

Burnett Ranches wins inaugural ranch horse rodeo

AMARILLO, Texas — The Versatility Ranch Horse Competition, The American Quarter Horse Association's (AQHA) newest competition debuted at the Southwestern Exposition and Livestock Show in Fort Worth, Texas on Jan. 12 before a packed crowd of both spectators and competitors.

The competition demonstrates the versatility of the working ranch horse in five categories featured 15 entries including those owned by four previous AQHA Best Remuda Award winners.

"Ranch horses and their owners have been an integral part of our Western Heritage and essential in the formation of AQHA," said AQHA President J.D. Blondin of Shreveport, Louisiana. "This inaugural event was an excellent start of this new competition and we look forward to many

more events this year."

Taking top honors was Burnett Ranches of Guthrie, Texas with Little Playgun, a 4-year-old gray mare by Playgun and out of Little Brim by Peppy San Badger. Ridden by Joe Wolter, the pair won the competition with a total of 35 points, placing first in the working ranch horse and mare conformation events; second in the ranch riding and ranch cutting; and third in the ranch trail.

The W.T. Waggoner Estate of Vernon, Texas placed second with Borregos Double, a 17-year-old bay gelding by Docs Borrego and out of Miss Double 127 out of Double Bid Man. Ridden by Wes O'Neal, the pair earned 29 points, including three, third place finishes in ranch cutting, ranch riding and gelding conformation and a second place in ranch trail.

Rounding out the top five are Sir

Seventy Four, a four-year-old dun gelding owned by Pitchfork Land and Cattle Company of Guthrie, Texas and ridden by Mark Voss. Sir Seventy Four who won the gelding conformation and was named overall conformation champion, placed third with 25 points. In fourth place with 21 points was Ima Eddie Hancock, owned by the R.A. Brown Ranch of Throckmorton, Texas.

Ridden by George Self, the four-year-old gray gelding placed first in ranch riding. In fifth place with 20 points was Joe Don Hancock, a three-year-old bay stallion, owned and ridden by Kevin Gursky of Jacksboro, Texas. The pair placed first in the ranch trail competition.

Complete coverage of the Versatility Ranch Horse competition from Fort Worth will be featured on "GMC America's Horse," AQHA's weekly tel-

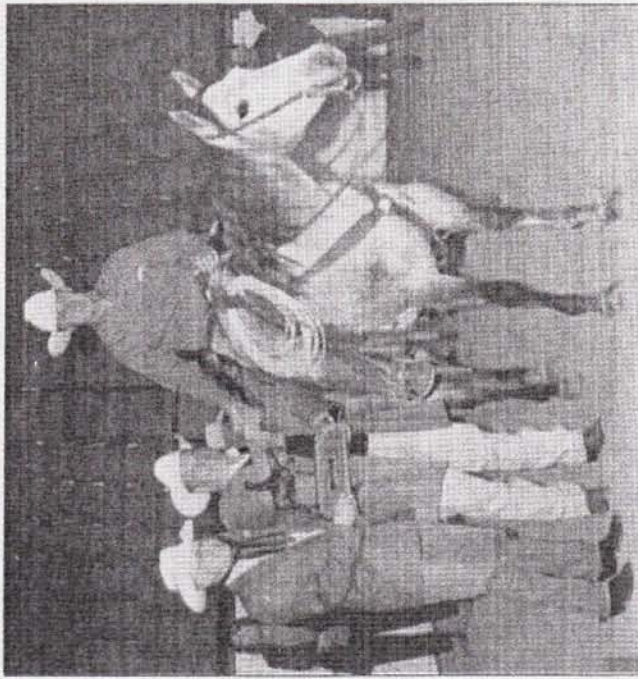


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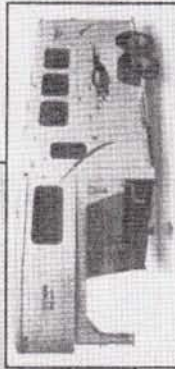
Pictured left to right: **Ed Bass**, Chairman of the Southwestern Exposition and Livestock Show; **AQHA President J.D. Blondin** of Shreveport, Louisiana and **Joe Wolter** of the Burnett Ranches of Guthrie, Texas.

vision program on the Outdoor Life Network on March 19 at 9 p.m. Eastern/9 p.m. Pacific.

For more information about the Versatility Ranch competition, including a schedule of upcoming events visit www.aqha.com or call (806) 376-4811.

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