



Precious Merada and Matt Koch had the highest score in the cow work to break a tie for the Futurity Open Championship.

# Rolling Right Along

Precious Merada and Matt Koch notched another win, sending the Colorado Futurity Open trophy home to owner Wagonhound Land & Livestock.

By Rhoda Rein • Action photos by Performance Horse Photography

**The Colorado Reined** Cowhorse Association (CRCA) enjoyed another successful Colorado Futurity Oct. 22-25 in Castle Rock, Colorado. The association prides itself on listening to what exhibitors want and paying attention to current trends, and was rewarded for its efforts with 433 entries from nine states. The total payout reached \$63,385 in prize money and \$10,000 in prizes.

After a rainy first day, the weather turned perfect, with temperatures reaching into the mid 70s for the rest of the show. Exhibitors were able to ride outside to prepare their horses and enjoy the scenic view and sunshine. The Douglas County Fairgrounds is located 20 minutes south of Denver and

offers heated stalls and heated indoor arena show facilities.

## Futurity Open

Matt Koch won the 18-entry Futurity Open riding Precious Merada for owner/breeder Wagonhound Land and Livestock, of Douglas, Wyoming. He and the talented mare marked a 76 – the high score in the cow work – to take the Championship, breaking a 221-point tie with Reserve Champions Luke Jones and Smart Guena Bell.

“She was her usual self,” Koch said with a laugh, recalling her strong cattle event scores and weak rein work scores.

They also won the herd work with a 75-point effort, and held steady in the rein-

ing with 70 points to earn \$3,307 in all. Precious Merada has been a multiple futurity champion despite her reining troubles. In August, she won the South Dakota Reined Cow Horse Association (SDRCHA) Rode to Reno Futurity and was Reserve Champion at the CRCA Mid-America show.

“She is pretty and talented. The ranch realizes the importance of showing and then keeping proven mares like her as broodmares,” Koch said, acknowledging another ranch-raised mare, Reys Stressin Melody (Reys Dual Badger x Playguns Melody x Playgun), who was the Open Reserve Champion at the National Reined Cow Horse Association (NRCHA) Hackamore Classic.

“Another star that will eventually join the broodmare band is Shiney Nu Annie (Shining Spark x Annies Nu Lena x Nu Cash).”

Shiney Nu Annie and Chris Dawson were 2014 NRCHA Snaffle Bit Futurity Open Reserve Champions. Wagonhound Land and Livestock purchased the 2011 mare at the 2012 Carol Rose Quarter Horses Production Sale for \$35,000.

Luke Jones, of Allerton, Iowa, had a phenomenal show, adding more than \$13,500 to his career earnings of \$294,491, catapulting him past the \$300,000 milestone. He won the Stallion Stakes Futurity Open Championship and the Futurity Open Reserve title riding Smart Guena Bell for owner David Pratt. Smart Guena Bell scored 75 points to win the rein work and pocketed \$5,025 overall.

“She is one of my favorite futurity horses and, this time everything worked for her. She is very consistent, and I can always count on her,” Jones said. “David Pratt raised her, and he and I have had a good relationship. I have trained for him since 2008.”

Jones was also the Reserve Champion in the Stallion Stakes Futurity Open and placed third in the Open riding HA Dual Chic (Mister Dual Pep x Chics Peppy Renee x Smart Chic Olena) for owner Wayne