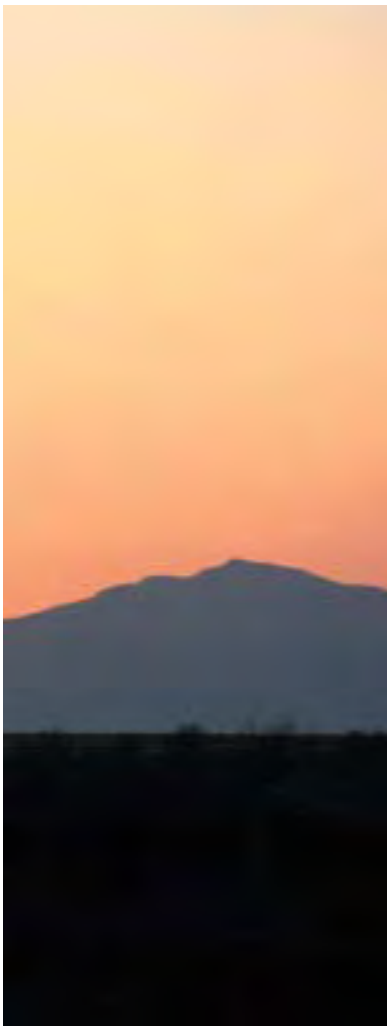


Daily Chatter

Sunday, May 6, 2007

AN OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE NATIONAL CUTTING HORSE ASSOCIATION



Jr Youth champion Rio CD scores Open Finals victory Skaar and Stylish Windy capture Non-Pro title



Lawson Hadlock marked 220 points to win the Western National Open championship on Rio CD for Kathy Markette.

Last Sunday, Rio CD carried Dax Hadlock to win the Junior Youth championship. Yesterday, the 8-year-old CD Olena daughter won the Open championship with 220 points under Dax's dad, Lawson Hadlock, for Kathy Markette, Missoula, MT.

"I felt pretty confident going in," Hadlock said. "But right off the bat, I cut a cow that gave me a miss. After that, she turned into a pretty good cow."

"The second cow ran across the pen and got us some good stops, and we were real tight on the third cow."

"My horse just got stronger as the run went on. In the end, it worked

out."

This was the fourth Western National title for Hadlock. He won the Open on Dandyolena in 1999; the \$10,000 Novice on Cruella Dville in 1997; and the \$3,000 Novice on Stylish Lil Playgirl in 2001.

"I can't say enough good things about her," Hadlock said of Rio CD. "She's one of my most favorite horses. The harder it is, the grittier she gets."

Markette, who was unable to ride Rio CD this year because of health related problems, sold the mare following the Finals to Steve Ralston of Morgan, UT.

Continued on page 2



Left: Rider Al Dunning, with Sally Fisher, Altadena, CA, owner of Western Nationals Open reserve champion Zacks Little Lena, by Zack T Wood. Right: Preston Skaar, Menan, ID, Western Nationals Non-Pro champion on Stylish Windy, shown with wife, Darcy, and daughter, Preslee, who celebrated his first birthday last weekend.

Continued from page 1

"It was emotional," Hadlock admitted. "Kathy wanted to keep her through the Finals.

"I've had this mare since she was four and she always gave me her whole heart every time. And she loves my boy. He's won two scholarships on her. Today he told me, 'Just go cut clean, Dad.'"

Hadlock also finished sixth with 215 points on Cuttin Smart, owned by Jon Strain, Elbert, CO.

Elaine Speight, who won the \$10,000 Novice Non-Pro on Friday, riding Pistols Smart Acre, scored 214 points for eighth.

Zacks Little Lena, ridden by Al Dunning for Sally Fisher, Altadena, CA, marked 218 points to claim the Open reserve championship.

Dunning immediately followed Hadlock and Rio CD as the fourth rider in the second bunch of cattle.

"I was fourth and it gave me an opportunity to feel the cattle and see what I liked," Dunning noted. "I tried to cut a fresh cow on my first horse (in the first bunch) and it ate my lunch. So I left my options open on this horse.

"That first cow really ran him hard," he added. "I don't know how he saved it. He got so deep in the ground that he kind of jumped up into the cow a little bit. But then he got right on his hocks and in an instant was back in a plus situation."

Dunning purchased Zacks Little Lena, an 8-year-old son of Zack T Wood, for

Fisher through John L Dublin, who won the 2005 Western Nationals \$10,000 Novice championship on the stallion for John and Alexandra Spizziri.

"The first time I saw John show him, I ran up to him and asked if he was for sale," related Dunning. "When I saw him run and stop with a cow like he does, I thought he was pretty special. I've ridden some hard stoppers, but I don't think there is a harder stopper than this horse."

Dunning, reserve champion in the \$10,000 Novice on Rio Gato, owned by Jackson Land and Cattle, was also an Open finalist on Oakville Highway, owned by Fisher.

Non-Pro championship

Preston Skaar, Menan, ID, scored 216 points on Stylish Windy to win the Non-Pro championship over Wylie Gustafson, with 215 on Irish Whiskey Sugar.

"The first cow was a little bit softer than I wanted," Skaar noted. "But I just wanted to be correct and I was able to get him shaped up good and cut clean in the middle of the pen.

"These cattle were a lot better than they were a week ago. I just knew that I needed to find something that would look at him."

Skaar and Stylish Windy were also finalists in the \$3,000 Novice Non-Pro Finals on April 30, where they scored 192 points.

"He's been a warrior," Skaar said of the 5-year-old TL Stylish Hickory son, who carried him to wins in the Utah Non-Pro

Futurity and Derby. "He's solid and honest everywhere he goes, and he's easy to tune."

Skaar, 27, helps operate a family-owned feedlot business. His father, Justin Skaar, who rode Stylish Lil Louie as a Non-Pro finalist, purchased Stylish Windy at two; Preston bought the horse from his father as a 3-year-old.

Country musician and songwriter Wylie Gustafson, Lacrosse, WA, overcame the curse of the first draw to set the bar with 215 points on Irish Whiskey Sugar. The pair claimed the reserve championship and split 12/13 in the Open Finals, as well.

"I could never ask for a more consistent or honest horse," said Gustafson. "He's a pure cow horse and just a stopping, intense machine, when it comes to cattle."

Gustafson and Irish Whiskey Sugar won the 2004 Western Nationals \$20,000 Non-Pro championship and tied for reserve of the Non-Pro division the same year. Last year they placed third in the Non-Pro.

"Even if we get a bad cow," Gustafson said, "he moves so fluid and soft, I think he can handle ugly cattle better just by his demeanor,"

Gustafson and his wife, Kimberley, raise, train and sell their own horses. "The music feeds off the ranch life and visa versa," explained Gustafson, who performs about 30 weekends out of the year. "I get a lot of ideas for my songs from the horses. I try to sing what I know about and I love horses and the Western lifestyle."



Left to right: Wylie Gustafson, Lacrosse, WA, Non-Pro reserve champion and Open finalist on Irish Whiskey Sugar; Katherine Strain, White River, SD, third in the Open Finals aboard Sneakin Sam; Dax Hadlock who rode Open champion Rio CD to last weekend to win the Junior Youth championship.

AQHA/NCHA Affiliate Challenge Standings

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------|---------------------------------|----|
| Utah CHA | 1,790 | North Texas CHA | 75 |
| Montana CHA | 1,475 | Kern County CHA | 70 |
| Central Utah CHA | 1,285 | Brazos Valley Cutters | 60 |
| Arizona CHA | 1,250 | Redwood Empire CHA | 55 |
| Western States CHA | 1,170 | Salt Creek CHA | 55 |
| Idaho CHA | 975 | San Diego CHA | 55 |
| Alberta CHA | 865 | Mid Valley CHA | 50 |
| Gold Country CHA | 770 | Chisholm Trail CHA | 45 |
| Wyoming CHA | 665 | San Angelo Stock Show & Rodeo | 45 |
| Nevada Reined Cow CHA | 590 | Longhorn CHA | 40 |
| British Columbia CHA | 575 | Double Eagle CHA | 35 |
| Northwest CHA | 570 | Kentucky CHA | 20 |
| Canadian CHA | 490 | Northeast Mississippi CHA | 20 |
| South Dakota CHA | 465 | Saskatchewan CHA | 20 |
| Cascade Cow Cutters | 420 | Beef Empire CHA | 10 |
| Washington CHA | 375 | Blue Bonnet CHA | 10 |
| Four Corners CHA Club | 325 | Bluegrass CHA | 10 |
| Iowa CHA | 300 | Muenster CHA | 10 |
| New Mexico CHA | 225 | North Dakota CHA | 10 |
| Palo Duro CHA | 220 | Oil Belt CHA | 10 |
| Oregon CHA | 195 | Ozark Mountain CHA | 10 |
| Minnesota CHA | 170 | Rose Country CHA | 10 |
| Cha Of Nebraska | 115 | Southeast Texas CHA | 10 |
| Deep Fork CHA | 110 | State Of Missouri CHA | 10 |
| Sundance CHA | 105 | Wateree CHA | 10 |
| Pacific Coast CHA | 95 | Western Nevada CHA | 10 |
| Southern Oklahoma CHA | 80 | | |

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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Chamber of Commerce**

Oregon CHA

San Deigo CHA

South Dakota CHA

Southern Oregon CHA

Utah CHA

Weber County Commissioners

Weber Economic Development

Western States CHA

Wyoming CHA



Andy and Doogie Wilson of Las Vegas, New Mexico, won a year's use of a Wayne Hodges deluxe trailer after Todd Adolf marked a 224, the high score of the show, on their CD Olena gelding CD April Fool, in the go-round of the Open.

Pictured are Dan Irey of Wayne Hodges Trailers, Lorraine, Todd and Makayla Adolf, Andy Wilson, and NCHA's Jennifer Lavin.

The Utah Cutting Horse Association tallied up 1,790 points to win the AQHA/NCHA Affiliate Challenge, collecting a check for \$7,500 from the \$27,000 pool of awards.

OPEN

| | | | | | |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|--------------|----------------|-------|
| 1 | Rio CD | Shuler & Markette | Missoula, MT | Lawson Hadlock | 220.0 |
| 2 | Zacks Little Lena | Sally Fisher | Altadena, CA | Al Dunning | 218.0 |

NON-PRO

| | | | | | |
|---|---------------------|-----------------------------|--------------|-----------------|-------|
| 1 | Stylish Windy | Preston & Darcy Skaar | Menan, ID | Preston Skaar | 216.0 |
| 2 | Irish Whiskey Sugar | Wylie & Kimberley Gustafson | Lacrosse, WA | Wylie Gustafson | 215.0 |

\$50,000 AMATEUR

| | | | | | |
|---|-------------------|---------------------|---------------|--------------|-------|
| 1 | Bobs Tiana Doc | Deanna Leigh | Fall City, WA | Deanna Leigh | 216.0 |
| 2 | Hickory Valentino | Rhett & Lola Searle | Vernal, UT | Lola Searle | 215.0 |

\$10,000 NOVICE NON-PRO

| | | | | | |
|---|--------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|-------|
| 1 | Pistols Smart Acre | Bill & Elaine Speight | Rocky Mountain House, AB | Elaine Speight | 223.0 |
| 2 | Primos Playgirl | Rebecca Cundall | Queen Creek, AZ | Rebecca Cundall | 215.0 |

\$20,000 NON-PRO

| | | | | | |
|---|---------------|---------------------|------------|--------------|-------|
| 1 | Amazing Acre | Aaron Hughes | Salem, UT | Aaron Hughes | 215.5 |
| 2 | Gimme My Sock | Rhett & Lola Searle | Vernal, UT | Rhett Searle | 215.0 |

\$10,000 AMATEUR

| | | | | | |
|---|-------------------|---------------------|-----------------|----------------|-------|
| 1 | Hickory Valentino | Rhett & Lola Searle | Vernal, UT | Lola Searle | 218.0 |
| 2 | Rolladaker | Sandra Azinger | Hot Springs, SD | Sandra Azinger | 215.0 |

\$3,000 NOVICE NON-PRO

| | | | | | |
|---|----------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|-------|
| 1 | Attract A Dual | Austin Keys | Hailey, ID | Austin Keys | 217.0 |
| 2 | Zig Zag Cat | Fallon Nuttall | Red Lodge, MT | Fallon Nuttall | 216.5 |

SENIOR YOUTH

| | | | | | |
|---|-------------------|---------------|------------|---------------|-------|
| 1 | Dee Acre Doc | Paige Kincaid | Peoria, AZ | Paige Kincaid | 219.0 |
| 2 | Annies Smart Lady | Andrea James | Daniel, WY | Andrea James | 213.0 |

JUNIOR YOUTH

| | | | | | |
|---|--------------|--------------------|--------------|--------------------|-------|
| 1 | Rio CD | Shuler & Markette | Missoula, MT | Dax Hadlock | 217.0 |
| 2 | Travelin Bob | Molly Mae Mirassou | Paicines, CA | Molly Mae Mirassou | 215.0 |

\$2,000 LIMITED RIDER

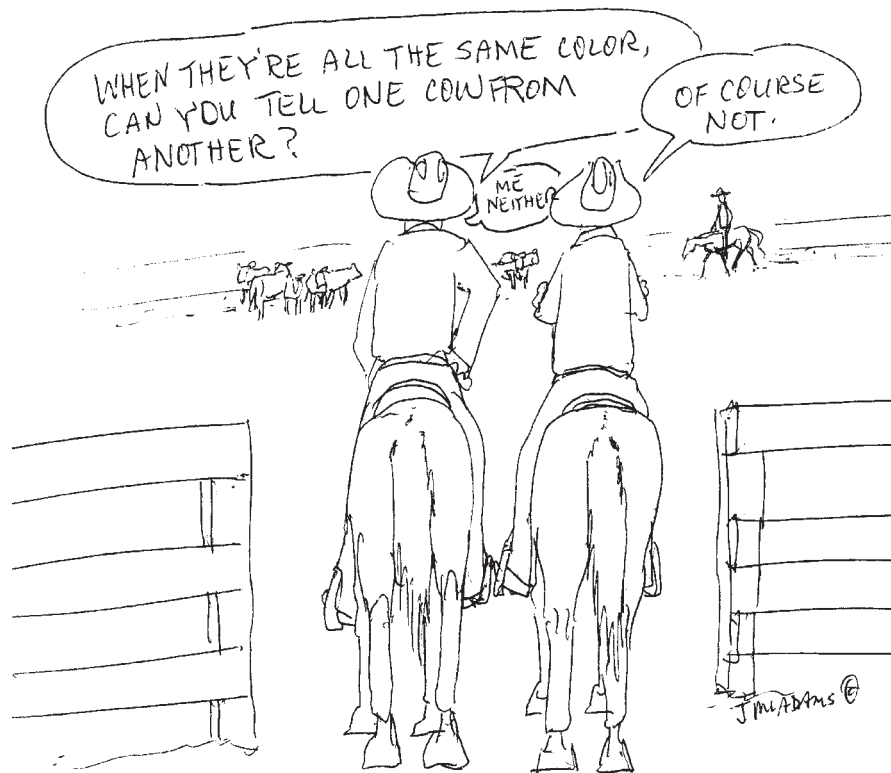
| | | | | | |
|---|----------------------|------------------------|-----------|------------------|-------|
| 1 | Monkeys First Freckl | David & Barbara Eccott | Canada | Melissa Birchard | 222.0 |
| 2 | Hickorys Rawhide | Will Hulden | Union, OR | Will Hulden | 213.0 |

\$10,000 NOVICE

| | | | | | |
|---|----------------|---------------------------|-------------|--------------|-------|
| 1 | Playin Playgun | Switchback Cutting Horses | Roscoe, MT | Will Nuttall | 222.0 |
| 2 | Rio Gato | Jackson Land & Cattle | Jackson, WY | Al Dunning | 216.5 |

\$3,000 NOVICE

| | | | | | |
|---|----------------|---------------------------|------------------|---------------|-------|
| 1 | Playin Playgun | Switchback Cutting Horses | Roscoe, MT | Will Nuttall | 219.0 |
| 2 | Lil Commando | Heather Raftery | Green Valley, AZ | Scott Raftery | 216.5 |



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

Daily Chatter

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