

NCHA WESTERN CHAMPIONSHIPS

Daily Chatter

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THANK YOU!

WAYNE HODGES &
OUTLAW CONVERSIONS

and

ROO HIDE

The use of a new

Wayne Hodges & Outlaw

Conversions Trailer

was awarded to Will Nuttall, the owner of Shortys Royal Blue, the highest scoring horse during the NCHA Western Nationals.

A Roo Hide Saddle

was awarded to

Preston Skaar, the

highest-scoring rider

during the

NCHA Western Nationals.

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Open Co-Champs Amos and Smith, Skaar claims Non-Pro title



Left to right: Scott Amos, riding Wee Little Badger for Ranch Development LLC, and Greg Smith, aboard Meradas Blue Sue for Buffalo Ranch, tied with 220 points for the Western National Open championship.

It all came down to a tie in the NCHA Western National Open Finals, where Scott Amos, aboard former two-time Western National Open champion Wee Little Badger, and Greg Smith, riding former NCHA Derby Champion Meradas Blue Sue, topped the field with twin scores of 220 points.

"Last year my horse won the first go-round of the \$10,000 Novice and had to pull out due to lameness and we had to scratch out of the Open," said Amos, who rides Wee Little Badger for Ranch Development of Loma, CO. "This is just the third time this year that we've shown him."

This is the third NCHA Western National Championship win for Amos and Wee Little Badger, an 11-year-old gelded son of Dual Jazz. They also won titles in 2004 and 2005.

"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."

Amos and Wee Little Badger drew in the middle of the first set of cattle,

where Greg Smith had already encountered trouble and rode out before his working time had expired on Goran.

"I was worried after the first bunch were as tough as they were and I wasn't real sure whether early was good," said Smith, who drew second to ride in the second set on Meradas Blue Sue, for Buffalo Ranch.

But Smith and the Duals Blue Boon son matched Wee Little Badger and the 220-point score was never seriously threatened.

"He's a big stopper and real quick and fast and swoopy through the turns," said Smith. "He stays low to the ground and just wants to be good."

Nine-year-old Meradas Blue Sue has been earning his keep at stud at Buffalo Ranch in Farmington, UT, along with stablemate Laredo Blue, who won the \$50,000 Amateur championship with 222 points under Shane Plummer.

"He and Meradas Blue Sue are breeding big time right now," said Smith. "We just pull them out and go to working them. They both just want to be good."

Non-Pro champion

Preston Skaar, Menan, ID, won the NCHA Western National Non-Pro championship with 220 points aboard Stylish Windy, by To Stylish Hickory. Sandy Hansma and Kathy Strain tied for reserve with 218 points apiece on Caught Me Lookin and Sneakin Sam, respectively.

“This horse of mine will really suck down into the ground and stop that cow,” said Skaar, who also won last year’s Non-Pro championship on Stylish Windy. “He’s been an awesome warhorse for us.

“On the third cow, I kind of forced the cut a little bit. It was not quite as pretty as I would have liked it to have been, but we made it through in pretty good shape and we are tickled with the win.”

Six-year-old Stylish Windy has carried Skaar for wins in five limited age events; he also placed eighth with Skaar in this year’s \$10,000 Novice/Non-Pro division.

Skaar showed as a youth and came back to the sport in 2005, after college. He works with his father, Justin Skaar in the family feedlot business near Menan, ID, where they handle 15,000 head of cattle and farm 2,000 acres.

“That keeps us pretty busy and gives us plenty of cattle to work horses,” said Skaar, who purchased Stylish Windy as a 3-year-old from his father, who had trained the gelding.

Caught Me Lookin, Sandy Hansma’s mount, is a Western National veteran, having won the Open title in 2002 and 2003 with Hansma’s husband, Gerry.

“He’s eleven years old and has been out of the show mode since he was seven,” said Hansma of the stallion that she and Gerry stand in Alberta, Canada, where they live. “I love this horse, so anytime I get a run together on him, it’s pretty cool.”

Last fall, Sandy competed on Caught Me Lookin in a major barrel racing event and placed in the top ten.

Kathy Strain, White River, SD, also finished ninth in the Open Finals aboard Sneakin Sam (they were third in the Open last year), a horse raised by Strain and her husband, Don, by their stallion Sneakin Lena.

“I’ve been showing him in week-end shows since he was seven and he’s really a great horse for me,” said Strain of the 11-year-old gelding. “He’s fun and has a big personality and he tries really hard.”

Sneakin Sam was trained and shown to place in the Open NCHA Futurity and NCHA Derby by Shannon



Preston Skaar, Menan, ID, with wife, Darcy, and daughter, Preslee, won the Non-Pro championship and a Roo Hide saddle with 220 points on Stylish Windy, by To Stylish Hickory.



Left to right: Sandy Hansma, Alberta, CAN, and Kathy Strain, White River, SD, tied with 218 points each for reserve of the Western National Non-Pro division on Caught Me Lookin and Sneakin Sam, respectively.



Left to right: Dan Irej of Wayne Hodges & Outlaw Conversions, presents Will Nutall with a Wayne Hodges Trailer. Nutall’s daughter, Fallon, third from left, scored 224 points on Shortys Royal Blue in the Senior Youth division, to win the award for her father. NCHA president-elect Bronc Willoughby is to the right of Fallon.

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WITH TOM HOLT



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