



2018 News

Ann Fonck takes it all at the 2018 NRHA European Open Derby finals!

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For Immediate Release – July 28, 2018 – Kreuth – Multiple past NRHA Open Champion Ann Fonck has been showing in NRHA competition since 2001 when she won her first paycheck worth \$276. During her successful career, prior to making her way to Kreuth, her NRHA Lifetime Earnings (LTE) surpassed \$871,700. Tonight, the NRHA Professional once again proved her talent in the pen by sweeping the top three spots of the National Reining Horse Association (NRHA) Open Derby.

Riding Shiners Voodoo for owner Kimberly Wegner, Ann Fonck performed an outstanding NRHA pattern #10 worth a 226.5 score which slid her straight to Level (L)4 Open Championship. The flashy 5-year-old stallion by Shiners Voodoo Dr out of BR China Rose, bred by Patricia Blakeney Creson and nominated by Reto Erdin, has always been shown by Fonck and has over \$46,700 NRHA LTE to his name.

Nine horses after having shown Shiners Voodoo, Fonck rode her second mount, Made In Walla. With the 7-year-old gelding by NRHA Million Dollar Sire Walla Walla Whiz out of Hollywood Made owned by Sabine Lisec and Chuck Klipfel — bred by Leonardo Arcese and nominated by Ambrosini QH — she laid down another great ride, worth a 225, which placed her second in the L4 division.

They say good things come in threes; the saying was definitely true for Fonck who also tied her third mount, Gunnerlicious (Gunner x Mifs Doll), to third place for owner Gina De Pauw after scoring a 222.5. The 8-year-old double registered APHA/AQHA stallion was bred and nominated by McQuay Stables Inc.

“I am super thrilled with these results and I cannot thank the owners of these three horses for giving me the opportunity to train and show them,” said Fonck. “Voodoo was good for me from the go round we won straight to the finals. Made In Walla is the sweetest horse ever with a huge heart and Gunnerlicious is a super athletic horse with a personality you have to work around! Once again I have to repeat myself: there is no way I could have done all this without my husband Bernard.”

Winning the L3 Open Division was French NRHA Professional Arnaud Girinon who reined DC Masterspecialnite to a 222. The 6-year-old stallion by NRHA Million Dollar Sire Gunners Special Nite out of Master Enterprise is owned and nominated by Stephanie Benetierre who purchased him in Argentina from his breeder Haras Don Carlos. “This is one of the best horses I have ever

shown and I love him,” said the French professional. “I’ve had him in training for the past two years and he’s always been good to me. He truly deserves this win and I am thrilled for his owners who have placed complete trust in me.”



Ann Fonck



Arnaud Girinon

Tying for reserve honors in the L3 Open division with a 221.5 score was Austrian NRHA Professional Markus Gebert riding Claudia Nimmerrichter’s Spark N Step (Wimpys Little Step x Spark N Pretty), a 5-year-old stallion bred and nominated by Sandra Friesenbiller, along with NRHA Professional Max Ruggeri. The Italian NRHA Professional rode Paolo Morandotti’s Mister Little Uno (Mister Uno x Bonita Bahia), an 8-year-old stallion bred and nominated by his owner.

NRHA Professional Markus Morawitz of Austria once again rode Josef and Tamara Ahorner’s Gunners Chic Magnet to yet another title after posting a 220.5; the European L2 Open Derby Championship. The 7-year-old stallion by NRHA Ten Million Dollar Sire Gunner out of Wind Her Up Chic was bred and nominated by Oldenburg Farm LLC. “This horse gets better all the time and I am really happy for this title especially considering the high number of entries and the incredible level of competition here,” said Morawitz.

Taking reserve honors in the L2 division and claiming top honors in the L1 division after posting a 218.5 was NRHA Professional of Germany Lena Felder riding Gunther Klose’s Lil Dunit Smart (Lil Peppy Dun It Right x Smart Katy Rio), a 7-year-old stallion bred by Christine Bayer and nominated by Julia Giacalone. “This win is particularly sweet since I got this horse in training only six weeks ago,” she said. “The level of competition here tonight was really high and I could not be any happier.”



Markus Morawitz



Lena Felder

The L1 co-reserve champions with a 217 were NRHA Professional Alessandro Roasio and his Jupiter Of Sun (Wimpys Little Step x Flirtin A Little), an 8-year-old stallion bred and nominated by Franco Rosso and NRHA Professional Nico Sicuro riding Spooks Midnight (Spooks Gotta Gun x Smart Dottie), an 8-year-old mare owned, bred and nominated by Francesco Mazza.

The NRHA European Derby is open to 5-, 6-, 7- and 8-year-old horses nominated in the NRHA Nomination Program. Since 2009 foals have been required to be nominated to the program to be eligible to enter NRHA European Derby and Futurity. The nominator receives 5% of the money earned by the nominated horse at the two events, even if the horse is sold. There has been overwhelming support of the NRHA Nomination Program since its inception. In 2017, the program's eighth year, 1,589 weanlings were European-nominated, the most in the program's history.

The NRHA European Derby counted the highest number of entries since the first edition which was held in 2011.

The 2018 numbers:

European Derby Open L4 (Entries: 65)

European Derby Open L3 (Entries: 68)

European Derby Open L2 (Entries: 62)

European Derby Open L1 (Entries: 37)

Photos by Thomas Hautmann Photography

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National Reining Horse Association European Derby
