

National Western Stock Show hosts second AQHA Versatility Ranch Horse Competition of the year

The National Western Stock Show hosted the second ever American Quarter Horse Association (AQHA) Versatility Ranch Horse Competition, which was held at the showgrounds in Denver, Colo., Tuesday and Wednesday, Jan. 22-23.

According to J.D. Blondin, AQHA president, the AQHA has been concerned about a shrinking exhibitor base. To bring people back and restore a fun atmosphere, a Versatility Ranch Horse Competition was added to the 2002 events calendar.

Twenty-two contestants competed in

five class divisions. The contest was judged by B.F. Yates, Bryan, Texas. Joe Wolter won the Overall Conformation Selection and the Overall Versatility competition with the Burnett Ranches' gray mare, Little Playgun. Sired by Playgun and out of Little Brim by Peppy San Badger, the pretty, 5-year-old mare, which was raised by the Burnetts, received a Rocking R trophy saddle and an \$1,230 paycheck for the Denver victory.

BH Tinkertoy, a 5-year-old daughter of BH Toy Soldier out of Peppys Poppie, Calhan, Colo., was ridden to second place Overall by Tim Unzicker.

Seven geldings showed with Rusty Britton, Berthoud, Colo., winning with Cheri Britton's Solanos Quarter Note. Regan Lyons place second. Six mares showed with Joe Wolter winning and Tim Unzicker placing second. Seven stallions were shown with Bill James, Abilene, Kan., leading the winner - Three Jay Colonel. James Brinkman, Ericson, Neb., placed second leading Howard Pitzer's Two Eyed Red Buck.

According to Wolter, he mainly starts colts and the "competition" thing is new

to him. It may be "new," but competition definitely seems to agree with Wolter with his having won two out of the two first contests of the year. He and Little Playgun also won the championship at the competition's event debut, held a week earlier than Denver's, in Fort Worth, Texas, at the annual Southwestern International Exposition Livestock Show & Rodeo.

Little Playgun, which is also an NCHA money-earner, is the dam of an embryo transfer foal, sired by Plain Stylis. ■

2002 National Western Stock Horse AQHA Ranch Versatility

JAN. 22-23, 2002 - DENVER, CO

Horse/Rider/Owner

Overall final: 1) Little Playgun, Joe Wolter, Burnett Ranches, Ltd., Fort Worth, TX; 2) BH Tinker Toy, Tim Unzicker, Jennifer Unzicker, Calhan, CO; 3) Fox Dun Good, Rick Foster, same, Longmont, CO; 4) Three Jay Colonel, Bill James, same, Abilene, TX; 5) Slik Storm, Regan Lyons, Regan/Katherine Lyons, Watkins, CO; 6) Diggers Rest, Darren Miller, Rhoda B. Rein, Watkins, CO; 7) Two Eyed Red Buck, James Brinkman, Howard Pitzer, Ericson, NE; 8) Lady Jay Againu, Kathleen L. McPhaul, Jessica McPhaul; 9) Quicks Diamond Dude, Buster Reed, Mill Iron Horse & Cattle Co., Hamlin, TX; 10) Kate Trouble Ashwood, Tammy Geiger, same, Loveland, CO.

Ranch Conformation - Geldings: 1) Solanos Quarter Note, Russell Britton, Cheri Britton, Berthoud, CO; 2) Slik Storm; 3) Dry Hobbit, Eric Waller, Jeffrey/Margret Waller, Arvada, CO; 4) Watch A Buck, David Sogge, David Leslie Sogge, Aurora, CO; 5) Hotrod Cuttin String, Tim Ettleman, same, Longmont, CO; 6) Fox Dun Good; 7) Gator Bar Hankins, Mark Bernhardt, Mark/Lisa Bernhardt, Wellington, CO.

Ranch Conformation - Mares: 1) Little Playgun; 2) BH Tinker Toy; 3) Lady Jay Againu; 4) Kinky Chick, Richard Borgmann, same, Livermore, CA; 5) Kate Trouble Ashwood; 6) Zipped Mine, Elizabeth Williams-Kime, same, Parker, CO.

Ranch Conformation - Stallions: 1) Three Jay Colonel; 2) Two Eyed Red Buck; 3) Diggers Rest; 4) Ceasar Lena, Elizabeth Crockett Harper, same, Longmont, CO; 5) Quicks Diamond Dude; 6) Tidys Treasure, Shane Brown, same, Elbert, CO; 7) Kings Tesoro, Jared Florell, Ron/Mary Ann Nolde, Wellington, CO.

Ranch Cutting: 1) Slik Storm; 2) Little Playgun; 3) Kinky Chick; 4) BH Tinker Toy; 5) Two Eyed Red Buck; 6) Gator Bar Hankins; 7) Lady Jay Againu; 8) Tidys Treasure; 9) Three Jay Colonel; 10) Hotrod Cuttin String.

Ranch Riding: 1) Fox Dun Good; 2) Little Playgun; 3) Kate Trouble Ashwood; 4) BH Tinker Toy; 5) Three Jay Colonel; 6) Gator Bar Hankins; 7) Quicks Diamond Dude; 8) Lady Jay Againu; 9) Solanos Quarter Note; 10) Hotrod Cuttin String.

Ranch Trail: 1) Zipped Mine; 2) Little Playgun; 3) Fox Dun Good; 4) Tidys Treasure; 5) Quicks Diamond Dude; 6) Watch A Buck; 7) BH Tinker Toy; 8) Dry Hobbit; 9) Solanos Quarter Note; 10) Diggers Rest.

Working Ranch Horse: 1) BH Tinker Toy; 2) Fox Dun Good; 3) Diggers Rest; 4) Little Playgun; 5) Two Eyed Red Buck; 6) Three Jay Colonel; 7) Slik Storm; 8) Lady Jay Againu; 9) Kate Trouble Ashwood; 10) Kinky Chick.

Joe Wolter and Little Playgun are pictured at the Southwestern Exposition and Livestock Show in Fort Worth, Texas, accepting the first of two AQHA Versatility Ranch Horse Championship titles won in 2002. The pair won their second championship one week following the Fort Worth competition, at Denver's National Western Stock Show.



Photo by Shane Rux