



January 6-21, 2024

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# \$27,500 RAM Invitational Freestyle Reining

## 2024 Recap



The CINCH Arena was set ablaze Sunday night as fourteen nationally recognized competitors were put in the spotlight to perform spectacular freestyle reining patterns in the \$27,500 RAM Invitational Freestyle Reining. With the final draw, 2023 champion Devin Warren took the arena by storm, clenching the top spot with an incredible score of 233 points. Lil Joes Cash N Gold, a grey seven-year-old AQHA gelding owned by Grace Wins LLC, was his partner in the heartfelt routine to “Noel” by Chris Tomlin. By a slim one-point margin, Sharee Schwartzenberger earned

the reserve champion title with her horse Game Day Surprise. Her performance to “How Far I’ll Go” by Idina Menzel from the movie “Moana” took the audience on a trip to sandy beaches and beautiful waves. Both rides were the highest scores ever awarded at the event.

As a finale to the opening weekend, Cody Stark was voted the People’s Choice champion. His performance to “The Prayer” by Andrea Bocelli and Celine Dion stole the hearts of the crowd after he dedicated the routine to athletes with disabilities. Smokee Dreams, a black 2015 AQHA stallion, affectionately nicknamed “Lefty” for blindness in his left eye, proved anyone can defy the odds and do anything they put their mind to.



The night also featured three youth in the Youth Freestyle Reining Showcase. Lindsey Thomas created a powerful routine to “Girl on Fire” by Alicia Keys, Mary Kathryn Hardin rode in straight from the swamp to “Marie Laveau” by Bobby Bare and Dakota Harvey rocked the arena to “Back in Black” by AC/DC.

The crowd-favorite event did not disappoint, drawing top reiners from five states for their chance at the impressive prize money, making this the richest freestyle reining in the country.

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