



May 19, 2011

HORSE³ 2011 NAERIC Trainer's Challenge Champion

BRANDON, MB - It was, without a shadow of a doubt, one of our most amazing NAERIC Trainer's Challenge Showdown in our past four years. You could have heard a pin drop during any second of the 4th annual showdown, as Aaron Ralston earned the championship.

From April 15-17, 2011, HORSE³ welcomed some of the best clinicians from North America to the Westoba Agricultural Centre of Excellence. Cain Quam(2010 defending NAERIC Trainer's Champion) from Saskatchewan, Aaron Ralston from Colorado and Jon Ensign, Montana, step into the Show Ring for their first task at hand to choose their pick from 10 two year old halter broke colts for the challenge. Ensign picked a filly that was very alert with great potential named Dashin Doc Doll from Bridgeman Land & Livestock Ltd, Quam chose a very friendly filly named Leanas Investor that also comes from Bridgeman Land & Livestock Ltd and finally Ralston chose a filly with a lot of curiosity named DF Peppys Honey supplied by D5 Performance Horse.

Each horseman was given four hours through out the weekend to show their true talent in colt starting and what is possible in this short time. For some it also showed that not all colts are the same and that some need more than the four hours before you can ride them. There was some very outstanding horsemanship displayed over the 3 days.

On Sunday at 4:00pm we brought the 3 colts and 3 trainers back to the show ring where they were expected to complete an obstacle course with many requirements in order to show the trust and understanding they had been able to develop in the round pen with their colts. The obstacles had not been practiced or shown to the trainers until Sunday Morning. At HORSE³, we want to showcase doing things right for the horse to promote safety for both the horse and the rider/trainer. Throughout the weekend, Ensign was unable to ride his colt and he was commended for the outstanding display of horsemanship in the showdown where he opted to not ride his filly. He did want to leave her in a good place mentally before he left for home and left her for someone else who would have to deal with her in the future. Ensign displayed a technique off the fence to get his filly to accept the human being higher than her; he explained how this helps her to be more comfortable with the thought of a rider on her back. Quam and Ralston were able to get through all the obstacles and were able to also display some very impressive horsemanship; they both used a live steer and showed how to start your colt on cattle with a purpose. In the end the judge's cards were tabulated and Aaron Ralston came from behind and accumulated more points in the showdown.

The HORSE³ is very excited to call Arron Ralston the 2011 NAERIC Trainer's Challenge Champion.