso Robles, CA	Melody Roberson
Eldon Fleming	Genola, UT	Hannah Satica
Lon Goff.....	Springfield, MO	Edwin B Tatum
Merwin Grant.....	Phoenix, AZ	Jerry H Trimble.....
Lawson Hadlock	Ogden, UT	Ronald M Ward.....
Dwight Horton Jr	Lakemont, GA	Alexandria Weiler
Janet King	Anderson, CA	Jim Willoughby
Dennis Mcdonald.....	Post, TX	Sandra McFarland Wilson..
Diane L Milicevic	Live Oak, FL	Ron Young.....
		Weatherford, TX



Left to right: Julie Christensen, Burbank, CA, rode Starlight Angelina as reserve champion of the \$10,000 Novice Non-Pro; Debra Gerber captured the \$50,000 Amateur title aboard Creeks Bar Peppy.

hold their first sanctioned cutting event on June 15.

\$10,000 Novice/Non-Pro

Paige Kincaid, 16, Peoria, AZ, got off to a good start, when she split fourth and fifth in the Senior Youth Finals last weekend. But yesterday, she and Dee Acre Doc pulled out the stops with a win in the \$10,000 Novice Non-Pro.

"It was unbelievable, he was so good," said Paige, who tied for third in the go-round and scored 217 points in the Finals. "The cows today were tough and I was a little worried."

Paige and her nine-year-old gelding won last year's Senior Youth Finals. They also finished fifth in the 2005 NCHA \$10,000 Novice Non-Pro World championship standings, and sixth in the Senior Youth.

"He was what people call a run-off," said Paige, describing Dee Acre Doc, when she purchased him two years ago.

"Nobody could get through a run with him. Nobody wanted him. But he works for me.

"Mike Wood is my trainer and he keeps him correct," she added. "And I've just been lucky and able to ride him."

Paige, a sophomore at Arizona Agri-Business and Equine Center charter school in Phoenix, began cutting five years ago, after learning to ride hunter-jumpers. She is the only member of her family who rides.

"I'd give anybody \$100 to get them on a horse," said Paige of her parents, David and Kylee. "I've been real fortunate that they support me in this."

Although Julie Christensen, Burbank, CA, placed second in the go-round with 217 points, she was still apprehensive about the Finals.

"I haven't been in the finals for a few years and I haven't really shown for the past three years," said Christensen, who scored 216 points on Starlight Angelina for the reserve championship.

"We showed a few times last year — just enough so that I could qualify to come here," she added. "He's been working awesome."

Christensen, who owns tanning salons in the Los Angeles area, purchased the stallion as a yearling at the NCHA Futurity Sales, on the advice of Joe Suiter.

"He came in the sale ring on his hind feet," she recalled. "He was acting crazy and he was huge. I bought him for \$9,800 and have had him ever since. He's my pet."

Starlight Angelina placed third in the NCHA Open Futurity under Mark Kelley, and was reserve champion of the 2002 NCHA Classic Challenge with Terry Clifford. His win yesterday pushed him past the \$100,000 earning mark.

Christensen and her fiancé plan to be married in Fiji this July.

\$50,000 Amateur

Riding Creeks Bar Peppy, Debbie Gerber, Santa Ynez, CA, collected her second National Finals title.

In 2003, Gerber won the \$20,000 Non-Pro division; yesterday, she scored 218 to claim the \$50,000 Amateur.

"As soon as he walked in there, he just sort of lit up," said Gerber of her 15-year-old gelding. "I knew I had a horse as soon as I dropped my hand. The cows were bad, so we opted off a bit and decided to go by feel, and it worked."

Gerber, who purchased Creeks Bar Peppy six years ago from Becky Elliot, didn't compete with the gelding last year, but used him as a practice horse, instead.

"A couple of weeks before we came here, I legged him up a little extra and put him on some cows," she noted. "To bring him out of mothballs made it even more special this trip."

Creeks Bar Peppy was Gerber's first cutting horse, when she started competing six years ago.

"He's brought me through the ranks from \$2,000 Rider on," she said. "He's very smart and he's really a weekend warrior."

Katherine Markette, Missoula, MT, reserve champion, rode Lil Lena San, a horse that Kathy Daughn rode to win the 1994 PCCHA Open Cutting Stakes. Markette's score was adjusted from 210 to 217.5 points.



Paige Hadlock demonstrates her trick-riding skills at the Team Roping and dinner at Hadlock Arena on Monday, May 1. Photo by Kim Cook

AMERICAN
QUARTER
HORSE

Wayne Hodges
4★
OUTLAW
Concessions

Daily Chatter

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