

Daily Chatter

Saturday, May 5, 2007

AN OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE NATIONAL CUTTING HORSE ASSOCIATION



TODAY'S SCHEDULE
Beginning at 8:00 a.m.

NON-PRO FINALS

OPEN FINALS



Speight and Pistols Smart Acre win \$10K Novice Non-Pro Leigh takes \$50K Amateur



Elaine Speight, Rocky Mountain House, Alberta, CAN, won the \$10,000 Novice Non-Pro with 223 points on Pistols Smart Acre, by Bob Acre Doc.

Elaine Speight, Rocky Mountain House, Alberta, CAN, and Pistols Smart Acre, handled a full slate on Friday like the champions.

They tied for the top score of 217 points in the Non-Pro go-round, working next-to-last in the last set of cattle, then came back in the first bunch of the \$10,000 Novice Non-Pro Finals to score 223 points and win the championship with a 13-point margin."

"It was very challenging," said Speight of her Finals ride. "There were times when I felt like he didn't even hit the ground from one move before he had to pick himself up and go the other way."

Speight had watched the cattle settle before her run and had decided against a black cow with ringworm

on its face. So when helper Gerry Hansma told her to cut "the one with ringworm," she gritted her teeth, but went for it.

"It worked out really well," she said. "Then I brought out two on my second cut and put my hand down, when one looked me right in the face and my horse was hooked. Luckily, my helpers scooted the other one away and I worked that cow until the buzzer."

Speight and her husband, Bill, who owns a Ford dealership, raised 7-year-old Pistols Smart Acre, by Smart Little Pistol, and sold him as a weanling. But they bought him back as a long 3-year-old and have never looked back.

"We got him ready for the Futu-

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Left to right: Rebecca Cundall, Queen Creek, AZ was reserve champion of the \$10,000 Novice Non-Pro on Primos Playgirl; DeAnna Leigh won the \$50,000 Amateur on Bobs Tiana Doc; Lola Searle, was reserve champion of the \$50,000 Amateur on Hickory Valentino.

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rity and since he hadn't been ridden, he was a year behind," she noted. "But he started to come together as a 4-year-old and made the finals in several derbies. At five, he won the Open 5/6 division with me at Calgary and was reserve in the Non-Pro, and last year, he was sixth here in the Non-Pro."

Speight, who rode a horse 3 1/2 miles bareback to school as a child, enjoyed competitive trail riding, until Bill became interested in cutting 30 years ago. They purchased a ranch and built a covered arena - a necessity in Canada, according to Speight - and have been raising cutting horses and competing ever since.

"We enjoy the challenge of the sport and the people," said Speight.

Rebecca Cundall, Queen Creek, AZ, was reserve champion of the \$10,000 Novice Non-Pro with 215 points on Primos Playgirl, an 8-year-old daughter of Teninas First.

\$50,000 Amateur

It's the judges scores that count, but DeAnna Leigh, Fall City WA, depends on her horse, Bobs Tiana Doc, for the final mark.

"If I do my job right and we ride hard, he whinnies really big at the end of the run," she explained. "He did that tonight, so I knew we were okay. The score was kind of secondary. He had a good time and I had a great time. It was awesome."

Sixth to work in the second set of cattle, Leigh scored 216 points to win the \$50,000 Amateur title; Lola Searle placed as reserve with 215 points on Hickorys Valentine.



"I'd never won one of the big events and

it was very exciting," said Leigh, who first started showing in 1997.

"I knew I could ride him hard and it was just kind of go for broke. I had a pretty aggressive practice and that usually gets me set for the pen.

"I know if I don't ride him, he doesn't work. The harder I ride him, the more fun he has.

"I've never had a horse that actually loved to cut as much as he does. He really


"Even a stopped watch is right twice a day."
Anonymous




You say it's your birthday!

These NCHA members are celebrating their birthday today.

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|-------------------|
| Sandy Abston | Woodville, TX | Will Hardee | Chiefland, FL |
| Reva Ash | Tollesboro, KY | Patricia M Hardy | Canada |
| Jacob Bailey | Sedalia, MO | Bobby Kennedy | Prineville, OR |
| Judd Bennett | Spur, TX | Michaela Kotera | Gretna, NE |
| Roger Bias | Edison, CA | Brad Loesch | Springtown, TX |
| Joe Boberschmidt | Longmont, CO | Randy Magers | Comanche, TX |
| Luella Bryant | Elizabethtown, IL | Jayne Marsh | Scottsdale, AZ |
| Gary Campbell | Fernley, NV | Mary Ann Mason | Frankfort, OH |
| Coleta Clearman | Novice, TX | Wayne Mosley | Sanger, TX |
| Quinn Collins | Washington, TX | Gene Parker | Orrum, NC |
| Pedro Costa | Brazil | James Payne | Marietta, OK |
| Matthew Cunningham | Meade, KS | Shane Plummer | Farmington, UT |
| Melissa Dassel .. | San Jaun Batista, CA | Jerry Seago | Claremore, OK |
| Alan Donnan | Graford, TX | John L Smith | Roundup, MT |
| Nick Gass | Houston, TX | Jayne Stacy | Mustang, OK |
| Fancy Gilliam | Arp, TX | Robin Swayne | Elizabethtown, IL |
| Byron Green | Campbellsburg, IN | Darlene Vollmer | Springville, CA |



\$50,000 Amateur finalists, left to right: John Hayes, Wheatland, WY, with 212 on Playboys Haida Pep; Jann Parker, Huntley, MT, with 210 on Tachitas Jewels; Larry Cox, Cave Creek, AZ, with 210 on Classic Acre.

doesn't care if I'm on his back or not."
 Leigh purchased the 16-year-old gelded son of Bob Acre Doc in 2000 from Don Lester.
 "He didn't really want to sell him," Leigh said. "This was Don's baby. But he sold him to me and I've never looked back.
 "He's real hard to lope. He hurts your body. Nobody likes to lope him a lot, but we've become a team."
 Leigh and her husband own a plumbing and heating business in Seattle.
 "I haven't shown much since 2004," she said. "But I have a great (business) crew and with the Internet, it's getting easier to

handle things away from home.
 "My husband actually said, 'You have to start cutting again.' He knows it's my dream."
 Lola Searle, Vernal, UT, and her gelding Hickory Valentino have been had to beat this week. On Tuesday, they won the \$10,000 Amateur division with 218 points in the Finals, and on Friday, they scored 215 for reserve in the \$50,000 Amateur.
 Searle drew first to work in each finals, but focused on the job at hand.
 "The way the cattle have been this week, I knew that if I just got up out of the herd, we were going to be okay," she said.
 "As long as I do my thing, he's there

every time. He's just a really tough horse. He likes a challenge. The slower the cows, the more bored he is."
 Searle's husband, Rhett, was reserve champion in the \$20,000 Amateur riding Gimme My Sock, on Wednesday.
 "It's cool because we do it all ourselves," said Lola, who also won the \$10,000 Amateur on Hickory Valentino in 2004. "We don't really work with a trainer. We just keep two or three horses at home and really enjoy it."
 Rhett recently sold his pawn shop and retired after 22 years in business., Lola is a human resources assistant for the Vernal school district.

Current AQHA/NCHA Affiliate Challenge Standings (through 5/4)

Utah CHA	1,690	New Mexico CHA.....	225	Longhorn CHA.....	40
Montana CHA	1,410	Oregon CHA	195	Double Eagle CHA	35
Central Utah CHA.....	1,285	Palo Duro CHA	195	Kentucky CHA	20
Arizona CHA.....	1,250	Minnesota CHA	170	Northeast Mississippi CHA.....	20
Western States CHA	1,145	CHA of Nebraska.....	115	Saskatchewan CHA.....	20
Idaho CHA	925	Deep Fork CHA	110	Beef Empire CHA	10
Alberta CHA	815	Sundance CHA.....	105	Blue Bonnet CHA	10
Gold Country CHA.....	720	Pacific Coast CHA	95	Bluegrass CHA	10
Wyoming CHA	640	Southern Oklahoma CHA.....	80	Muenster CHA	10
Northwest CHA.....	570	North Texas CHA.....	75	North Dakota CHA.....	10
Nevada Reined Cow CHA	565	Kern County CHA	70	Oil Belt CHA	10
British Columbia CHA.....	550	Brazos Valley Cutters.....	60	Ozark Mountain CHA	10
Canadian CHA.....	490	Redwood Empire CHA	55	Rose Country CHA	10
South Dakota CHA	440	Salt Creek CHA	55	Southeast Texas CHA.....	10
Cascade Cow Cutters.....	395	San Diego CHA	55	State Of Missouri CHA	10
Washington CHA	335	Mid Valley CHA.....	50	Wateree CHA	10
Four Corners CHA Club	325	Chisholm Trail CHA.....	45	Western Nevada CHA	10
Iowa CHA	300	San Angelo Stock Show & Rodeo	45		



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.

AMERICAN QUARTER HORSE

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.

www.aqha.com.

Wayne Hodges

OUTLAW
Conversions

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