

## NRCHA Bridle Feature Recap

The Bridle Feature showcase equine athletes in a variety of events including rein work, fence work and steer stopping. The Open and Non-Pro Bridle classes feature the experienced horses who are the epitome of the cow horse discipline. Talented horse and rider pairs completed a modified reining pattern showing their



technical expertise with the required maneuvers like spins and sliding stops plus they work a cow. They boxed or held their cow at one end of the arena before taking them down the long side of the fence. They are required to turn them at least once each direction before turning them in a circle, once each direction, to prove their control and athleticism.

Brand new to the NRCHA and the National Western Stock Show, the Cowboy Class made its debut this year. This class is designed for riders working ranches and

showcases their steer stopping abilities in addition to the rein and fence work aspects.

Matt Koch of Elizabeth, Colo. riding Smart Ladies Sparkle for owner XIT Ranch, LLC earned a final score of 288 to win the Open Bridle class. Koch also took second place aboard his own horse, This Cats Sinful. Winning the Non-Pro Bridle class was Alison Brantley of Franktown, Colo. riding her horse Wired On Pepto with a score of 272.



Zach Long, a ranch hand with Silver Spur Ranch in Encampment, Wyo., rode SS One Eye Stepgun to win the Cowboy Class. Their consistency in each of the three phases earned them the champion title. Wacey Flack of Greeley, Colo. was close behind to win second. Flack also participated in the Youth Ranch Horse Mentor Matchup scholarship program earlier in the week aboard his five year old mare, Six Pick A Light and was paired with industry professional Mark Guynn.

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Photos by Performance Horse Photography