

# Daily Chatter

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## Badger Is Back! Wee Little Badger takes Open Diehl Hiner claims Non-Pro



*Wee Little Badger and Scott Amos repeated as Open Champions at the Western National Championships.*

### Thanks

Competitors at the Wayne Hodges & Outlaw Conversions/NCHA Western National Championships have some people to thank for providing refreshments and lunches served in the Hospitality Room. Thanks for the generosity and hard work of:

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**W**ee Little Badger captured the Open Western National championship for the second consecutive year, when he scored 223 points on Sunday, as the last horse in the first set of cattle.

"This was a more exciting win for me," said Scott Amos, the nine-year-old gelding's rider. "I drew up last in the first set of the go-round and marked 220 and then came back with the same draw and scored 223. The cattle had been tough, but I cut two

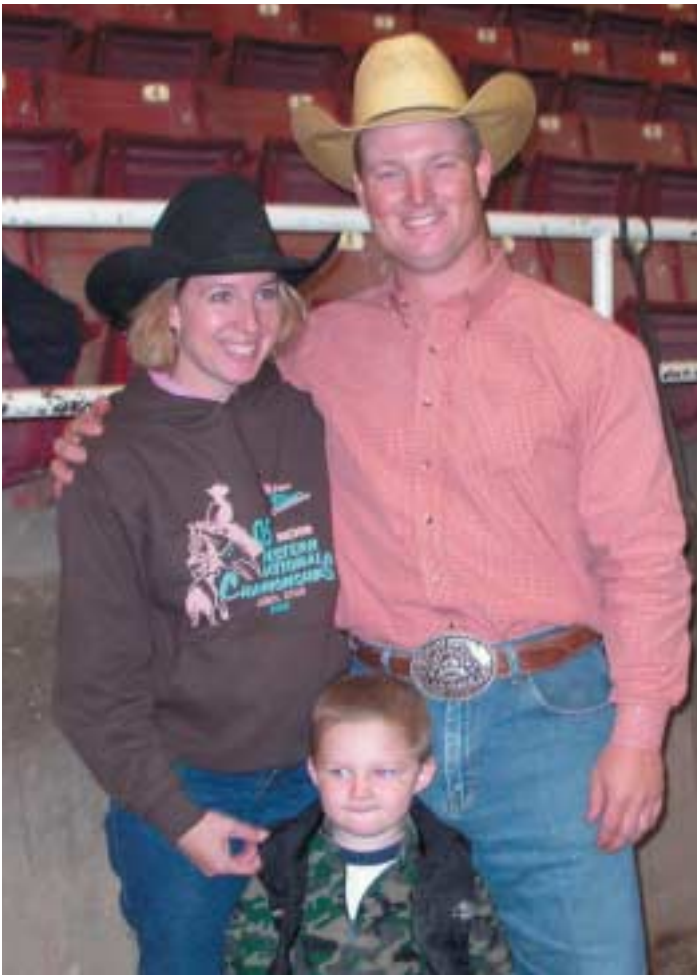
that were fresh and a rerun, and it worked out."

Last year, Amos scored 217 for the title on the Dual Jazz son, as the first to cut in the Finals.

"He's like a good border collie, when he works a cow," said Amos. "He just reads all the time. You can put him on auto pilot and there's nothing that he won't try to do for you."

Wee Little Badger, bred and trained by Roy Harden, belongs to Ranch Development, Loma, CO,

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Left, Non-Pro Champion Diehl Hiner with his wife, Jessica, who was Reserve in the \$20,000 Non-Pro, and their son, Tice. Above, Barbara Halligan, with her husband James, was Reserve Champion in the Non-Pro.

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owned by Leslie and Abigail Wexner, Columbus, OH. Amos, who runs the Wexner's 4,500-acre ranch in Carbondale, Colorado with trainer Matt Turnbull, purchased the horse four years ago, as a ranch horse for Abigail, who competes on hunter-jumpers in the Midwest.

Wee Little Badger is one of three horses to have won back-to-back Open National championships. Caught Me Lookin, owned and ridden by Gerry Hansma, took the title in 2002

### Final AQHA/NCHA Affiliate Challenge Standings

Utah CHA .....	1,615	British Columbia CHA.....	325	Sundance CHA.....	45
Montana CHA.....	1,600	Cascade Cow Cutters.....	300	Amcha .....	35
Arizona CHA.....	1,565	Iowa CHA .....	210	Kansas CHA .....	35
Idaho CHA.....	1,475	Kern County CHA .....	210	San Angelo SS&R .....	30
Central Utah CHA.....	695	New Mexico CHA.....	210	Blue Bonnet CHA .....	20
Wyoming CHA .....	695	Pacific Coast CHA .....	160	Mid Valley CHA.....	20
Washington CHA .....	690	Oregon CHA.....	150	North Dakota CHA.....	10
Northwest CHA.....	660	Gold Country CHA.....	140	North Mississippi CHA.....	10
Nevada Reined Cow CHA .	610	CHA Of Nebraska.....	135	Nueces Canyon CHA .....	10
Western States CHA .....	540	Redwood Empire CHA .....	110	Palo Duro CHA .....	10
South Dakota CHA .....	425	Beef Empire CHA .....	90	Western Nevada CHA .....	10
Alberta CHA .....	400	Panhandle CHA.....	80		
Four Corners CHA Club ....	370	Double Eagle CHA .....	60		



*From left: Doug Reinhardt took reserve champion in the Open on Dean Ness's Smart Little Skittles. Wylie Gustafson made the finals of the \$50,000 Amateur, Non-Pro and Open on Irish Whiskey Sugar, and finished third in the Open. Michelle Pfeifer, also a three-time finalist, rode Get Her Flowing to third in the Non-Pro.*

and 2003, and Dandyolena, ridden by Lawson Hadlock, won in 1998 and 1999.

Smart Little Skittles and Doug Reinhardt captured the reserve championship with 219 points as the first to cut in the Finals.

"The way the cows had been all week, I figured I'd try to cut the best ones I could and get way out of the herd," said Reinhardt, who lives in Alberta. "We got lucky."

Reinhardt purchased Smart Little Skittles at two for Dean Ness, Alberta, Canada. The gelding is one of two Open Western National champions sired by Smart Little Baggins – the other is Caught Me Lookin, owned and bred by Gerry Hansma, Alberta, Canada, who also owned Smart Little Baggins.

Although Ness seldom shows himself, his daughter, Justine, competed successfully last winter in jumping competition riding Smart Little Skittles.

"Dean said the horse liked to jump and told him it wouldn't hurt him," explained Reinhardt. "Justine ended up third or fourth on him out of 30 horses at a show at Spruce Meadows.

"He's a good honest horse. He won the Grand Prairie (Canada) last year. We won't show him at too many weekend shows this year. We'll just go to aged events."

### **Non-Pro champions**

Diehl Hiner, North Powder, OR, scored 221 points to claim the Non-Pro championship by one point over last year's champion Barbara Halligan.

"We found a really good first cow and worked him a long time," noted Hiner, who cut on Hickorys Rawhide, the horse his wife, Jessica, owns and rode as reserve champion of the \$20,000 Non-Pro division.

"After that cow, I knew we were sitting okay," he added. "All I had to do was make sure that I didn't take myself out of the cutting."

The Hiners, who run their family owned ranch and horse operation in North Powder, acquired Hickorys Rawhide, by Tangys Classy Peppy, from Diehl's mother, Nicki, who gave the horse to Jessica as a gift.

"Mom had a couple of good show horses and Jess didn't have one, so she gave him to her," explained Diehl. "Mom did a good job of turning him into a nice show horse."

At 22, there isn't much in the way of cattle that 2004 Non-Pro Western National champion Smokin Manzana hasn't dealt with. Yesterday, he and long-time owner, Barbara Halligan, Draper, SD, scored 220 points late in the first set of the Finals to end up with the reserve championship.

"It was a fun run," said Halligan, who has owned the stallion since he was three. "We ended up going with some reruns because we didn't like some of the fresh cattle. But we found a fresh one at the end that was just excellent."

Halligan purchased the Smokin Jose son from former NCHA Triple Crown rider Joe Heim.

"He's brought us from the very starter classes all the way until now," she said. "The whole family showed him.

"He's been at home longer than our kids, who moved out when they were 18. He's really amazing. I'll never have another one like him. He's never been injected and I just recently switched him to senior feed. Otherwise, he's been on straight oats and grass hay all of his life."

Barbara and her husband, James, run cattle on a 3,500-acre ranch that they purchased from James's parents. They breed Smokin Manzana to a few of their own mares every year and also ship semen to outside mare owners.

### **Trailer Winner**

John L. Dublin marked the high score of 223.5 at the show in winning the \$10,000 Novice on Zacks Little Lena for John and Alexandra Spizziri of Franklin Lakes, NJ. That effort earned a year's use of a Wayne Hodges Deluxe Trailer.



*It went down to the wire, but Heidi Hadlock accepts the \$7,500 first-place check in the AQHA/NCHA Affiliate Challenge on behalf of the Utah CHA from NCHA Executive Director Jeff Hooper. Utah CHA won by just 15 points, 1615 to 1600 over Montana CHA, with Arizona CHA hot on their heels in third with 1565 points. The Affiliate Challenge paid out \$27,000 at the Western National Championships, and an equal amount at the Eastern National Championships, to the leading affiliates based on participation and achievement at the show.*



*Dan Irey (left) of Wayne Hodges Trailers, presents John L. Dublin with a Deluxe Trailer for posting the top score of the Wayne Hodges Trailers \* Outlaw Conversions Western National Championships. Dublin marked 223.5 on John and Alexandra Spizziri's Zacks Little Lena in the \$10,000 Novice finals. The high score at the Eastern and Western National Championships earns one year's use of a top-of-the-line trailer. Kim Cook photo.*



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