

CHARISMA N CHROME & DAN HUSS SHINE AT LIBERTY DERBY

Fifty-one horse and rider combinations competed at the Michigan Reining Horse Association's 2009 Liberty Derby in Midland, Michigan on July 11 for a total purse of \$45,838.32, twelve NRHA Lawson bronze trophies and an abundance of supplementary prizes for which Michigan is famous.



In only her second show, Charisma N Chrome, shown by Dan Huss of McHenry, Illinois, won the Derby's Level 4 Open Championship. Dan says his favorite characteristic of this 4-year-old mare (Custom Chrome x Miss Sissy Gun x Gun Town) is "Her willingness to try, even after being injured as a 3 year old." And try she did, marking a 145.5 in her first run, winning the tie-breaking run-off, and earning an NRHA Lawson bronze trophy and a \$2,039.23 paycheck for owners Marc and Kathy Gordon of Elgin, Illinois.

The four-year-old stallion, Starlights Commander (Starlights Wrangler x Mist Haleys Comet x Holey Cals Johnny), shown by Dean Brown, also marking a 145.5 in their first run, took the Level 4 Open Reserve Championship, and won \$1,529.42 for owner Laura Cofell of Stoney Creek, Ontario, Canada.

Michigan's own Matt Lantz, aboard JH Gunmetal Blue (Gunner x Blue Eyed Kid x Brennass Kid) a five-year-old stallion owned by Juniper Hill Farm of Fremont, Michigan, won the Level 3 Intermediate Open and Level 2 Limited Open Championships with a score of 145.0. Matt earned a total of \$2,441.06 for these wins, along with two NRHA Lawson bronzes.



Another Michigan Professional, Tim Katona of Belleville, Michigan, riding the four-year-old gelding, Chrome Plated Genes (Genetically Loaded x Majestic Crome x Crome Plated Jac) for owner Thomas Ford of Chelsea, Michigan, marked a 144.5 to win the Reserve Championships in both the Level 3 Intermediate Open and Level 2 Limited Open divisions and paychecks totaling \$1830.79.

The 2009 NRHA Derby Level 4 Non Pro and Level 3 Intermediate Non Pro Champion team, Skeets Little Annie (Skeets Peppy x Oaks Little Annie x Docs Oak) and Frederick Christen of Whitehouse, Ohio, turned in a stunning run and the highest score of the Liberty Derby, marking a 148.0, to win the Level 4 Non Pro and Level 3 Intermediate Non Pro classes. The wins add paychecks totaling \$3,632.97 and two more NRHA Lawson bronze trophies to the five-year-old mare's already impressive collection.



Shenandoah Melody (Mr Melody Jac x Solanos Royaltee x Solanos Peppy San), a 6-year-old mare shown by Lori Lantz of Fremont, Michigan, won the Level 4 Non Pro and Level 3 Intermediate Non Pro Reserve Championships with a score of 146.5. Lori's earnings for these wins totaled \$2,630.11.

McKenzie Lantz of Fremont, Michigan, riding the 4-year-old gelding, Cody Jac Whiz (Topsail Whiz x Blonde At The Bar x Hollywood Jac 86) bested the rest by scoring a 145.0 to win the Level 2 Limited Non Pro Championship and a \$1,056.02 paycheck and NRHA Lawson bronze trophy.



John Balko of Hermitage, Pennsylvania showed his five-year-old mare, Wimpy Stylin Maggie (Wimpys Little Step x Dun Its Sweet Dream x Hollywood Dun It) to the Level 2 Limited Non Pro Reserve Championship with a score of 144.5, earning \$726.02.

Michigan Born, Bred or Owned (MBBO)

NRHA Category 6 classes ran concurrently with the Category 2 classes for horses born in Michigan, bred in Michigan or owned by Michiganders.

Matt Lantz and Juniper Hill Farm's JH Gunmetal Blue swept the MBBO Level 4 Open, MBBO Level 3 Intermediate Open and MBBO Level 2 Limited Open divisions to add \$4,325.80 to their Category 2 earnings, along with three more NRHA Lawson bronze trophies and three MBBO Trophy Belt Buckles, generously provided by Liberty Derby sponsor Fladeboe Ford - Mercury of Gladwin, Michigan.

Tim Katona and Chrome Plated Genes won the Reserve Championships in the three MBBO Open divisions for an additional \$3,330.83 in earnings for owner Thomas Ford of Chelsea, Michigan.

Lori Lantz and Shenandoah Melody won the MBBO Level 4 Non Pro and MBBO Level 3 Intermediate Non Pro classes, adding \$3029.31 to their Category 2 earnings, two NRHA Lawson bronze trophies and two MBBO Trophy Belt Buckles.



McKenzie Lantz and Cody Jac Whiz were the MBBO Level 4 Non Pro and MBBO Level 3 Intermediate Non Pro Reserve Champions, and the MBBO Level 2 Non Pro Champion, for an additional \$3,626.20 in earnings, a second NRHA Lawson bronze trophy and an MBBO Trophy Belt Buckle.

There was a three-way tie for the MBBO Level 2 Limited Non Pro Reserve Championship between three horse/rider combinations. Jesse Gentile of Valley City, Ohio and his five-year-old gelding, Finally Dunit Great (Reminic N Dunit x Great Red Jackie x Great Red Pine), Erin Grandchamp of North Branch, Michigan and her six-year-old gelding, Boggies Tornado (Two T Tivio Tornado x Boggies Body Flash x Boggies Flashy Jac), and Morgan Fladeboe of Midland, Michigan and her six-year-old gelding, Mega Whizard (Marthas Mega Jac x Shashone Whiz x Topsail Whiz) each marked a 140.5 and earned a \$697.59 paycheck.



All photos are courtesy of ProHorse.TV. Thank you!