

October 15<sup>th</sup>

Here we are, down to our last two months of the 2007 show season. Since our last update, everyone has continued to work hard and do well. During the oppressive heat of the Reining Spectacular, everyone kept their chins up and forged forward despite the heat of the long week. Don Hodge and Margaret Netherby continued to hold down prominent placings in the Prime Time Rookie, while all of our Youth kids showed hard and did well. Slide Zone and Becky Hanson placed both days in the Open, Intermediate Open, and Limited Open and managed to bring home the Limited Open Circuit Award while also qualifying for the North American Affiliate Finals in the Intermediate and Limited Open Divisions. David and Custom Trendsetter, owned by Tony Romero, also qualified in the Novice Horse Open, while Nichole Hurst also secured herself a spot in the Youth 14-18. Also, Nev Devine and Tari will be hauling back to OKC to show in the Limited and Rookie Professional Affiliate classes. But the biggest news of the week once again was Stacy Hamilton and her Limited Non Pro Derby victory. After the awards were given, we needed a truck and trailer to haul her goods out of the arena as she took home a saddle, a buckle, and a venerable horde of other loot! Congratulations to both Stacy and Nestle for proving that she is the little horse that could!!

Following the Spectacular, David, along with Lance Hayden and Joey Pacini, headed for Reno for the Snaffle Bit Futurity. Dave and JP Pay Off Please fell just shy of the Intermediate Open Finals, but we were pleased with "Forest's" performance and his "coalition" of owners were happy as well. We would like to thank everyone who participated in the Forest endeavor and also thank everyone for the fabulous cocktail party that followed the sale on Saturday night. We had a great time and appreciated everyone's support and interest in our program. Of course we must take a moment to highlight the Hurst girls and their continued success in the cowhorse. Nichole did an outstanding job going down the fence and ended up 4<sup>th</sup> in the youth while Kaitlyn, showing for only her second time, kicked down with a Limited Youth Reserve Championship title. We were extremely proud of you both and look forward to continued success next year. Honorable mentions go to both Lance and Joey who, despite showing a three year old in Reno for the first time, each did a great job and deserve some kudos for their dedication and diligence. Joey did take the buckle for "Youngest Futurity Participant" and was pleased to sport his new hardware during the finals. Despite not having made the finals, I believe that both are hooked and we will most definitely see them each try their hand again in the future.

So, we were home from Reno for 2 days when we packed up for the West Coast Best of the West Year End show. Again, all went well. Dave decided it was time to see what Sparks A Wizen had to offer and ran her to mark a 146 in the Open Futurity, placing her in the Open and Intermediate Open Reserve Champion position. She proved to be as tough and gritty as we have always thought her to be and Dave is looking forward to showing her in Oklahoma next month. Slide Zone showed well for his last time here at home and split the Intermediate Open Champion title and won the Limited Open buckle

as well. A huge congratulations to Kaitlyn Hurst and her big 14-18 win on Smitty, marking a 72! This should help give her some confidence when she also hauls back to OKC with her sister Nichole to show next month. Way to go Kaitie!!

Finally, *unofficially*, it looks like Team Hanson will be festive during our West Coast Awards Banquet in January as we should have quite a few awards recipients. For the second year, David will take home the Novice Horse Open Year End Award and Slide Zone and Becky will have a couple more buckles to add to the collection....having won the Open, the Intermediate Open, and Limited Open categories. If all the points shake down as we think they will, we have the top three 14-18 Youth riders.....Nichole Hurst, Kaitlyn Hurst, and Ashley Severson. Prime Time Rookie looks like it should go to Margaret Netherby and Don Hodge should also be in the hunt for a buckle as well, and Stacy Hamilton should have secured a placing in the Non Pro and Intermediate Non Pro.

Last but not least, we would like to welcome and congratulate our two newest Hanson additions.....Carson Kautz and Cheyenne Carpenter! Both are 13 and under Youth riders who have each recently acquired new horses. Both girls showed for the first time at the year end show and both proved to be viable competitors. We look forward to seeing both girls do well next year as they evolve to be the great showmen (women) we know that they aspire to be. Congratulations girls on becoming a part of one of the best reining clubs in the nation!!

So now we are home enjoying the great fall weather and riding next years champions while we wait to leave for Oklahoma City. Here's wishing good luck to everyone hauling back. Safe travels and tough runs!!