



Ginger Schmersal is back in the show ring and rode Sheza Shiney Chic to the Non-Pro Reserve Championship. (Middle) Kallie Deatherage and her Cut From A Star won the Limited Non-Pro division. (Right) Debra Wetherbee was the Limited Non-Pro Reserve Champion on Miss Honey Boots.



Kelle Smith and Rufanicki won the Non-Pro divisions of the Summer Slide Futurity and the Stallion Stakes.

pretty good turner. The only thing she surprised me with was that she was better in the show pen than I thought she'd be. There were no tricks. She was real honest. She was really nice for the first time out. I really liked her."

Schwartzberger also had good things to say about Twilight Spook.

"We raised her," he said. "She's very attractive, a really balanced filly. She's a 'try-er' and she has a lot of ability. She's like a 'Steady Eddie' - she's the same every day."

In the first go-round, Schwartzberger was mad at himself. Twilight Spook earned a 214.5. "I didn't ride her aggressively," he said. "In the finals I showed her with one hand and called on her. I knew she was broke. I showed her very aggressively in her circles and she guided around very good. She ran really nice circles. She could have tapped off a little better in the turnarounds, but she

got stopped pretty big a couple of times. She's a pretty laid-back horse. She'll let you push her and as soon as you quit, she comes back to being laid-back."

Schwartzberger was especially pleased with her circle transitions from large fast to small slow. "When you quit riding her, she folds up and goes slower - to a pleasure lope," he said. "I think that's a neat way for them to come back."

The Non-Pro divisions

At the Summer Slide, Kelle Smith was delighted with Rufanicki (Lil Ruf Peppy x Chexanicki x Bueno Chexinic), owned by her husband, Sam. "He's out of my all-time favorite mare," she said.

Between 2003 and 2005, Smith and Chexanicki earned better than \$74,000 in NRHA aged events.

Smith was determined to show in Denver.

"Since Rufanicki is a stud, Sam did all

the work," Smith said. "I love that Denver show. I took Sam by surprise. He had a week's notice. I told him I hope the horse is ready because I'm going to a horse show. All I did was get on and bounce around. I asked Sam a lot of questions about him, considering I didn't know anything about the horse. And he was perfect. I felt like I was riding Chexanicki. He's just like her. He has no gas. He's real quiet. He thinks real slow, yet he can really do stuff. His circles are perfect. His lead changes are like Western riding slow, and the whole time we were in Denver he stopped perfect every time.

"I just hope we don't sell him," she added. "He is a stud and that's not what I usually ride. We've always had him for sale, but I hope I get to keep him for the [NRHA] Futurity. It would be a lot of fun to go there with him."

Smith and Rufanicki earned a total of \$3,706 for their finals ride. She also rode her gelding See Da Chex (Bueno Chexinic x Hide N Cita x Dunit Rawhide) to tie for second in the Stallion Stakes. She tied with Keith Crawford riding Miss Great Yankee (Rowdy Yankee x Miss Great Nimble x The Jac Be Nimble), owned by Keith Crawford Farm, Howell, Mich., and Kathleen Armenta on Dreamin of Chics (Magnum Chic Dream x JS Sweet N Low x Dell O Lena), owned by Kathleen and her husband, Lorenzo, Marietta, Okla. The Reserve Champions all scored a 211.5 and earned \$1,191.

Ginger Schmersal rode Sheza Shiney Chic (Twice As Shiney x One Genuine Chic x Smart Chic Olena), owned by her husband, Craig, Overbrook, Okla., to second place in the Summer Slide Non-Pro. She scored a 212.5 and earned \$1,150. Schmersal has been away from the show pen since last fall.

"I ruptured a disc last year before the [NRHA] Futurity and they couldn't get me into surgery until January," she

explained. "They told me six months, no riding. I waited seven months. After seven months I figured I've waited my time. I'm going to show. The first futurity we usually go to is Denver, so away I went. I never stopped the mare before that. But it worked out really well."

Schmersal credited her excellent support team for that. Her husband is an NRHA Million Dollar Rider. "He's my trainer," Ginger said enthusiastically, while also crediting Craig's young assistant, Yonathan Baruch from Israel. "He did most of the work on that mare. All I did was show."

Schmersal wasn't sure she'd get to show this year and that's how she came to own Sheza Shiney Chic. "We sold off every one of my 3-year-olds," she explained. "When I was feeling like I was well enough to ride, there wasn't anything for me. That's how we ended up buying her. I needed something quiet and gentle."

Sheza Shiney Chic fit the bill.

"Showing 3-year-olds is kind of a guessing game the first time out," she said. "But that's what these pre-futurities are all about. It's getting ready for the big dance. We want to be in the finals in Oklahoma City."

Kallie Deatherage, Craig, Colo., and her Cut From A Star (Starlights Starbrite x Cut Me A Chex x Cutter Freckles) won the Limited Non-Pro division with a score of 210. They earned \$841. Deatherage is fairly new to reining. She earned her first NRHA paycheck in 2007.

Debra Wetherbee, Elbert, Colo., earned \$668 for second place on her Miss Honey Boots (Master Boot Jac x Miss Bevo Storm x Storms Gold Dust) with a 209.5. Wetherbee shows primarily in Colorado, where she's enjoyed success on Smokumifugotum, a gelding by Smart Smoke and also out of Wetherbee's good mare Miss Bevo Storm. ■