



## National Reining Breeders Classic

# Xtreme Effort

Thiago Boechat pilots Wimpyneedsacocktail to NRBC Open Championships for Xtra Quarter Horses.

By Robin Fowler • Action photos by Waltenberry



Thiago Boechat and Wimpyneedsacocktail, a crowd-pleasing son of Wimpys Little Step, won the Levels 4 & 3 Open Championships at the National Reining Breeders Classic with a score of 231.

Xtra Quarter Horses owner Lorenzo Vargas (left), was on hand to watch Wimpyneedsacocktail and Thiago Boechat win the Levels 4 & 3 Open Championships. —Photo by Robin Fowler

### NATIONAL REINING BREEDERS CLASSIC

Katy, TX - April 14-21, 2013  
1,235 Entries - \$536,500 Added - \$1,211,828 Total Purse  
Event/Horse/Rider/Owner/Pedigree/Breeder/Score/Money \* Tie

LEVELS 4 & 3 OPEN			
Wimpyneedsacocktail	Thiago Boechat	Xtra Quarter Horses	
07S (Wimpys Little Step x Seven S Mimosa x Hollywood Dun It)			
Sherry Thompson		231	\$102,890
LEVEL 2 OPEN			
Rolex N Chex *	Bud Lyon	Logan Pluhar	
08G (Nu Chex To Cash x Miss Moth Money x Smart Little Calboy)			
Brad Lieblong		223	\$8,427
Gunsmokes TNT *	Sebastian Petroll	Mary Jansma	
09S (Colonels Smoking Gun [Gunner] x Toodie Star x Grays Starlight)			
Mary Jansma		223	\$8,427
LEVEL 1 OPEN			
Whizzer Whiz	Fernando Salgado	Xtra Quarter Horses	
09S (Topsail Whiz x Best By Tari x Taris Catalyst)			
Bob Loomis Quarter Horses		222.5	\$1,645

PRIME TIME OPEN			
Spookaroanie	Brent Wright	Brent & Jan Wright	
08G (Smart Smook x Little Roan Chick x Gallo Del Cielo)			
Tyler Baumgardt		227	\$1,950
LEVEL 4 & PRIME TIME NON-PRO			
Taris Dreamer	Ronald Thompson	Ronald Thompson	
09G (Magnum Chic Dream x Taris San Cutter x Doc Tari)			
Werner & Linda Hermus		224	\$33,656
LEVELS 3, 2 & 1 NON-PRO			
Wimpys Lil Star	Philip Loesch	Thomas Aschenbrenner	
07S (Wimpys Little Step x Starlights Reba x Grays Starlight)			
Turners Driftwood Ranch		219	\$18,640
LEVEL 4 OPEN CHALLENGE			
Custom Cash Advance	Jordan Larson	Luga Quarter Horses	
06S (Custom Crome x Cash In Roan x Topsail Cody)			
Steve Simon		228.5	\$5,898
LEVEL 4 NON-PRO CHALLENGE			
Sparkling Major	Jessicah Torpey	Torpey Performance Horses	
99S (Major Vaquero x Major Affair x Major Bonanza)			
Bob Stinner		147	\$7,025

COMPLETE RESULTS BEGIN ON PAGE 106.

Extreme sports are all the rage, and Wimpyneedsacocktail showed what extreme reining looks like when the son of Wimpys Little Step exploded into the arena and earned the Levels 4 and 3 Open Championships at the National Reining Breeders Classic (NRBC) in Katy, Texas.

"He was feeling very good. He had a quarter crack last year and that kept him from being 100 percent, and he still showed really good for me," said Thiago Boechat, who rode Wimpyneedsacocktail for Xtra Quarter Horses, Purcell, Okla. "But this year he's 100 percent and he gave it all to me. I asked him, and he gave me 120 percent."

Boechat said he could hear the roar of the crowd as the 2007 stal-

lion blasted through the pattern in near-perfect form at the Great Southwest Equestrian Center, Katy, Texas. “I think I have a lot of friends,” he said with a grin.

It was a distinguished field that included 2012 National Reining Horse Association (NRHA) Futurity winners Americasnextgunmodel (Colonels Smoking Gun [Gunner] x Cee Dun It Do It x Hollywood Dun It) and Casey Deary, who jumped out of the second draw to earn a hard-to-top 227.5. But 16 runs later, Wimpys Littlecolonel (Wimpys Little Step x One Right Chic x Smart Chic Olena) and Jordan Larson took the lead with a score of 230.

Boechat realized it wouldn't be easy to top that, but he knew Wimpynedsacocktail (Wimpys Little Step x Seven S Mimosa x Hollywood Dun It) could do it. And the 2007 smutty buckskin stallion did, marking a 231 from the 30th draw.

It was a score that earned him championship checks for \$75,000 in the Level 4 and \$27,900 in the Level 3. Boechat guided a second horse, Commanders Lil Step (Wimpys Little Step x Miss Bam Bam Command x Docs Fritzie Command) into the Levels 4 and 3 finals to bring his total tally for the night to \$108,650.

“He’s phenomenal. Since I showed him the first time, he only got better,” Boechat said of Wimpynedsacocktail. “He never has a bad day. He’s a great-minded horse.”

Both Wimpynedsacocktail and Boechat boast significant lifetime earnings already, but the ecstatic head trainer for Xtra Quarter Horses described the NRBC Championship as his biggest win and “a dream come true.”

Going into the NRBC, Boechat had earned \$236,751, according to **Equi-Stat**, and Wimpynedsacocktail had earned \$113,676 at such shows as the NRHA Futurity, NRHA Derby, NRBC and American Quarter Horse Association (AQHA) World Show, among others.

Xtra Quarter Horses owns Wimpynedsacocktail along with his famous sire, 2002 NRHA



**Wimpys Littlecolonel and Jordan Larson were the NRBC Level 4 Open Reserve Champions with a score of 230. (Right) In addition to hefty purses, NRBC winners could look forward to armloads of prizes.**

—Photo by Robin Fowler



#### National Reining Breeders Classic

Year	Entries	Added	Total Payout
1998	269	\$130,200	\$251,480
1999	459	\$240,100	\$346,353
2000	470	\$242,600	\$351,392
2001	606	\$488,100	\$641,047
2002	770	\$488,300	\$701,612
2003	940	\$476,800	\$833,488
2004	1,025	\$494,500	\$907,653
2005	1,105	\$494,300	\$1,028,393
2006	1,408	\$492,000	\$1,130,406
2007	1,190	\$841,600	\$1,223,172
2008	1,435	\$501,100	\$1,330,853
2009	1,548	\$548,600	\$1,331,060
2010	1,575	\$548,600	\$1,421,665
2011	1,982	\$589,100	\$1,402,245
2012	1,314	\$531,500	\$1,283,190
2013	1,235	\$536,500	\$1,211,828



**Adding to Xtra's success story at the 2013 NRBC, assistant trainer Fernando Salgado piloted Whizzer Whiz to the Level 1 Open Championship.**

Futurity Open Champion Wimpys Little Step (Nu Chex To Cash x Leolita Step x Forty Seven). Xtra owner Lorenzo Vargas, Cancun, Mexico, was on hand to witness the NRBC win.

“We’re so proud of the Wimpys,” Boechat said, pointing out that eight of the 31 Level 4 finalists were sired by Wimpys Little

Step, including the Champion and Reserve Champion. “That is big,” he said.

Wimpys Littlecolonel and Larson were Reserve Champions, a distinction that earned \$54,000 for owner George Lawrence.

What’s more, Xtra’s assistant trainer, Fernando Salgado, piloted Level 1 Open winner Whizzer Whiz

(Topsail Whiz x Best By Tari x Taris Catalyst), marking a 222.5 to earn \$1,645. It was Salgado’s first U.S. championship, although he had recorded wins in his native Brazil. Whizzer Whiz and Salgado also earned \$4,783 as third-place finishers in the Level 2 Open.

“Today he was amazing,” said Salgado, 24, whose next goal is



(Left) The Co-Champion of the Level 2 Open was Gunsmokes TNT, ridden by Sebastian Petroll for owner Mary Jansma. (Right) Rolex N Chex, a horse owned by youth exhibitor Logan Pluhar, was “borrowed” by her trainer, Bud Lyon, to capture a Co-Championship in the Level 2 Open.

to make the Level 4 Open finals on Whizzer Whiz. “He stopped big for me.”

With Wimpyneedsacocktail in

his last year of limited-age eligibility, Boechat hopes to make the most of remaining derbies.

“I’m probably going to show him

in the NRHA Derby, and I might take him to Vegas for his last derby [at September’s High Roller Reining Classic],” Boechat said.

### Level 2 Open

With Xtra Quarter Horses locking up championships in the Levels 4, 3 and 1 Open, that left

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the Level 2 Open up for grabs. And two of them stepped up to become Co-Champions: Rolex N Chex, piloted by Bud Lyon for owner Logan Pluhar, a youth competitor, and Gunsmokes TNT, with Sebastian Petroll aboard for owner Mary Jansma.

Rolex N Chex (Nu Chex To Cash x Miss Moth Money x Smart Little Calboy) and Gunsmokes TNT (Gunner x Toodie Star x Grays Starlight) each earned \$8,427 for their 223 scores.

"I was lucky enough to steal my youth kid's horse for this event because Logan couldn't show this horse here," said Lyon, Scottsdale, Ariz. "I feel fortunate that I was able to borrow her mount and do some good.

"My horse wanted to be really honest everywhere, and he's a big-stopping horse, so I got to show that off a little bit. He was the [AQHYA] World Champion last year for Logan, so now he has one more feather in his cap," Lyon said, adding that Pluhar will

show at the NRHA Derby, then the AQHYA World Show to defend her title.

"It is awesome," said Petroll, Whitesboro, Texas, of the shared win. "It's so fun when you have a good little horse like that and he actually goes out and proves to the world that he's that caliber of horse," he said.

Gunsmokes TNT also collected \$10,311 as a finalist in the Level 3 with Petroll.

"It's a big arena for him," Petroll said of his 14-hand mount, "but he has such a big heart, and he just hung in there." Petroll and Gunsmokes TNT will now prepare for the NRHA Derby.

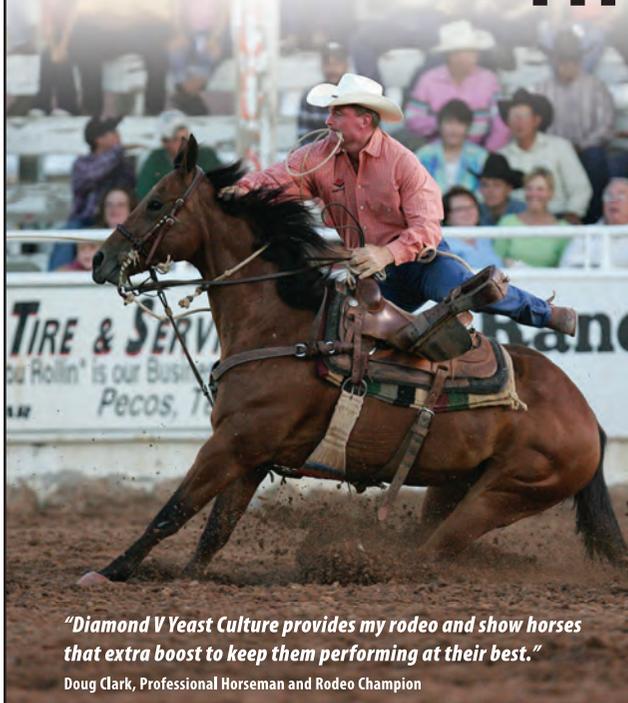
### Prime Time Open

NRHA Million Dollar Rider Brent Wright and his own Spookaroanie (Smart Spook x Little Roan Chick x

**Spookaroanie, owned and shown by trainer Brent Wright, took the Prime Time Open Championship.**



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**(Left) Ron Thompson had one of his best days ever on Taris Dreamer, winning the Level 4 Non-Pro Championship. (Right) Mandy McCutcheon had another good NRBC run on last year's Level 4 Non-Pro Champion Always Gotyer Gunsup, taking the Reserve Championship this year.**

Gallo Del Cielo) scored 222 to win the Prime Time Open and a check for \$1,950. But Spookaroanie collected an additional \$20,797 as a finalist in the Levels 4, 3 and 2 Open.

"He's a good-hearted horse," Wright said. "I didn't get him to his stops like I hoped [at the NRBC]. He can really stop."

Rosanne Sternberg sent Spookaroanie, now 5, to Wright for training a year ago, and Wright bought him last fall for himself. The next stop for the gelding is the NRHA Derby.

### Level 4 Non-Pro

Ron Thompson has had success as an NRHA competitor, a fact backed up by an **Equi-Stat** record that listed his lifetime earnings as \$172,368 prior to the NRBC. His 2009 gelding, Taris Dreamer, also has had success as a reiner, as his **Equi-Stat** record of \$57,245 attests.

Still, Thompson and his horse were looking for a big win. They found it as the NRBC Level 4 Non-Pro Champions.

"I've never won a major event before, so it's a big deal," said Thompson, Pilot Point, Texas. His scorching run on Taris Dreamer (Magnum Chic Dream x Taris San

Cutter x Doc Tari) netted him a score of 224 and secured Level 4 and Prime Time Non-Pro championship checks totaling \$33,656.

Thompson said his good friend and trainer, Matt Armenta, prepared the gelding he calls "Little Bobby" and gave him some last-minute advice to "throw him a little slack."

It was advice that made Thompson leery, but he followed it nonetheless.

"He circled great - I've never, ever had one circle like he did today. We had to change leads and slow down, and I have never done that on this horse until today. And after we circled, I was able to throw him a bunch of slack," he said.

Thompson bought Taris Dreamer as a yearling despite concerns about the colt's diminutive size.

"He was pretty tiny," Thompson said. "I usually look one time when I buy prospects, and I looked at this one three times."

But don't tell Little Bobby that he's small.

"He looks in the mirror and he sees a big horse. If he were a person, he'd either be president of the student council or a gang leader. He's got an attitude," Thompson

said, laughing.

"It's been the best year of my life showing," Thompson said, crediting Armenta's coaching and Little Bobby. "He is probably one of the top three horses I've ever owned, and he might be the best. I've had some really nice horses, but this one's very special to me."

The NRHA Derby is next on the schedule for Little Bobby. Armenta will ride the gelding in the Derby Open and Thompson in the Derby Non-Pro. It won't be a problem for Little Bobby to compete in both divisions, Thompson believes. Even at the end of his NRBC performance, Thompson knew he had enough horse to spare.

"I had another gear left," Thompson said.

His closest competitor was Mandy McCutcheon riding last year's NRBC Non-Pro Champion, Always Gotyer Gunsup (Gunner x Always A Dunit x Hollywood Dun It), just a couple of draws later. This year's score of 223.5 gave them the Reserve Championship.

McCutcheon also rode the third-place finisher and tied for fourth on Customized Gunner (Gunner x Custom Made Dun It x Hollywood Dun It) and Shiney Enterprise (Smart And Shiney x My Royal Enterprise x Be Aech Enterprise),

respectively. The trio of mares, owned by McQuay Stables, Tioga, Texas, earned McCutcheon a total of \$48,375.

"I was just a little off on my first stop, and other than that, [Always Gotyer Gunsup] felt like she was pretty hooked up. There was only a half-point between first and second, so it was pretty close," she said, praising all three of her mares in the finals. "They were all really good, and I was happy with all of them."

Customized Gunner earned a score of 221 and Shiney Enterprise marked 220.5. McCutcheon plans to take the three mares to the upcoming NRHA Derby and is considering the trials for the World Equestrian Games (WEG) next year on Always Gotyer Gunsup.

### Levels 3, 2 and 1 Non-Pro

A German teenager made it easy for NRBC awards presenters, bursting onto the scene by sweeping the Levels 3, 2 and 1 Non-Pro. But, it required a second run for the money.

Philip Loesch and Wimpys Lil Star (Wimpys Little Step x Starlights Reba x Grays Starlight) scored a 218.5 to win the Level 1 Non-Pro outright, but tied with Marcia Cole-Walker and Freckles



**(Above) Philip Loesch, 18, from Munich, Germany, swept the Levels 3, 2 and 1 Non-Pro on his stallion, Wimpys Lil Star. His Level 3 and 2 wins required a runoff.**



**(Left) Marcia Cole-Walker, Reserve in the Levels 3 and 2 Non-Pro after a runoff, says good-bye to Freckles Nu Lil Gun, who was sold when the class ended.**

Nu Lil Gun (Colonels Lil Gun x Nu Bar Freckles x Nu Bar) in the Levels 3 and 2. In a runoff, Loesch and his stallion duplicated their finals score, 218.5, compared to 214.5 for Cole-Walker and her mare. Loesch also placed sixth in the Level 4 Non-Pro finals.

"It's amazing," said Loesch, 18, who has dreamed of winning a

major reining event since he was a small boy in Munich, Germany. "This is basically the third big horse show I've ever been to," he said. That includes the 2012 NRHA Derby, where Loesch didn't make any of the Non-Pro finals.

"So I was just thrilled to make the L4 finals here," said Loesch, who keeps his horse in training

with Jordan Larson. "That was actually all I wanted to achieve, and I just went in there today and had so much fun showing him. He's an unbelievable horse – so honest, so easy, but still he can do so much. It's crazy," said Loesch, who arrived from Germany three weeks early to prepare for the NRBC with Larson.

"The first finals run, I felt he was really dialed in," said Loesch. "I didn't want to prove anything; I just wanted to go in there, have fun and show good. That was my biggest goal, to stay out of his way and let him do his job. He felt awesome, probably the best run of my life so far."

As for the runoff, "I knew I had won Level 1, and I was already in heaven for winning a saddle here. This [winning the Levels 3 and 2] was just icing, on the icing, on the cake. I knew my horse could do it again."

Loesch described Wimpys Lil Star as a once-in-a-lifetime horse. His family purchased the stallion two years ago at the NRBC, the first NRHA show the teenager had ever attended. His combined 2013 NRBC Non-Pro checks came to \$27,452.

For Cole-Walker, her Reserve Championships in the Levels 3 and 2 were bittersweet. It marked her last ride on Freckles Nu Lil Gun, whose sale was official when the class ended. The new owner was standing at the gate to lead the 5-year-old mare away.

"I just stepped off of her right here," she said. "I didn't even get to give her a last bath. She is such a kind mare."

Cole-Walker, Sweetwater, Tenn., didn't ride with a trainer prior to the NRBC, but she has one now. Matt Armenta's advice helped her earn \$10,331 for the two Reserve Championships, and he will be training her 3-year-old NRHA Futurity prospect to replace Freckles Nu Lil Gun.

"We just clicked. He told me what to do and I did it," she said. "He said, 'This time, I want you to run through that first change and sit back and trust her.' It's the first time I ever did that maneuver

right. It worked," she said of her finals run on "Juliette."

Cole-Walker said she was thrilled to make the runoff. "I almost did it," she smiled.

### Level 4 Challenge

The NRBC Level 4 Challenge was a showcase event for seasoned horses. Sweetening the pot was the concurrent \$25,000 Open, Concours de Reining (CRI 3) and United States Equestrian Federation (USEF Open 1).

Custom Cash Advance (Custom Crome x Cash In Roan x Topsail Cody) and Jordan Larson won the event with a score of 228.5 for Luga Quarter Horses, with Star For The Chicks (Smart Star Buck x Dun It By Chic x Hollywood Dun It) and Andrea Fappani the Reserve Champions with a score of 227.5 for owner Janet Peterson.

"He's like machine. His attitude is great and he wants to horse show. He loves it," Larson, Whitesboro, Texas, said of Custom Cash Advance, noting that the WEG may be in the 2006 stallion's future. The Challenge and CRI wins were good for \$9,424 in prize money, and Custom Cash Advance also won the USEF and \$25,000 Open titles.

Star For The Chicks, a 2005 gelding, "is a little bit older than some of the others who are showing in this class. He's been a good boy for a long time," said Fappani, Scottsdale, Ariz. Star For The Chicks alternates between Non-Pro classes with his owner and open classes with Fappani, who won the 2012 Challenge on Star For The Chicks. This year's Reserve Championship netted Challenge and CRI checks totaling \$7,086, and Star For The Chicks also was Reserve Champion of the USEF class.

The Challenge Level 4 Non-Pro Champion was Jessicah Torpey on Sparkling Major (Major Vaquero x Major Affair x Major Bonanza), earning \$7,025 for a score of 147. The 14-year-old stallion is owned by Torpey Performance Horses, Princeton, Ky. The duo also won the Level 3 Challenge and \$5,000 Non-Pro.