



# NRBC SHOWDOWN

WIMPYNEEDSACOCKTAIL CAPTURES MULTIPLE TITLES AT NRBC

PHOTOGRAPHY BY WALTENBERRY

**T**HE NATIONAL REINING BREEDERS CLASSIC (NRBC) in Katy, Texas, is where top-notch reiners gather in April each year to run at over a million dollars in prize money. The open finals never disappoint on Saturday night and it was true again this year. Wimpyneedsacocktail (Wimpys Little Step x Seven S Mimosa), owned by Xtra Quarter Horses LLC, and shown by NRHA Professional Thiago Boechat, won the Level (L) 4 and L 3 Open Championships, edging out another Wimpys Little Step offspring, Wimpys Littlecolonel, by just one point. It was a win-win situation for Xtra Quarter Horses, who owns the NRHA Four Million Dollar Sire Wimpys Little Step. The good news didn't stop there for Purcell, Oklahoma-based Xtra Quarter Horses as they also owned the L 1 Open Champion, Whizzer

Whiz, shown by Xtra's assistant trainer, NRHA Professional Fernando Salgado.

## Open Classic

A group of 209 open entries battled for just 31 Open finalists positions, which made for a tense showdown. After the first go-round, NRHA's two leading riders were tied for the win with matching scores of 227: NRHA Four Million Dollar Rider Shawn Florida rode Quistador, owned by Gus and Gaynia Revenberg; and NRHA Three Million Dollar Rider Andrea Fappani rode Smoking Whiz, owned by NRHA Corporate Partner Silver Spurs Equine. Each team walked away with a check for \$13,420 at the Open Draw Party.

Coming out of the first go-round, Boechat and Wimpyneedsacocktail 'Cocktail' placed right behind Florida and Fappani with a 226, despite having a 1-point penalty from each judge for a late shut-off on their second spin. "Without the penalty," Boechat said, "he would have won the go-round." But the bobble didn't set the pair back. Riding into the arena as draw 30 of 31, Boechat and Cocktail pulled out all the stops. NRHA Professional and Million Dollar Rider Jordan Larson held the finals' high score from his pattern aboard Wimpys Littlecolonel, a 230. By the time Boechat and Cocktail exited the arena—there was a new leader. The judges marked the team a 231 and they became NRBC Open Classic Champions. Boechat thanked all of those who helped him to achieve the championship, including a man he noted few people may know. "Chanco (Prudencio Flores) did all of the foundation work on Cocktail before he was sent to the states as a 3-year-old. I'm very thankful to him as well as my entire crew at Xtra. They're all part of the success—my family, my wife, and Lorenzo (Vargas). Since the very beginning Lorenzo has trusted my work and trusted that we could get it done if we had enough horse." Wimpyneedsacocktail is a



Thiago Boechat and Wimpyneedsacocktail

6-year-old stallion stands alongside his prolific sire, Hall of Fame inductee Wimpys Little Step, at Xtra Quarter Horses. The list of L 4 Open finalists from the NRBC tells the true story of Wimpys Little Step's impact on the reining horse industry: eight offspring in the L 4 Open finals alone. Wimpys Little Step not only sired the L 4 and L 3 Open Champion, but also the L 4 Open Reserve Champion.

Along with more than \$102,899 in prize money, Boechat and Wimpyneedsacocktail earned a year's use of a 4-horse Featherlite horse trailer from Twin Cities Featherlite Trailers, a custom saddle from Continental Saddlery, a custom saddle from Kyle Tack, Gist Silversmiths buckles, SmartPak gift certificates and a slew of additional prizes.

Wimpys Littlecolonel and Million Dollar Rider Jordan Larson led the Open finals until unseated by Wimpyneedsacocktail and Boechat close to the end of the draw. Owned by George Lawrence, the palomino stallion's score of 230 was impressive. "I missed the NRHA Futurity L 4 Open finals on him by half of a point," remarked Larson, "which was disappointing because I knew he could do so well. In the NRBC finals, I've never run a horse to a stop so fast—I felt like we were sliding forever."

Larson commented that he didn't think Wimpys Littlecolonel has reached his full potential. Regarding his own performance, Larson said the finals run marked his first time to score a 230. The NRHA Professional went on to congratulate everyone in his barn for their hard work and success. "Every horse we took to the NRBC made the finals. It was a good horse show and I'm very thankful to my family, customers and God for letting me do what I love."

The L 2 Open finals ended in a Co-Championship between Bud Lyon and NRHA Professional Sebastian Petroll. The riders, according to Petroll, didn't want to push their horses with a run-off so close to the NRHA Derby competition. With scores of 223, each earned a paycheck of \$8,427.

Lyon rode Rolex N Chex for owner Logan Pluhar. "That horse is so easy," Lyon said in praise, "but, from what I understand, he hasn't always been," he laughed. "A lot of people have good stories—including my neighbor, who said he bucked her off as a 2-year-old. But really, I can't brag on that horse enough. Unfortunately, I don't get to show him at the Derby this year; it's Logan's turn because she'll be back from her freshman year at Texas A&M." Rolex N Chex, a 5-year-old gelding, is by NRHA Two Million Dollar Sire and Hall of Famer Nu Chex To Cash and out of Miss Moth Money.

NRHA Professional Sebastian Petroll rode Gunsmokes TNT for owner Mary Jansma for the Co-Championship. "This horse never says 'no,'" said Petroll. "He's always got his ears forward—he never has bad days. I felt really good about our go-round run but we went early and I knew that was going to make it tough to make it back in the L 4 but I was happy to make it back in L 2 and 3."

Petroll described the stallion as "easy" in the finals. He also told an anecdote about Gunsmokes TNT's amiable personality: "As a foal, his mother was sick and they had to be kept in a stall. They (owner Mary Jansma and family) would let him out in the aisle to wander around. Mary's son was working on his boat in the alleyway and 'Gunsmoke' would just go hang out with him and see what was going on. He just loves people." The 4-year-old stallion is by NRHA Five Million Dollar Sire Gunner out of Toddie Star.

Brazilian Fernando Salgado won the NRBC L 1 Open division championship riding Xtra Quarter Horses' Whizzer Whiz (Topsail Whiz x Best By Tari)—a horse that Boechat showed to the 2012 NRHA Futurity L 4 Open finals. This year, the NRHA Professional thought Whizzer Whiz would be better suited in the lower levels. "He's definitely a L 4 horse, but I thought if we pulled him back, it would be better instead of trying to get everything out of him." Boechat's plan worked; Salgado and Whizzer Whiz scored a 222.5. Salgado has worked for Boechat and Xtra Quarter Horses since 2010. Ryan Rushing rode Legend In Texcess, owned by Connie LeHocky, to a 222 and claimed the L 1 Open Reserve Champion title. Rushing works for Larson who congratulated him on his success in the pen. Legend In Texcess is by 2007 NRBC Open Champion Custom Legend and out of Jewels Lil Sparkle.

NRHA Million Dollar Rider Brent Wright went to the top of



Bud Lyon and  
Rolex N Chex



the leaderboard in the NRBC Prime Time Open with a score of 222. The NRHA Professional laughed and referred to the win as a bit of a “back door” championship. NRHA Three Million Dollar Rider Tim McQuay posted a 223 in the class but with the applied handicap Wright won the title. “They gave me the money and the awards anyway,” the rider chuckled. Wright rode his own Spookaroanie to the win in the Prime Time Open as well as finalist placings in the L 2, 3, and 4. Described as a little green by Wright, the 5-year-old gelding has accrued over \$35,000 with the trainer’s help. Wright purchased the horse from NRHA Million Dollar Owner Rosanne Sternberg in September of 2012 and has been riding him to success ever since.

For the NRHA Derby coming up, Wright plans on watching his horse instead of riding him. “My son Todd is going to show him in the Derby; I’m going to sit this one out.” Spookaroanie is by NRHA Million Dollar Sire Smart Spook and out of Little Roan Chick.

Coming in behind Wright was NRHA Professional Carol Metcalf and Whattadualpep (Mister Dual Pep x Whattaroyal-princess). The pair banked \$1,650 in earnings along with their Prime Time Open Reserve Champion title. Metcalf rode the gelding for owner Mark Miers of Abilene, Texas. ♦



Fernando Salgado and Whizzer Whiz

*Waltenberg*



Brent Wright and Spookaroanie



Sebastian Petroll and Gunsmokes TNT