

National Western Horseman's Challenge Recap

The National Western Stock Show Horseman's Challenge featured over 60 open competitors plus collegiate riders from eight higher education programs across Colorado and Wyoming. The event continues its mission of fostering unity within the equine community and providing an entertaining experience for competitors and spectators, alike. The competition brought together quarter horses, paint horses, ponies, gaited horses, draft horses and mules



during the two-day event. A total of 80 riders were invited, including two from each of the eight participating colleges. Horse and rider pairs tackled challenging obstacle courses, testing the strong partnership between horse and rider. This event not only showcased the diverse skills of the participants but also highlighted the camaraderie within the collegiate equestrian programs.

New divisions were added to the individual rounds and four winners were awarded on day one: Open Division winner was Amy Hutchins and Gonnabebighollywood; Youth Division winner was Jadalynn Frazier and Westies Playgun; Select Division winner was Jo Teter and her mule, Dazzle; Green Division winner was Shaula Carboni and My

beautiful wonderful Baaaby.

The second day was full of teamwork as the Team Challenge consisted of a record-high 16 teams.

The Team Challenge encourages horsemen with diverse backgrounds to form a collective group, collaborating to overcome a variety of obstacles. Collegiate riders joined forces with open riders allowing for teams to consist of a variety of equines. The winning team consisted of Jo Teter and Jodie Stonner on mules plus Colorado State University students Teagan Vogelsang and Clara Tracy. This diverse team earned 77 points to take the win.



Following the Team Challenge, riders who qualified from the individual rounds competed in the infamous Speed Challenge while the riders from our eight schools competed concurrently in the Collegiate Challenge. The speed challenge proved to be difficult with the time limit imposed and twists to many obstacles, including a fountain and umbrellas. Amy Hutchins, and her palomino, Gonnabebighollywood, claimed yet again, another victory during the 2024 Horseman's Challenge. Amy and her horse exhibited finesse and precision as they gracefully tackled each obstacle, all the while maintaining sufficient speed to successfully complete the course within the allotted time.



The collegiate competitors faced the same challenging course, earning high marks as well. With her coach's enthusiastic support, Liesl Chenowith, representing the Otero College Rodeo team, skillfully maneuvered through the challenges with both style and speed. This impressive performance earned her a remarkable 124 points from the judge, ultimately securing her the well-deserved championship. Reserve champion was awarded to Ty Arnold of Lamar Community College aboard Motorscooterrose. Both riders demonstrated excellent horsemanship skills when working their way through the obstacles in the arena. The National Western Scholarship Trust proudly supports the Collegiate Challenge and awarded Liesl with a \$2,000 scholarship and Ty with a \$1,000 scholarship.

To learn more about the Horseman's Challenge, please visit <https://nationalwestern.com/horse-shows/>

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