

 NRCHA NATIONAL REINED COW HORSE ASSOCIATION WHERE TRADITION IS NOT FORGOTTI						
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MEDIA						
HOME	<p style="text-align: center;">Ralls Wins SBF Open Hackamore / Unzicker Tops SBF Open Bridle</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;">   </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; margin-top: 10px;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>Ron Ralls and Rudys Wright Photo by Primo Morales</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>Tim Unzicker and Smart Plain Pep Photo by Primo Morales</p> </div> </div>					
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The National Reined Cow Horse Association Snaffle Bit Futurity switched gears September 30 as horses competed in the Open Hackamore and Open Bridle Finals. Competition at the 2006 Futurity concludes Sunday, October 1, at the Reno Livestock Events Center in Reno, Nevada.

Ron Ralls, from Gainesville, Texas, finished fourth in the Open Hackamore preliminaries Wednesday riding Rudys Wright and earned an invitation to compete in the Finals. There, they drew up sixth and posted the winning score – a 442.5 – to win the Open Hackamore Championship and a check for \$8,400.

Rudys Wright, by Lenas Wright On and out of Ms Enterprise, marked a 217.5 in the rein work and a 225 down the fence for the win.

“In the rein work, I ran him pretty hard because it’s the finals and you have to go hard,” Ron said following his win. “He changed leads good and it felt like he stopped pretty big. In the cow work, that cow didn’t do a lot on the end but he did run hard down the fence and I felt like it was a really big first turn. That cow was real honest, he was easy to work, and this horse was honest and he made it easy for me.”

Ron and his wife Patty have owned Rudys Wright since he was 2. The horse won the 2003 Kalpowar Futurity in Glen Rose, Texas, and then faced tough luck at the NRCHA Snaffle Bit Futurity.

“He’s always been a real nice horse but he injured a suspensory in June of his 3-year-old year,” Ron explained. “Had that not have happened, I would have shown him a lot more. He’s just a really good horse.”

Riding Im Smart And Classy, by Tangys Classy Peppy and out of Smart Bikini Chex, Lyn Anderson earned the Open Hackamore Reserve and a check for \$6,720. Lyn, from Madera, California, and Im Smart And Classy, owned by Chip and Michelle Redding of Oakdale, California, marked a 214.5 in the rein work and a 218.5 down the fence for the reserve finish.

In the Open Bridle Finals, Tim Unzicker and Smart Plain Pep picked up the Championship and a check for \$7,245. Tim, from Calhan, Colorado, marked a 219 in the rein work and a 221 down the fence to win the class by 5.5 points with a 440 composite.

“She was really good in the reining; I had a lot of fun with her,” Tim said. “In the cow work, of course they gave me a new cow on that first one. It was kind of sorry and slow and she craves a lot of cow. The second cow was a little tough.”

Runaway Creek Quarter Horses, in Homeland, California, owns Smart Plain Pep and Tim said the thing that makes her great is her quirky personality.

"I've had her for about two years and she's extremely talented. I think her busy little mind thing is helpful. I like that in a horse," he explained. "She's busy and has some personality."

Corey Cushing, from Thermal, California, placed second with Pancho Lena, by Grays Starlight and out of Dox Liz And Lena, owned by Susan Stoltz of Fort Collins, Colorado. Pancho Lena earned a 214 in the rein work and a 220.5 in the cow work and received a check for \$5,670.

After 14 days of competition in Reno, the Snaffle Bit Futurity will conclude with the main event – the Open Finals – Sunday, October 1. For compete results from the show, or to see the action live via the Internet, please visit www.nrcha.com. The live feed can also be accessed at www.waltenberry.com or www.gallopingvideo.com.

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