

# All American Quarter Horse Congress

## Reining Futurity

BY LAURA MAE SCHOELLER

PHOTOGRAPHY BY SHANE RUX PHOTOGRAPHY

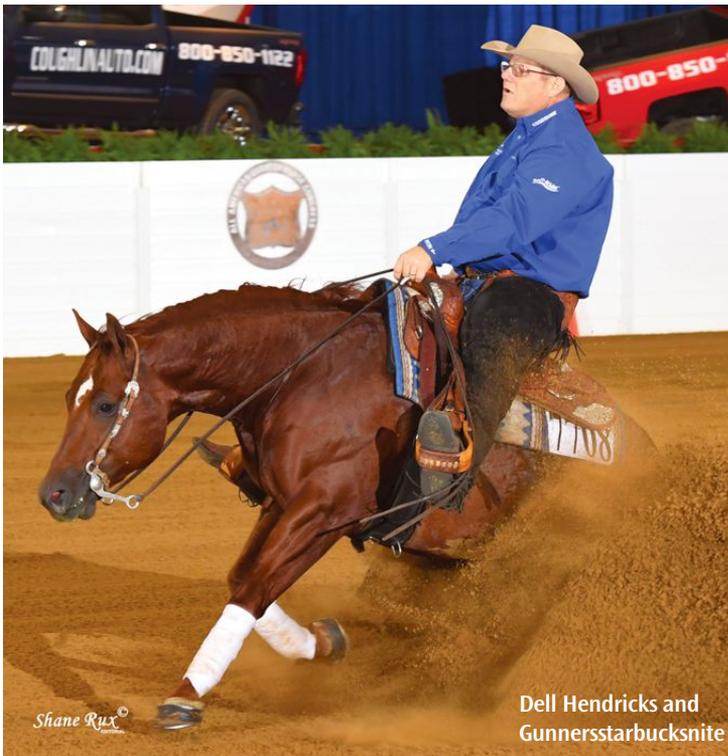
One could feel the buzz and excitement in the air this year as the All American Quarter Horse Congress kicked off October 6, 2016 at the Ohio Expo Center in Columbus, Ohio, marking the 50th Anniversary of the month-long event. The hopes and dreams that the Congress holds for so many were almost palpable as reiners from all over the country prepared for their chance at winning one of the coveted Congress bronze trophies and champion jacket. Reining entries showed a large increase over the previous year, and many exhibitors had to show into the wee hours of the morning through the week of reining competition. But no matter what time of day it was, the happy smiles and tears from so many of the winners and award recipients showed the time spent there was well worth it.

### Level 4 Open

The go-round of the \$139,000-added Congress Open Reining Futurity was the featured event on Saturday, October 8, as NRHA Professionals competed on



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Dell Hendricks and  
Gunnersstarbucksnite



Fernando Salgado and  
Hollywood Hype

125 of the best 3-year-old reining horses in the country for a spot in the finals held Tuesday, October 11. The top 25 scores, plus ties, advanced to the finals in each of the Level (L) 4 and L3 Open divisions with a total of 44 showing in the Open finals this year. Shawn Florida piloted Luckie Moonstone, owned by Jason Dobrinski, of Factoryville, Pennsylvania to a score of 223 to share the top spot on the leader board in the L4 go-round with Dean Brown on Gunnatrashtheplace, owned by Robert Santagata of Campbell Hall, New York.

Finals night, however, the winner was without question as Franco Bertolani guided Dun It For Whizkey, owned by Cardinal Hill Training Center, in Aubrey, Texas through NRHA Pattern 5 and marked a 224.5 to win the \$92,500-added Congress Open Reining Futurity L4 by a two-and-a-half-point margin. The duo showed early in the section of L4 finalists that ran from draws 20 thru 44. Showing as draw 24, Bertolani and owner of Cardinal Reining Horses, Joao Marcos, had to wait through the final 20 finalists before

realizing Dun It For Whizkey's score would hold on for the championship. The win marked the second show for the flashy gray stallion by NRHA Eleven Million Dollar Sire Topsail Whiz and out of Dun It For Chex. In September, Bertolani showed Dun It For Whizkey to the Hollywoodstinseltown Open Futurity championship in the stallion's inaugural event, making Dun It For Whizkey two-for-two in the show pen. "He is a really special horse. He's good-minded and can plus all the maneuvers," Bertolani said. "It's important to thank Cardinal Ranch, my family and my team because I always say when I do good it's really everyone that did good."

Dun It For Whizkey was bred, raised and trained at Cardinal Ranch where Bertolani works as the head trainer. With a Hall of Fame sire and a dam whose progeny have earned more than \$489,000, including another grey reining standout, Starbucks Sidekick, Dun It For Whizkey is already showing the signs of greatness that have come to be expected from his lineage. Bertolani and Dun It For Whizkey's win at the

Congress added \$34,209 to the stallion's lifetime earnings which are now just shy of \$50,000.

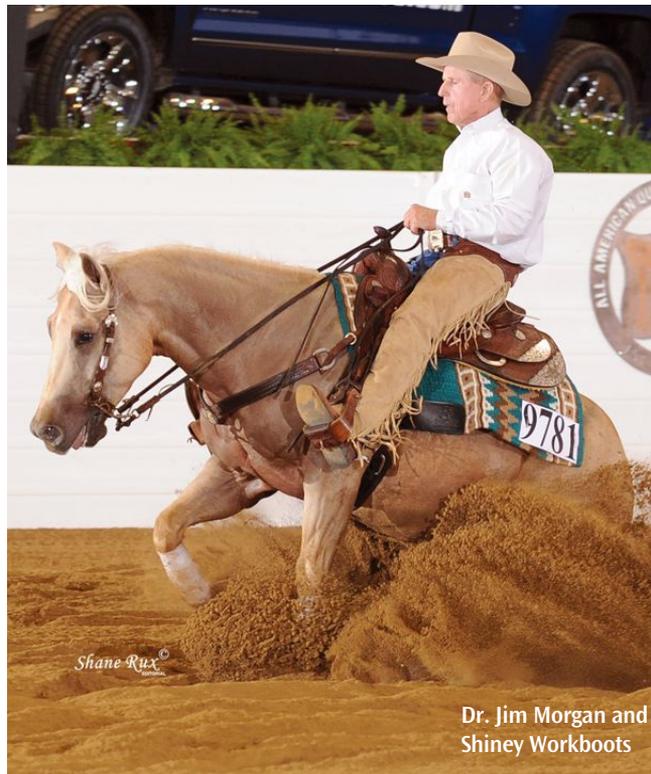
The Congress Open Reining Futurity L4 Reserve championship went to NRHA Five Million Dollar Rider Shawn Florida and Spooks The Hard Way with a score of 222. Spooks The Hard Way, by Spooks Gotta Gun and out of Im So Anson, is owned by Patricia Holtzman, of Orchard Lake, Michigan and was bred by Silver Spurs Equine.

### Level 3 Open

In 2015 NRHA Million Dollar Rider Dell Hendricks made the long haul up from Tioga, Texas to compete at the Congress for the first time in several years. This year Hendricks returned and captured the \$38,500-added Open Reining Futurity L3 championship aboard Gunnersstarbucksnite, owned by Gunnersstarbucksnite Partners. Hendricks and Gunnersstarbucksnite scored a 218 in the go-round to qualify for the L4 and L3 Open finals. On finals night, Hendricks showed 21st in the working order to mark a 220.5 for the L3



Josh Murphy and  
CBK Hang A Wright



Dr. Jim Morgan and  
Shiney Workboots

championship and finish fifth in the L4. “I was happy with him and happy to show him there and do well for the partners. Frank Costantini, Rick Clark, Joe Wolfe, Don Treadway and Steve Opell all partnered on him as a fun little project and so it was fun to go show pretty much in their backyard and have a good run on him,” Hendricks said. Gunnersstarbucksnite, by Gunners Special Nite and out of Starbucks Cocoa Bean, was purchased by Hendricks at the Legacy Sale as a yearling. The sorrel stallion was bred by Larry Weihing. “I bought him at the sale and have had him ever since. In his 2-year-old year, the partners bought him and kept him with me. He is just a nice little horse,” Hendricks said. All totaled, Hendricks and Gunnersstarbucksnite won a paycheck worth \$23,999.

NRHA Professional Fernando Salgado piloted Hollywood Hype to the Open Futurity L3 Reserve championship with a score of 220. The pair marked a 215.5 in the go-round to tie for eighth place in the Open Futurity L2 and qualify for the L3 finals. Salgado and the Carol Rose-bred Hollywood Hype, owned by Humphrey Quarter Horses Inc, is by Hollywoodstinsteltown and out of Shiners Miss Lena, won a combined paycheck of \$8,166.

## Level 2 Open

But Hollywood Hype wasn't the only horse Salgado excelled with at the Congress this year. The winner of the \$5,500-added Open Futurity L2 is determined by the highest-placing score in the go-round. This year, Salgado and Chicsdreamofdiamonds tied for the Co-championship with Josh Murphy on CBK Hang A Wright. Both scored a 219.5 in the go-round to tie for the L2 win and qualify for the L3 and L4 finals. This marked the second win this futurity season for Chicsdreamofdiamonds. The flashy palomino mare by Magnum Chic Dream and out of Princess In Diamonds, both Hall of Famers, is owned by Amy Medows, of Cuba, Missouri, and was shown by her son, Jack, to the Non Pro Futurity L4 championship at this year's Tulsa Reining Classic. With Jack starting his first year of college, the Medows family offered Salgado the opportunity to show the mare. “I have had this mare the whole time. Downunder Horsemanship's Clinton Anderson, her breeder, sent her to me as a 2-year-old and then they bought her and kept her with me. She is one of the last babies out of Princess In Diamonds,

so she is a really special mare for sure. I'm very thankful that they let me show her at the Congress and I am excited to see how she does the rest of this year,” Salgado said. Including seventh place prize money in L3 and twelfth place earnings in the L4, Salgado and Chicsdreamofdiamonds collected a total of \$9,738.

Murphy and CBK Hang A Wright also have a strong show record already this season. The duo tied to win the Developing Horse Futurity L3 and L4 Open divisions at the Tulsa Reining Classic and won the L1 and L2 outright. In addition to that, Murphy and CBK Hang A Wright were the Reserve Champions at the North Central Reining Horse Association (NCRHA) Futurity earlier this season and took home a paycheck in all four divisions. CBK Hang A Wright, by Hang Ten Surprise and out of HR Wright On Cash, is owned and was bred by William and Corliss Kellogg, of Gettysburg, South Dakota. With combined earnings from placing in all three levels of the Congress Futurity, Murphy and CBK Hang A Wright earned a total payout of \$4,142.

## Prime Time Open

NRHA Million Dollar Rider Todd Sommers dominated the Prime Time

Open division of the Congress Open Reining Futurity this year as he won both the championship and reserve titles and separated himself from the rest of the field by a 2-point margin. The Prime Time Open winners are also determined by the highest-scoring runs in the go-round. Sommers showed Mega Spooktacular, by Smart Spook and out of Cinco De Mega, to a score of 218 and the Prime Time Open championship. Their score was also enough to qualify them for both the L3 and L4 finals. Mega Spooktacular was bred and is owned by Martin Bonneson, the breeder and nominator of the 2016 NRHA Derby Non Pro Champion mare Mega Maggie Mae. All total, Sommers and Mega Spooktacular earned \$1,792. Sommers guided Gunnawowya, by Gunnatrashya and out of Dark Pine Wheels, to reserve honors in the Prime Time Open with a score of 217.5. They also earned a paycheck in the L3 finals for eleventh place to bring their total earnings for the show to \$2,066. Gunnawowya is owned by Stephany Monteleone, of Metairie, Louisiana.

### Non Pro Reining Stakes Level 4

The Non Pro Reining Stakes was held Friday, October 7, and featured 52 non pro competitors and their mounts as each vied for a piece of the \$49,000 in added money. David McGee showed Knaughtybyknature, a full sibling to Chicsdreamofdiamonds, both bred by Clinton Anderson, and took an early lead as draw 11 with a score of 218. But their run at the top would only last a short time. Hall of Famer Dr. Jim Morgan, DVM, brought two horses to show in the Non Pro Stakes at the Congress this year. Fresh off their wins in the Non Pro Futurity L3 and L4 at the High Roller Reining Classic in Las Vegas, Dr. Morgan and Partychicatrashya competed as draw 20 and raised the bar as they topped McGee and Knaughtybyknature's score by a half point with a 218.5. Dr. Morgan and Partychicatrashya, by Gunnatrashya and out of Lenas Party Chics and bred by Teresa Hickman, hung onto the lead

until draw 43 when Dr. Morgan returned to the show pen, this time aboard his Non Pro Futurity Prime Time Champion from the Tulsa Reining Classic, Shiney Workboots, by Smart N Shiney and out of Reminic At Work. The duo executed a flawless NRHA Pattern 5 to mark a 219.5 and win the Congress Non Pro L4, L3 and Prime Time Non Pro divisions. Shiney Workboots was bred by Million Dollar Owner David Silva. "Dave McGee kind of set the pace because he marked a 218 just a little before me. And one of his friends came over and kind of pushed my buttons. He looked me right in the face and said 'Good luck Jim.' I thought okay, let's go get it," Dr. Morgan laughed. "Amy told me later when she heard him say that she thought oh no, it looks like he just poked the bear because she knew it would get me going."

But with all the fun and competition aside, the win for Dr. Morgan on the 50th Anniversary of the Congress had some special meaning. "The first time that I ever went to the fairgrounds in Ohio was in 1955. My dad would take us to a show called the Midwestern Roundup and it was quite a horse show. Then I remember being at the very first Congress and later watching my kids show at the Congress. I showed futurity horses there since the very beginning. I won it the last two years it was held during the Congress in 1984 and 1985 and then I won the Non Pro Futurity the first time it was held in Oklahoma City in 1986. So, to win it again on the 50th Anniversary gives me goose bumps even now when I think about it. There are just so many memories I have of showing there, watching my kids show and seeing some of the greats show there too," Dr. Morgan said. And I am just really awestruck by it all this year.

I am 71-years-old and for someone my age to enjoy such a thrill as being first and second in the Futurity and winning almost \$25,000 with two really nice horses, well it's just a God thing. I am just very blessed." Dr. Morgan and Shiney Workboots, who is nicknamed Dave after David Silva who Dr. Morgan purchased the gelding from as a yearling, won a total for \$15,388 for the three championships. The combined earnings for the reserve titles in all three divisions aboard Partychicatrashya added \$9,509 to Dr. Morgan's total take home. "I ride with Brian Bell and without him and Amy none of this would be possible," he said. "Most of the horses I have owned I have raised and trained myself. I still do participate in the training of these horses, make no bones about it, but I couldn't do all of this without Brian and Amy and all the support staff that they have. It takes a lot of preparation to compete at this level and it really takes a team and that's what we have at Brian's."



Alex Purus and Sure Slidin Smart

Shane Rux

## Non Pro Reining Stakes Level 2

Alex Purus, of Marysville, Oklahoma marked his very first major aged-event win by capturing the 50th Anniversary Congress' \$5,000-added Non Pro Reining Stakes L2 championship aboard Sure Slidin Smart, by Hall of Famer Smart Like Juice and out of Bingos Sure Slide. The duo marked a 217.5 to win the L2 and earn fourth place prize money in both the L3 and L4. Purus and Sure Slidin Smart's win was the third time for the pair to test their skills in the show arena. At the beginning of August, Purus and Sure Slidin Smart earned the reserve title in the NCRHA's Non Pro Futurity L1 and L2. The pair also picked up paychecks at the Tulsa Reining Classic Non Pro Futurity before competing at the Congress. Purus and Sure Slidin Smart, owned by Empire Ranch, of Purcell, Oklahoma and bred by Smart Like Juice Inc, won a total of \$7,406. Ginger Schmersal piloted Gold Digging Dunit to the Non Pro Reining Stakes L2 Reserve championship with a score of

## Nod to the Buckeyes

The All American Quarter Horse Congress and the National Reining Horse Association share a rich history which started 50 years ago. The importance of the State of Ohio and some of its notable citizens cannot be overstated when talking about the All American Quarter Horse Congress and NRHA. Prior to the Futurity finals, a few key individuals who have deep roots in the sport of Reining and in the State of Ohio were recognized.



(L-R) Shawn Florida, Rick Weaver, Beth Himes, Kim Horn (representing Bill Horn) Kaye Potts, Sid Griffith, Clark Bradley, April Weaver (representing her dad Dale Wilkinson), Frank Costantini, Rick Clark, Bob Santagata, Karen Shedlauskas, Gary Carpenter

216. The pair also earned fifth place in both L3 and L4 for a total paycheck worth \$6,107. Gold Digging Dunit, by

Pale Face Dunit and out of Dun It Reining, is owned and was bred by the B S Syndicate. ♦

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