



2006 Cinch NRHA Non Pro Futurity

Big Changes — Big Prizes — Big Time Talent!



By JANIS ANDERSON

The conditions changed for the 2006 Cinch NRHA Non Pro Futurity, and the new format was heartily accepted by the participants. There was a Finals for more divisions, adding the Limited Non Pro top 15 riders and the Prime Time Non Pro top 10 riders; there was more money added in the Non Pro, Intermediate Non Pro and Limited Non Pro divisions; there was only one go round but a Consolation class was added, which meant five more horses were eligible for the Finals — thereby paying more places; and there was a new division added, the Youth Non Pro.

There was also an incentive for the NRHA Professional trainer of the highest-placing, first-time Non Pro entry. He or she would receive \$5,000 thanks to the generosity of Troy and Andrea Heikes. The highest-scoring, first-time Non Pro Futurity entry would also receive a Gist belt buckle courtesy of Marc and Tami Wagman.

Many Non Pros feel that these changes were a step in the right direction for the industry. The new format allowed more entry-level riders to find success and helped the purse to be distributed better among the finalists. Now, with only one go round, Non Pros who had previously been unable to come to OKC and compete in the Non Pro Futurity because of the lengthy schedule conflicting with work and family obligations, could attend. Entries in the 2006 Non Pro Futurity were up by 12, but that number is expected to grow in 2007.

Dreams Do Come True

Sometimes, dreams do come true. For Kelle Smith and her mom, Joyce Chamberlain, 2003 was a bittersweet year. Kelle won the NRHA Non Pro Futurity on See Ya At Seven (Hollywood Eighty Six X Pure Lil Peppy). Her mom was able to be there and see the win, but the palomino gelding needed sur-



Photos by Waitenberry

When Joyce Chamberlain went horse shopping for her daughter Kelle Smith, the result was a beautiful mare, JD Conquistador Anna, who brought Kelle to the Cinch NRHA Non Pro Futurity winner's circle!



"She's so solid and confident about the job that she does," said Kelle Smith about her JD Conquistador Anna, a daughter of Conquistador Whiz.

gery for an injury, and unfortunately never recovered. He later had to be put down.

Kelle emotionally describes how her mom went horse shopping for another Futurity winner and picked out JD Conquista Anna, a yearling filly by Conquistador Whiz out of Hollywood Anna. "Sam and I were shopping for horses, too (at the 2004 NRHA Breeders Showcase Sale), and we were looking at other horses, but Mom liked this one, so we ended up buying her. Since then, Mom's been all involved with the process. I've sent her tapes, like she was an owner."

Kelle made the 2006 Cinch NRHA Non Pro Finals on both of her entries. Her mom got to the coliseum just before the Finals started. Like many, the unexpected snow storm impeded her progress to OKC and she spent more time than she wanted to in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Kelle wouldn't even watch the Finals and tried to keep everyone else from watching too. She knew she had a chance, so she kept finding other "stuff" to do while she waited. Kelle had drawn up fifth from the end on Anna. "The worst thing is the waiting. They're your friends (out there showing), and you want them to do well, but ... you cheer for yourself just a little more."

Finally, Kelle made her ride on JD Conquistador Anna. Describing it, Kelle begins to choke up a little. "She's so solid and confident about the job that she does. In the run in, she

never left me. It's like she's always saying, 'What next, Kelle, what next?' And that's the kind of horse I love. I like to urge one on — not have one run off. The whole time I was kicking her. I was quite out of breath when it was over. I was struggling." The "breathtaking" run earned a 221 and the championship once more for Kelle. And her mom was ecstatic! The yearling she had picked out for Kelle turned into a Cinch Non Pro Futurity Champion!

Forty-five year old Kelle has been showing pleasure and barrel horses since age four with her parents, Joyce and the late Ed Chamberlain. She began showing reiners in 1999 after marrying reining horse trainer Sam Smith in 1998. Together, she and Sam trained Anna. Kelle pretty much took over riding her in June of her two-year-old year.

Sam praises his wife, saying, "Kelle, as a rider, is awesome! She's good. She's studied Reining and has developed her own style and her own deal that really works for her. When she gets a horse that fits her like this mare, they're just real hard to beat. I knew that she could easily win it."

For now, Anna is going to be in the "show horse band." Watch for her in the derbies. Kelle likes this mare a lot, as does Sam, so she will probably end up in the broodmare band one day. But in the meantime, they will be a team to be reckoned with. Kelle goes on to say, "Since she turned three, I knew she was going to be a show horse. She just tries to do her job, every single time. She's been good in the show pen and has shown exactly the same as she prepares. She listens and is so intent on what I'm doing!"

For their win, Kelle took home an Elite four horse trailer, a Lawson bronze, a Pard's saddle, Anderson Bean boots, a Sage Brush bronze, a National Cowgirl Hall of Fame buckle and certificates valuing over \$1,500 from Cinch, Kyle Tack, Riders Edge, Flint Hats, Platinum Performance, Gently Loved Furs, and Rod's. She also earned a \$37,188.62 paycheck in the Finals.

NRHA Sire & Dam Program Non Pro Awards

George Shifrin's Conquistador Whiz's participation in the NRHA Sire & Dam Program, earned the NRHA Sire & Dam Non Pro Sire Award; a paycheck of \$6,205 and the C.R. Morrison Sire & Dam trophy. Conquistador Whiz is the sire of JD Conquista Anna, Kelle Smith's Cinch NRHA Non Pro Futurity Champion. Mandy McCutcheon's Reserve Champion, SLJ Sweet N Juicy, earned her sire, Smart Like Juice owned by Smart Like Juice, Inc., the second place paycheck of \$3,723. Bob Patterson, who donated a breeding to his stallion, Daniel B Boom, took home \$2,482 through Daniel Down Under's third place Non Pro Finals' finish. The Non Pro Sire & Dam Offspring Award was earned by Dr. Jim Morgan's Smartest Sister (Hesa Smart Chic x Wild Sister).

