

Brow Cat, Peptoboonsmal, CD Royal, Mylanta Lena and Sweet Lil Pepto paid an additional collective purse of \$13,665 to offspring of these stallions who finished in the first or second placings in the Open, Non-Pro and \$200k Non-Pro divisions of the Cutting Stakes competition.

Finishing at the very top of the heap was the 2008 PCCHA Open Cutting Stakes Champions, Cats Full Moon and Steve Schlesinger, Lockeford, California. The stallion by WR This Cats Smart is out of Darlin Little Dually, by Dual Pep. He is bred and owned by the Brinkman Ranch of Lockeford. The pair topped the competition by four points with their 225 run that earned them a winner's check for \$26,917.

Earlier this year, the pair won the PCCHA Open Derby Championship with a fancy 226 run that was on the heels of last year's PCCHA Futurity, when Cats Full Moon carried Tim Smith to the Open Reserve title. The stallion arrived at the show this fall with accumulated earnings of \$68,289.

It was Schlesinger that once again put together a winning run that topped this year's Open Cutting Stakes. "The first two cows we had picked, and the third cow was by chance," said Schlesinger. "He just loves it here. He's matured quite a bit (since the Derby this year), has gotten a lot easier to show and more confident. He just likes to trap those cows." In the first two rounds of the Open Cutting Stakes, Steve and Cats Full Moon delivered a matching pair of 218 runs to advance to the finals. With the stands filled on the last weekend of the event, the stallion stepped it up. "When the crowd gets going, he gets a little better," smiled Steve. "He's a ham. He's one of those horses that, if you get a cow in the middle and drop your hand and the cow turns and looks at him, he'll just do the rest. There's hardly anytime you don't feel in control (of the cow) with him. Even if the cow is running, he'll just run and stop and try to stay in control."

With the stallion doing his part, Steve said he can concentrate on his own performance. "I was thinking about my corner help," he said of the run. "Matt Sargood and Brent Erickson helped me use my legs. And Tim and Morgan sit there and tell me to sit up. 'I'm pretty much on listening mode when I'm in there.'"

Russ Miller started Cats Full Moon as a two-year-old, then the stallion came to Steve in January of his three-year-old year. He trained him until the fall of 2007, when Tim Smith took over for last year's PCCHA

Futurity. After their Open Reserve win, the Brinkmans brought the horse back to Steve for the 2008 PCCHA Derby. He and Schlesinger have been a team ever since, though Steve says it has been a group effort to produce the champion. "Tim is an awesome trainer; and I believe that he made him a little more correct. I tend to allow my horses to be a little loose, and Tim really tightened him down and made him really correct. I think it was a combination of all of us."

Steve, 29, who has been training on his own for over two years now, previously spent four years working for Nevada trainer, Tom Long. "Tom really taught me everything I know," he said. "I worked for several other trainers, like Steve Coelasure, who really taught me how to show and took me on the road a lot." Steve has a degree from Oklahoma State University in Business and Marketing. It was an equine program in junior college that hooked him on the horse business. Up until the win yesterday evening, Steve had accrued more than \$76,000 in NCHA earnings.

Peptos Stylish Miss and Texas trainer, John Mitchell, marked a 221 in the Open Cutting Stakes Finals to garner the Reserve title behind Schlesinger and take home a \$21,976 payout. The mare, by Peptoboonsmal and out of Stylish And Foxie, by Docs Stylish Oak is owned by Slate River Ranch, Weatherford, Texas. She and Mitchell have put together runs that have earned over \$127,352 in the cutting pen, including a fourth place at this year's NCHA Open Super Stakes.

The Non-Pro Cutting Stakes competition saw Bonnie Martin and Rubys Royal CD take home the win with their 222 run in the finals that earned them the title by 4 points over Mary Ann Rapp and Swingin Star Pepto. Martin, from Las Vegas, Nevada, said the only thing on her mind during the finals was making the most of the cattle she cut.

"The cattle are the biggest equalizers," she said. "The best horses don't always win, but that is what makes this sport of cutting a challenge. I watch the open riders a lot and try to take tips from how they handle the cattle. This afternoon I was with Phil Hanson watching cattle, and I'm starting to pick most of my own. He's been such a pleasure to have on my team." Martin has been riding with Hanson for roughly five years. "I was thinking about going and stopping that cow, and getting that mirror image that the judges are looking for. I wanted to stay head to head with the cows." And, Bonnie did just that.

Her and Rubys Royal CD went home with a payout of \$12,761 for their performance.

The Reserve win in the Non-Pro Cutting Stakes was had by Mary Ann Rapp and her mare, Swingin Star Pepto after they delivered a 218 run worth \$11,410. The pair had topped the first round competition of 45 entries when they marked a 223. The pretty blue roan mare by Peptoboonsmal and out of Swingin Star Lady, by Justa Swingin Peppy, carried Rapp earlier this year to a non-pro finalist position in the NCHA Summer Spectacular Derby, and the Reserve Championship in both the Cotton Stakes Derby and the Brazos Valley Derby. Mary Ann's husband, Phil also guided Swingin Star Pepto to a finalist spot in the Breeders Invitational Open Derby. The Rapps' collective accomplishments brought the mare's earnings thus far to more than \$138,698.

Texan Ray Baldwin rode Mylanta Lano to the \$200k Non-Pro Cutting Stakes title. Baldwin, of Waco Bend Ranch in Fort Worth, Texas, is fairly new to the cutting business over the past few years and has been on a fast track into the cutting horse business ever since.

Waco Bend Ranch is the joint owner of the stallion Autumn Acre, along with Phil and Mary Ann Rapp, and Baldwin says the whirlwind initiation into the cutting business has been a very welcome change in life. "I started cutting a few years ago, and was introduced to Phil and Mary Ann. They have been great mentors and it's been a testament to how good they are that I can go out there and be successful so soon in the game." Ray took home \$8,068 for the \$200k Non-Pro Cutting Stakes Championship.

5/6 Year-Old

In the Open 5/6 Division, there was an intense battle between some of the division's top horses in the country. With a great big 228 run in the finals, Im Countin Checks and Matt Gaines claimed the title they sought for the stallion's last aged event showing. After scoring a 225 to snag the first round of the preliminary competition, the pair were topped in the second round by a show-stopping 229 earned by Hick Chicaroo and Scott Weis - but, in the end, Gaines and Im Countin Checks prevailed when they clearly towered over the final round of the event. "Checks" is by Smart Lil Ricochet and out of Autumn Boon, by Dual Pep. The win earned owner Kyle Manion, Aubrey, Texas, a check for \$14,597.

Smart Little Minnie and David Costello

turned in the second highest score in the final go-round of the Open 5/6 event with a 219 performance that earned the Reserve title and \$11,907 for owners Ron and Vicki Mullins, Paso Robles, California. Smart Little Minnie is by Smart Steady Date and out of Montana Minnie, by Montana Doc.

This year's PCCHA Futurity proved to be a place for firsts...and a place for lasts for Kyle Manion, Aubrey, Texas, and his stallion, Im Countin Checks. In the final round of the Non-Pro 5/6 Year-Old event, Manion and the horse marked their highest score ever together when they delivered a 225 to win the division Championship. This was the final limited-age event of his extremely successful career. With earnings pushed over the \$500,000 mark during this show, he has earned a well deserved retirement to the breeding barn.

"There was a little added pressure today, knowing this was probably his last run...you don't want to make those mental mistakes," said Manion after his winning ride on Sunday. "I knew the horse was going to be prepared. Matt has done a phenomenal job with him, and I just tried to go down there and trust him and keep from making any mental mistakes." Kyle, himself, has accrued NCHA earnings of over \$586,000 during his cutting career. The PCCHA Non-Pro 5/6 Year-Old Championship added another \$7,159 to that figure.

Thirteen year old Carly Chiarelli captured both the \$200k Non-Pro 5/6 Year-Old and \$50k Amateur 5/6 Year-Old Championships when she rode her gelding Lil Peppys Advantage to tandem winning runs in both division finals. The Carbondale, Colorado seventh-grader has been riding cutting horses for four years, and she and "Pepper" have come together as a pretty good team who are getting accustomed to big-score wins. This past spring, the pair won the Amateur 5/6 event at the Breeder's Invitational, delivering a 222 in the final round.

Carly's father, Eugene Chiarelli, is mighty proud of his daughter, who has already earned \$62,355 in her young cutting career. "She eats, sleeps, cuts," he smiled. "She won her first aged-event when she was nine-years-old on her 9th birthday. She's made quite a few finals since then and has been showing this horse since last year." The Chiarellis have been customers of Colorado trainer, Tim Denton for several years now. "It's a young rider-young horse situation, and Tim does a good job of making sure Carly's



Open \$50,000 Lmt Futurity Champion- Sweet Lil Peam Ridden by Craig Boyd; Owned by Pat Kirkpatrick



Open Cutting Stakes Champion- Cats Full Moon Ridden by Steve Schlesinger; owned by Brinkman Ranch



Cutting Stake Non Pro Champion Bonnie Martin on Rubys Royal CD



\$200,000 NP Lmt Cutting Stakes Champion Ray Baldwin riding Mylanta Lano