

Back in Black

Shiney Nu Annie carried Chris Dawson to his second Derby Open win at the NRCHA Celebration of Champions.

Article by Kelsey Pecsek & Kristin Burlingame • Action photos by Primo Morales



Chris Dawson and Shiney Nu Annie won the Aaron Ranch Cow Horse Classic Derby Open by 3 points.

When Chris Dawson traded his nearly famous pink show shirt for a variety of colors, some may have thought the talented horseman's luck would go with it. Dawson proved those people wrong when he piloted Shiney Nu Annie to the Aaron Ranch Cow Horse Classic Derby Open win on Feb. 16.

Sporting the modest black shirt he wore the night he and Shiney Nu Annie were named 2014 National Reined Cow Horse Association (NRCHA) Snaffle Bit Futurity Open Reserve Champions, Dawson piloted the 4-year-old mare to a 150 in the fence work-only finals. That score combined with his preliminary composite of 437 (144 herd/149.5 rein/143.5 cow) for a total 587, which bested the competition by a 3-point margin.

"Every time you go in the fence work,

there's always pressure. And shoot, I told these guys out back [his fellow competitors] that the way these cattle look, I'd take me a 140 today and throw my hat in the air!" Dawson, 33, said with a laugh after his run. "It was just real exciting, and I'm blessed to have a good horse. I have to thank Dustin Ewing, Art Nicholas and Matt Koch."

Ewing is the general manager at Nicholas' Wagonhound Land and Livestock, of Douglas, Wyoming, which purchased Shiney Nu Annie from breeder Carol Rose, of Gainesville, Texas. Koch "got a good start on her" and then Dawson took her into training about a year prior to the Futurity.

"When I went and tried her at the Wagonhound ranch, I liked her a lot," Dawson recalled. "We just kind of gelled right off the bat, and we haven't had very

many bad days since."

After finishing second in Reno, Shiney Nu Annie got a much-deserved break from the grueling schedule of a performance horse. But the thought of the approaching 2015 show season inspired Dawson to do things a little differently this year.

"This is such a hard horse show. I've been fortunate and blessed enough to win it twice, but it's such a hard horse show," he said. "It doesn't seem soon after Reno until you give them a little time off and let them be easy for a while. The next thing you know, it's on you."

"So this year I went to the Sun Circuit and it was really beneficial," he continued. "We just let [the horses] get back in the groove and start thinking about horse showing again before we came here."

The plan paid off. Shiney Nu Annie earned \$12,308 for winning the Open, which combined with \$2,082 in preliminary monies for an event total of \$14,390. This brings the mare's lifetime **Equi-Stat** record to \$97,125.

Shiney Nu Annie is the leading money-earner out of Annies Nu Lena, a performing daughter of Nu Cash who boasts offspring earnings of more than \$250,000 from 14 performers in **Equi-Stat**. Shiney Nu Annie is a full sister to Shiney And Nu, a 10-year-old stallion with \$58,524 earned in reining and four money-earners on his progeny record.

Thanks to her outstanding bloodlines and impressive performance record, Shiney Nu Annie has already been bred. In fact, the 4-year-old mare was bred to One Time Pepto just days before winning her Derby Open title.

"She's carrying right now," Dawson said with a smile. "We'll flush her in a few days. We're trying to breed her and show her at the same time right now, which presents its own difficulties, but it worked out this time. She's really good-minded, and she's always there for you when it's time to horse show."

Dawson said that Shiney Nu Annie's "grit at crunch time" and her mind, which he calls her "intangibles," are what he loves most

AARON RANCH COW HORSE CLASSIC DERBY

Fort Worth, TX - Feb. 13-15, 2015

264 Entries - \$43,600 Added - \$170,575 Total Pursee

Event/Horse/Rider/Composite (prelim composite/finals cow work)/Money/Pedigree/Owner/Breeder

| OPEN | | | |
|---|---------------------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| SHINEY NU ANNIE | Chris Dawson | 587 (437/150) | \$12,308 |
| 11M (Shining Spark x Annies Nu Lena x Nu Cash) Wagonhound Land & Livestock Carol Rose | | | |
| INTERMEDIATE OPEN | | | |
| ALL THAT BOON | Nicolas Barthelemy | 584 (434/150) | \$2,699 |
| 11S (Peptoboonsmal x All That N Cat x High Brow Cat) Sheri & Stuart Jamieson Jackson Land & Cattle LLC | | | |

| LIMITED OPEN | | | |
|---|------------------------|--------------------------|----------------|
| ROCKYS SURPRIZE CD | Mark Sigler | 577 (434/143) | \$2,015 |
| 11M (That CD Rocks x Tangys Been Sunkist x Tangys Classy Peppy) Dominic Conicelli Robbie Humphreys | | | |
| NON-PRO/INTERMEDIATE NON-PRO/NOVICE NON-PRO | | | |
| UNO WHAT TIME IT FLO | Elizabeth Kania | 571.5 (435.5/136) | \$5,540 |
| 10M (Uno What Time It Is x Dew It Flo x Mr Peponita Flo) Renee Dubois Julie Vestal Gibbons | | | |
| COMPLETE RESULTS BEGIN ON PAGE 194. | | | |

about the mare. As for Dawson, who now boasts an **Equi-Stat** record of more than \$825,000, the future is all about enjoying his friends and the incredible horses he is fortunate enough to ride.

"I have fun at every event," he said. "This job does not pay nearly enough to not have fun, so when it quits being fun, you'll quit seeing me. All of these events, they're just like a family reunion every month, so we look forward to all of them."

Intermediate Open

All That Boon may have had some tough luck in Reno at the 2014 NRCHA Snaffle Bit Futurity, but the striking red roan stallion didn't go to Fort Worth empty-handed. Shown by Nicolas Barthelemy, All That Boon started his career in the reining pen.

With more than \$5,000 in reining money on his **Equi-Stat** record, All That Boon entered the Aaron Ranch Derby ready to prove his worth in the cow horse arena. He did just that when he marked a 150 in the fence work-only finals, bringing his total score to a 584 when combined with his 434 (142.5 herd/144 rein/147.5 cow) preliminary composite.

"We drew at the bottom of the last set [on finals night], so I got on him relatively early. I knew it was really cold outside, so I was afraid that he'd be too fresh," said Barthelemy, of Ramona, California. "I stuck to the plan and the horse was especially good. It was awesome and perfect, and I was



All That Boon tied for the highest finals fence work score, earning him the Open Reserve title and Intermediate Open Championship.

really happy with him."

After marking the best cow work score of his career and earning the Novice Horse Open Co-Reserve title, All That Boon won the Intermediate Open and finished as the Open Reserve Champion. All told, the Jackson Land and Cattle-bred stallion garnered \$15,028 for owner Sheri Jamieson, of La Jolla, California. This brings All That Boon's lifetime earnings to \$22,245.

"I'm really glad for Sheri because she's a great client," Barthelemy said. "As a trainer, I know the commitment it takes outside of the pen, so she deserves a lot of credit for it. And so does my wife [Stacy Hanson]. It's a lot of work, and it takes a team to make it."

Jamieson purchased All That Boon as a long yearling from his breeder. Barthelemy

started the colt and immediately knew he had something special. Training such a talented horse, though, does not come without its trials.

"He was full of talent and potential from the get go, but he's been challenging to train in his own way," the trainer explained. "He was in his own bubble a little bit. He didn't really care to try too hard because it was so easy for him, so it was hard to get him to really step up and become the real deal. Once he started to mature and really get confident, we knew we really had a horse that could go out there and [win]."

Barthelemy's intuition was right, and while "Brody" may have enough fortitude to be successful in any Western performance discipline, the trainer said the current

plan is to keep showing him in the reined cow horse arena.

"It's really hard to find a horse that is as complete as he is; he doesn't have an event where he's weak," he said. "I have people who try to convince me to just go straight cutting with him, and I have people who try to convince me to go straight reining with him, so I'm just going to make everybody happy, stick with the cow horse and do all three events."

Limited Open

Redemption was sweet for Mark Sigler, of Collegeville, Pennsylvania, when he piloted Rockys Surprize CD to the Limited Open Championship. Sigler and "Surprize" were also third in the Intermediate Open and tied