

SlideStreet Journal

April 19, 2024

TODAY'S SCHEDULE

Ford Truck

9 a.m. - Arena Open to Non Pro Finalists Only

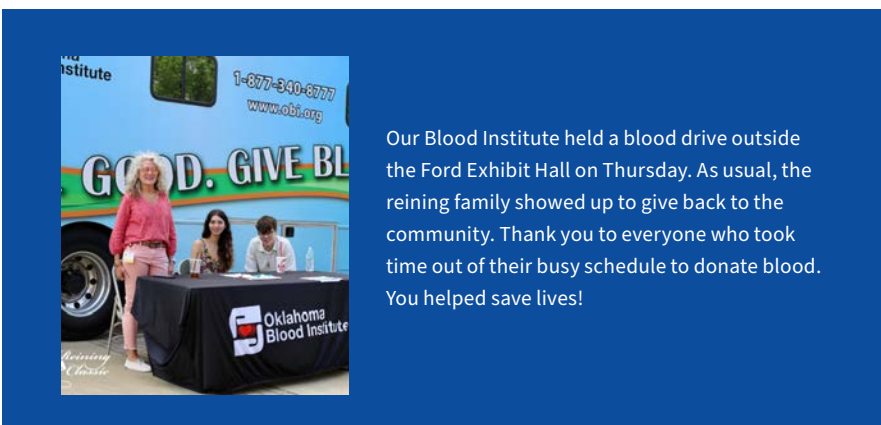
1 p.m. - Riders Meeting

Super Duty Indoor

9 a.m. - Nov. Horse Non Pro L1, L2, L3

Central Park Hall Arena

8 a.m. - Nov. Horse Open L1, L2, L3



Our Blood Institute held a blood drive outside the Ford Exhibit Hall on Thursday. As usual, the reining family showed up to give back to the community. Thank you to everyone who took time out of their busy schedule to donate blood. You helped save lives!

Riders Meeting

There will be a Riders Meeting at 1 p.m.

The meeting will be held at the Press Conference Area in the Ford Arena.

Everyone is welcome to attend.

McCutcheon & Flessner

Top Non Pro Prelims

The scores were high and the excitement was palpable as the final day of NRBC Non Pro Classic preliminaries came to a close.

Scores reached as high as a memorable 221 and now riders are deep into preparations to impress again on Saturday as they enter the pen with over \$50,000 on the line.

Two riders came out on top of the Level 4 Prelims, tied at 221. Eight-time NRBC Non Pro Champion Mandy McCutcheon rode Dun It For Whiz, a four-year-old by Dun It For Whizkey out of Indians Gunalena. This gelding already has over \$114,000 in show pen earnings after wins at the 100X Reining Classic and the American Quarter Horse Congress.

The second rider tied for first in the Level 4 is Kelsey Flessner, who made her first trip to the NRBC two years ago as a Level 1 rider where she qualified for the Level 4 finals. She's done it again this year, once again on another daughter of Magnum Chic Dream– Gunna Make My Dream out of ARC Gunna Mark Ya, a mare she's only owned for a month. Kelsey and 'Dreamer' also earned the high score in the Level 3. Not only is the pair headed to the finals on Saturday evening, they won the \$20k Novice Horse Non Pro as well as the APHA Chrome Cash Incentive.

The top scores at the conclusion of the Non Pro Classic Prelims are:

Level 4 Tied – Mandy McCutcheon & Dun It For Whiz

(Dun It For Whizkey x Indians Gunalena) – 221

Owned by Tom & Mandy McCutcheon | Bred by Calvin Burger

Level 4 Tied, Level 3, Novice Horse Non Pro, APHA Non Pro Chrome Cash – Kelsey Flessner & Gunna Make My Dream

(Magnum Chic Dream x ARC Gunna Mark Ya) – 221

Owned by Kelsey Flessner | Bred by Jody Puno

Level 2 – Carin Valcich & Shamelyss

(Shiners Voodoo Dr x Wimpys All Jacked Up) – 218.5

Owned & Bred by Carin Valcich



Level 1 – Miranda Leal & Infernno

(Inferno Sixty Six x FS Smart Doc Chic) – 217

Owned & Bred by Gilberto Leal

Prime Time Non Pro Tied – Jennifer Greenleaf & Gotta Lotta Pizazz,

(Spooks Gotta Whiz x Dunit Sparkin) – 218.5 (includes handicap)

Owned by Jennifer Greenleaf | Bred by Linda Hamilton

Prime Time Non Pro Tied – Nicole McDevitt & I Shine At Nite

(Gunners Special Nite x Shiney Enterprise) – 218.5 (includes handicap)

Owned by Nicole McDevitt | Bred by McQuay Stables

Prime Time Non Pro Tied & Masters Non Pro – Charles Wiederholt & Ima Magnum Survivor

(Magnum Chic Dream x Golden Survivor) – 218.5 (includes handicap)

Owned by Charles & Cheryl Wiederholt | Bred by Deanna Nell

Riders who secured a spot in the finals will ride again on Saturday starting at 8 a.m. in the Ford

Truck Arena. In the Non Pro Level 4, riders who scored a 215.5 will advance. In the Non Pro Level 3, the bubble was a 214. In the Non Pro Level 2, it was a 212 and in the Non Pro Level 1, a 208. In the Prime Time Non Pro a 214 advanced riders to the finals, and in the new Masters Non Pro, it was a 212.





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Kelsey Flessner & Gunna Make My Dream

Novice Horse Non Pro & Chrome Cash Champions



In addition to making the L4 Non Pro Classic Finals, Kelsey Flessner of Whitesboro, Texas, won two other divisions: the Novice Horse Non Pro and the APHA Chrome Cash Incentive. To make these achievements more impressive, Flessner has only had her mare, Gunna Make My Dream, by Magnum Chic Dream out of ARC Gunna Mark Ya, for a month.

“I had a Magnum mare that I showed a couple of years ago that I was really successful with,” Flessner said. “I think I just get along with the Magnum mares. So when I saw her come available, I was pretty excited.”

To add even more excitement, Kelsey went to her first-ever National Reining Breeders Classic two years ago, where she was qualified for the L1. This year, she’s topped the L3 and tied for the high score

in the prelims with eight-time NRBC champion Mandy McCutcheon, scoring a 221.

Of her mare, Flessner said, “She is like a puppy. She loves carrots. We’ve been to the Cilantro Snack Station several times. She likes scratches. She’s a very kind mare, just like the Magnums.”

Flessner won \$7,214 for her Novice Horse Non Pro win and \$1,763 for her APHA Chrome Cash Incentive win.

“The Chrome Cash is a genius invention,” noted Flessner. “It’s some extra money. You’re already out there showing. They’ve got the APHA registration papers. You might as well enter. It’s really a neat program that they’ve come up with to give us some extra money for what we’re already doing.”



KP Price

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Classic Connection

Miranda Leal

It's been a week full of firsts for Miranda Leal, a native of Nuevo León, Mexico. It's both her and horse's first National Reining Breeders Classic, and it is also their first time to compete together. Even more astounding is the fact that Leal had never entered the pen in the United States before.

"I rode my horse for the first time ever in January," explained Leal. "Last week, I went back to the barn to ride, and everything felt great, so Fernando [Salgado] told me to just jump in and come to the NRBC."

Leal piloted Infernno, a stallion by Inferno Sixty Six out of FS Smart Doc Chic for a score of 217 in the preliminaries of the Non Pro Classic. This score rounds out Leal's week of firsts, securing her a spot in her first ever finals in the Non Pro Level 3, 2, and 1.

"My run felt amazing. It's a dream," said Leal, nearly radiating with excitement. "I still can't believe it, and I don't think it can get any better than that."

Despite competing in reining since 2008, Leal had never come to the U.S. to compete, so when Fernando pushed her to go to the NRBC, she knew that no matter the outcome, she would only grow as a horsewoman.

"I would tell someone to take the plunge," said Leal, encouraging other hopeful NRBC competitors. "Even if the show goes good or bad, it's such a great opportunity to level up and an amazing feeling just to be here."



New NRBC Press Conference Held in Ford Arena



The 2024 NRBC has been a year full of firsts, at a show that is constantly trying to innovate and bring new flair to the reining industry. One of these innovations was an inaugural press conference, held in the Ford Arena after the conclusion of the Non Pro Classic Preliminaries.

Riders who earned the high scores in each level of competition, including PrimeTime and Masters, sat in front of gathered press and held a conference, emceed by NRBC announcer Brian Lookabill.

The conference was held prior to the Market Insurance Non Pro Draw Party and gave livestream viewers, as well as event attendees, the chance to learn more about the riders who got out on top of the prelims.

Another press conference will be held following the end of the Non Pro Classic Finals, as well as after the conclusion of the Open Classic Preliminaries and Open Finals. Fans of the NRBC can look forward to these conferences as a way to better get to know the riders at the top of the leaderboards.

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Markel Non Pro Draw Party Celebrates Finalists and Honors Memory of Reining Friends

The 2024 National Reining Breeders Classic Markel Non Pro Finals Draw Party is always a boisterous event, celebrating the achievements of the riders who have advanced to the pinnacle of the competition. Hosted by longtime NRBC Sponsor Markel, it's a must-attend event, and one of the highlights, in addition to the draw, is the awarding of the Markel Commitment Award.

Markel annually presents the award to a deserving member of the reining family; it's not always a person who's front and center, but it is always someone who works for the betterment of the reining industry. This year, however, Markel Director of Wester Disciplines Frank Costantini wanted to take a different approach, honoring the memory of several friends who have been lost in recent months. The moment ended with a toast to their memory as a celebration of their lives.

At the beginning of the Draw Party, Frank shared stories of three of them; Doug VanRees, Martina Morrell, and former Markel Commitment Recipient Ann Admonious. Costantini shared a few memories of Doug VanRees, Karen Shedlauskas remembered Martina Morrell, and Ruben Vandorp spoke of Ann Admonius. As the three spoke, photos of Doug, Martina, and Ann played through on the jumbotron.

Then, it was time for the draw and one by one, finalists came up to choose one of the commemorative challenge coins, which would reveal their draw when flipped over.

The commemorative challenge coins are special, as they are unique keepsakes that represent important moments or experiences, and making the NRBC finals is an important moment for any reiner.

Many riders won go-round money, and were able to pick up their earnings before leaving the party, as the NRBC tradition of paying at the show continues.

The Non Pro Finals will be held Saturday, April 20, with the first section starting at 8 a.m.



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Classic Connection

Leah Ward

Leah Ward of Georgetown, Kentucky hasn't been to the NRBC since she was eighteen years old, and this is her first time ever competing in the Classic. She decided to go for it this year after the passing of her mother, Phyllis Vincent, who raised cutting horses in Terrell, Texas, where Leah grew up.

"So that's how I'm back in the industry," Ward said. "Just riding in her honor, basically... I wanted to do it for real. I wanted to do it at the highest level and see if I could."

Her husband, Josh Stevens, who buys and sells Thoroughbred race horses, is working this week, so she came to the show by herself, but she knows her mom is with her.

"I've had her on my side for sure this week," Ward reminisced. "This is the biggest show I've ever competed at, so it's very overwhelming but very exciting at the same time."

She's riding Flinns Gone Rogue, a four-year-old mare by In Like Flinn, whom her trainer, Casey Deary, found for her.

"She's so sweet, so happy all the time. Always happy," Ward said with a laugh. "She comes running to me every day. She's calm and a great stopper, which has helped me improve my stopping."

Although, the fact that Flinns Gone Rogue, aka "Gwen," knows her job so well that it was a bit of a drawback at first.

"The first time I showed her, she knew her job a little too well, maybe from the futurity season," Ward recalled, referring to Gwen's time in the showpen with Deary, Luca Fappani, and Kiefer Kaufman.

Here in the Non Pro Classic Prelims, Ward and Gwen were able to work out some of the kinks in the show pen.

"She surprised me by staying with me so well and waiting on me. I was obviously worried about the signs and bright lights and everything, and she just stayed right with me. And I was so happy," she laughed.

Ward's husband, as well as her dad and his wife, are flying in to watch her compete in the Level 1 Non Pro Classic Finals on Saturday. Fortunately, she has a strategy for her run, explaining "I put a lot of pressure on myself because of my mom and just wanting to do well for her and my family, but my main goal is just to improve upon my first run."



NRBC



April 19 - Friday

Ford Truck Arena

*8 a.m. – Ford Arena is open to Non Pro Finalists ONLY until the arena is closed for ground preparation 1.5 hours before the Finals begin **Saturday** morning.*

1 p.m. – Riders Meeting – Press Conference Area

Super Duty Indoor

9 a.m. – Novice Horse Non Pro L1, L2, L3 [1] – Pattern 4

Drag Every 8th Draw

Novice Horse Non Pro Awards

****PLEASE NOTE THERE IS NO SECTION 2 OF THE NOVICE HORSE NON PRO****

Central Park Hall Arenas

8 a.m. – Novice Horse Open L1, L2, L3 [1] (Section 1) – Pattern 13

Drag every 8th Draw

30-minute lunch break following draw #56

****AWARDS FOR THE NOVICE HORSE OPEN CLASSES WILL BE SATURDAY FOLLOWING THE**

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