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your horse who's racing like crazy alongside a steer with sharp horns? Well, that's what a bulldogger does. Then he puts the brakes on and wrestles the steer to the ground, all in about three to five seconds. Even though Rex Rounds of Broadalbin, NY, had the fastest time of the weekend of 3.8 seconds, Greg Bennett of Lake Luzerne, NY, won the average for the three days. Bennett won Friday's event with a 4.2 and had a total of 13.9 for three head.

The excitement continued as the bigger horses were loaded into the chutes for the saddle-bronc riding. It's considered one of the toughest rough-stock events to master because of the great emphasis placed on the rider's technique. The bronc rider's feet must be touching the horse's shoulders on the first jump out of the chute, otherwise the ride is a "no score." Cowboys in both bareback and saddle-bronc riding must keep their toes turned out during the entire eight-second ride. Their spurs must have blunt rowels; anyone with sharp spurs is disqualified. Going into Sunday's performance, Lance Cronk of Woodstown, NJ, and Bobbie Buffington of Bear, DE, were vying for average and year-end awards. Cronk won the year-end, and Buffington would get the average for the weekend.

One of the most popular events for contestants is the team roping. This is a coordinated effort between the header, who catches the steer's head, and the heeler, who ropes one or both feet. The difference between Friday's and Sunday's events was very evident. On Friday the teams were trying to make sure they made the catch to stay in the average, being very cautious and sometimes taking a second throw. A time of 5.9 seconds by Keith Brown and Chris Lee set the pace for the weekend. Saturday the name of the game was to stay in the average but work on times, and Sunday, if either person missed his catch, the team was probably out of the money. Winning Sunday's event and the average with a 24.9 was the team of Brown and Lee. Second were Kevin and Kenny Brown of Keedysville, MD, who also won the year-end; and third were George Peters and Shawn Quinn of Schuylerville, NY.

The oldest event in rodeo is probably calf roping, which dates back to the old West when calves on the range had to be caught quickly to be branded or treated. In rodeo, the calf is given a head start before horse and rider give chase. The horse must work by himself quite a bit, keeping the rope taut but not dragging the calf. On Friday the ropers were cautious, as making the throw was important for the average. Even so, five ropers went away with no times and the fastest catch was 11.2 seconds. Local roper Shawn Quinn had the fastest time of the weekend with 9.2 seconds on Saturday evening. Hudson Falls, NY, native Troy Reynolds won Sunday's event with a 9.6, but bad luck on Friday with a time of 20.7 kept him out of the average. Paul Yorks of Mt. Morris, NY, took the year-end honors; and Troy Roberto won the average for the weekend.

Barrel racing has gotten so tough that electronic timers must be used to separate the riders by hundredths of a second as they negotiate the cloverleaf pattern. The scores Friday ranged from 3.54 seconds to 14.27 seconds. With no one knocking any barrels down (a five-second penalty), competition was extremely tough Saturday and Sunday. Jill Desiato won Friday, was second on Saturday, and a time of 13.61 seconds gave her the average. Chris Peifer won Sunday's per-formance with 13.55.

The last event of the evening is often the audience favorite, as the crowd watches cowboys try to ride bulls with names like Pistol, Freight Train Freddie, Topper, and Wild Card. Some of these huge animals have gone a whole season without being ridden; many have more tricks than you can dream up. The bulls are extremely agile and quick, especially considering that they weigh over a ton. Riders wrap a hand through a loop on the end of a rope, sometimes weaving their fingers through to secure their grip. This event is where the rodeo clowns or bullfighters really have to be on their toes, keeping the bull dis-tracted while the rider bails out to safety — not an easy trick when the bull is more interested in what's going on in the arena than what's back in the pens.

Friday's performance was disappointing for local bull rider Darryl Garrison, who ended up with a no time. Sunday was a different story when Garrison managed to last the full eight seconds on Topper, the bull voted toughest from both stock companies. The final round on Sunday went to John Harp riding Oreo.

Of all the contestants in the 72 rodeos held during the 1994 season, only 84 competitors from thirteen states qualified for the First Frontier Circuit Finals. The finals determine the true cream of the crop, as only one or two competitors from each event in the finals go on to the National Finals Rodeo. Contestants, clowns, announcers, Miss Rodeo New York, pickup men, and everyone behind the scenes worked hard to put on three great shows. If you didn't get there this year, make it a point to go in '95.

Young blood at the National Horse Show

By Kate O'Hare
Correspondent

A turn on the haunches and a wavering right leg. That was enough to make the difference between champion and reserve at the Rolex-Maclay National Championships for hunt-seat equitation, which closed the 111th National Horse Show, held in November at the Meadowlands in East Rutherford, NJ.

As it does every year, the Wednesday-Sunday show devotes a large portion of its last two days to junior riders. On Saturday, November 5, the youngest competitors were the leadline riders, some not even old enough for kindergarten. Junior saddle-seat equitation was in the spotlight with the Saddle Seat Equitation Championship Finals for the "Good Hands" perpetual trophy.

After handing the title over to the

(Continued on next page)

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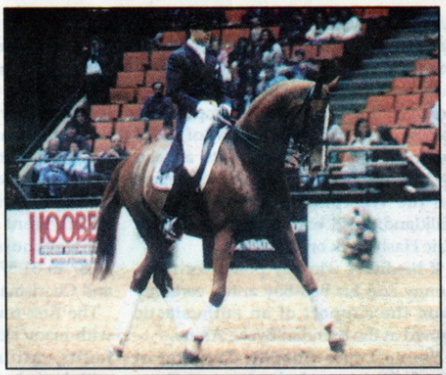


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Left, tail flying, Charisma and Leslie Lenehan are on their way to a third place in the $50,000 Budweiser Grand Prix of New Jersey at the National Horse Show. Upper right, Robert Dover and Devereaux execute a smooth trot half-pass left in their dressage exhibition. Lower right, Courtney Donaldson rides Leslie Fishback's horse in the Maclay finals. Donaldson finished second to Fishback. Photos by Karen Preston.

boys for two years with Adolph Zell in 1992 and Bryant Beltle in 1993 (after more than two decades of female domination), a young woman named Amanda Arrick from Lucasville, OH, took the championship aboard her chestnut Saddlebred, Callaway's Will Gillen. Reserve champion was Shawna Hattery of Nevada, IA, aboard Champagne Parolo. In third place was Elizabeth Andrus of Houston, TX, on Santana's Reebok. The trainer award went to Lillian Schively and Todd Miles.

The Rolex-Maclay Championship for the ASPCA Horsemanship Classes began bright and early at 6:30 a.m. (another tradition) on Sunday, November 6. The competition is open to junior riders who have not reached their eighteenth birthday and who have qualified as national finalists at one of five 1994 regional finals. The riders are judged on seat, hands, guidance, and control and compete both on the flat and over fences. Of the 120 riders who began the day, several were from northern New York, including Amy Momrow of Clifton Park, Mary Mead of Canaan, and Courtney Holbrook of Averill Park. But when the final cut was made, the only New Yorkers remaining were Katie Brierley of Brewster, Lauren Gioia of Buffalo, and Northeast Regional Champion Courtney Donaldson of Katonah.

In the first round, part of the flatwork was done without stirrups. In the final round, the jump course included a 180-degree turn on the haunches at the far end of the ring. More than anything else, these things made the difference between making the cut or not, or taking a blue ribbon or not.

After the 20 completed the jump course in the final round, Leslie Fishback of Versailles, KY, and Courtney Donaldson were asked to switch horses and ride the test again. Best friends and both trained by Missy Clark, the two promised each other in the line afterward that no matter what happened they would stay best friends. In the end, according to judge Scott Evans, the turn and Donaldson's slightly loose right leg gave the title to Fishback.

"A turn on the haunches is one of the most basic exercises in horsemanship," said Evans afterward. "We both [Evans and fellow judge Hap Hansen] felt that in the turn, if she'd just been able to take that pause, rather than hurry...it is a forward movement, but to take that pause, to regroup, whatever you want to call it, it would help." As Evans discussed Donaldson's errors her eyes began to fill, although she continued to try to smile. "Courtney has a right leg," Evans said, "that sometimes has a tendency to wander a little bit when she tries to get the job done. It showed up just a little. It's better, it's the best I've seen it – and I've seen it a lot – but it still shows up enough."

At the press conference, the girls burst into gales of giggles and clutched each other's hands. They peered together at the trophy, donated by the late Alfred

(See National, next page)

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B. Maclay, Esq., and at one point chewed on their helmet chin straps in unison. Fishback is a senior in high school, and Donaldson is a junior; both are A and B students and plan to attend college. Asked whether she plans to make riding a career, Fishback replied, "If my dad will let me."

Evans emphasized the importance of the flatwork in his test, which made Fishback cringe. "I dread flatwork, but I do it," she said. Both Evans and Hansen believe in a return to basic horsemanship, even if it isn't exciting, and they plan to demand perfection on the flat as a ticket to the blue ribbon. "We have to encourage that," said Evans. "That's the least that we as judges can do, encourage it. It's going back to basics, that's what it is." Asked whether there was any conflict in training the first- and second-placed riders, Clark and her partner, Tom Wright, laughed; and Clark replied, "Sounds good to me!"

Former Maclay champion and USET member Leslie Lenehan had to call on all of her horsemanship skills for the $10,000 International and Open Jumper Stake on Saturday afternoon. She was aboard the German chestnut gelding Lenny, whose jumping style can politely be described as lopsided and whose behavior in the ring is uniformly bad. Lenny bucks, kicks, twists, tosses his head and yet, through some miracle, managed to go clean in the "faults converted into seconds" competition, taking the title with a total of 45.24 seconds. In second place with a clean 46.13 was Germany's Thomas Schepers on the Westphalian gelding C.A.I. Falkland; third with a clean 46.62 was Eric Hasbrouck on Cardenta.

If he didn't win any points for form, Lenny and his bad-boy antics certainly won the support of an enthusiastic crowd at the Brendan Byrne Arena.

Young Laura Chapot, daughter of Frank Chapot, took the Amateur-Owner Jumper Classic that same day aboard on Sure Thing; followed by Tracey Bartko on Paul Harvey (named after the radio personality) and Murray Kessler on Crafti.

The premier event of the competition was Saturday night's $50,000 Budweiser Grand Prix of New Jersey (formerly New York), an FEI World Cup Qualifying Event and a Budweiser/AGA Grandprix Series member event. After two twelve-fault rounds and a sixteen-fault round, Alois Pollmann-Schwackhorst of Germany went clear on his chestnut Belgian Warmblood gelding, Hauser's Banghul Del Fol. The next team, Canada's Ian Millar on the mare Lonesome Dove, shocked the crowd by crashing through a jump, with both rider and horse going down. Fortunately, neither was hurt.

The other clears were posted by Jennifer Clarkson on P.S. Gazpacho, Leslie Lenehan on Charisma, Elizabeth Solter on Flirtatious, and Switzerland's Thomas Buholzer on the Hanoverian mare Wapiti. In the jump-off, two riders went clear, with Pollmann-Schwackhorst edging out Buholzer 30.87 to 31.57. Third went to Lenehan and Charisma.

The first-round course was difficult, with many riders accruing double-digit faults, Millar's tumble, and two withdrawals. The jump-off course was big and very tight. Said Pollmann-Schwackhorst, "It all came so fast, no time to breathe." Course designer Robert Ridland was unapologetic: "Horses and riders should jump for their money, not run for their money."

With the three- and five-gaited Saddlebreds absent for the second year due to a lack of entries, ring time was given to a sport not usually seen at the National: dressage. Robert Dover and the chestnut Dutch Warmblood gelding Devereaux performed a freestyle to music from science-fiction movies. Dover was a member of the 1994 World Equestrian Games bronze-medal dressage team. Saturday evening closed with the four-in-hand coaching competition, won by a handsome quartet of gray Kladrubers put to a 1907 Nimrod road coach, owned by John M. Seabrook and driven by Chris Higgins, both of Salem, NJ. A surprising number of fans stayed on for Canada's Superdogs, a menagerie of breeds that performs tricks and runs obstacle courses.

The superdogs reappeared on Sunday for the second annual $10,000 International & Open Jumper Modified Relay for the Walter B. Devereaux Memorial Challenge Trophy. Each horse-and-rider pair was teamed with a superdog and its handler. The ribbon was awarded for the best combined time of equine and canine over their respective courses; the money awarded was determined by the horse and rider's time alone. In the combined competition, the winner was Elizabeth Solter and Rhythm and Blues and their partner, the Border Collie Blue. Second were Ian Millar and Future Vision with the Standard Poodle Trey; third went to Germany's Holger Wulschner and Missouri with the Rough Collie Ian. It was hard to tell who was having more fun, the dogs or the crowd.

As for the prize money, the lion's share of that went to Wulschnur, followed by Bulhozer and Wapiti, and Beezie Patton on Central Valley. Unfortunately, Maggie the Dalmatian did little to help Patton in the combined contest; her navigation of the obstacle course could only be described as creative. (Maybe someone should introduce her to Lenny.)

Despite rumors to the contrary, the National plans to remain at the Meadowlands but will switch (and add one more day of competition) to a Monday-Saturday format next year in order not to compete with pro football for parking spaces.

Northeastern colleges dominate at IHSA Nationals

Two northeastern colleges' equestrian teams took champion and reserve at the 1994 Intercollegiate Horse Show Association (IHSA) National Championships, which were hosted by Texas A&M University. Colby-Sawyer College of New London, NH, won the Miller's Collegiate Cup, which is awarded to the IHSA hunt-seat champion equestrian team. The team from Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs, NY, was reserve champion in a tough competition that had Colby-Sawyer prevailing by only one point. Legendary horseman George Morris was the judge.

(See IHSA, page 68)

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