

A Night of Rock n' Roll at the \$15,000 Monarch Casino Gambler's Choice 2025 Recap

Friday night's rock 'n roll atmosphere, signature to the \$15,000 Monarch Casino Gambler's Choice, shook the Cinch Arena in the Events Center with high-level jumpers and a uniquely designed course. Horse and rider pairs kept the crowd on the edge of their seats taking daring turns and fast jumps to accumulate the highest score possible following the path of their choice.

Logan Counter from the School of Rock strummed the National Anthem on his electric guitar to set the tone for the night. Fences of varying heights are set around the ring worth different point values. Riders put together their own course, attempting fences no more than twice each, within 60 seconds. Knockdowns do not earn points and take that fence out of play. After the time allowed, they have the opportunity to attempt the featured Joker fence. Clearing it earns them 200 points however dropping a rail can lose them 200 points.



Californian Zacko Hardin secured an early lead which held until his mother, Kristin, topped it. With only two left to ride, Kasey Ament riding Gaia earned an initial score of 860 points with a crowd encouraging her to try the Joker. The crowd erupted as the pair cleared the fence to take the lead with 1,060 points. Not to be outdone, friend and fellow trainer Kristin Hardin rode Bobby into the arena as the final pair to see. Riding an extremely tight course to keep him focused, Kristin earned 900 points and energetically took off toward the joker, clearing it easily, to secure the win with 1,100 total points. The energetic and engaged crowd supported riders up until the final victory lap of which many riders noted they could feel.



No two rides looked alike thanks to the ability to choose their own course. Every competitor attempted the Joker Jump and eleven out the fifteen riders added 200 points to their score. The Gambler's Choice continues to be a great warmup event for horse and rider pairs looking to compete in the \$10,000 Top of the Rockies Jumper Stake on Saturday and \$40,000 NWSS Grand Prix presented by Monarch Casino on Monday night as the culmination of the National Western Stock Show's USEF Hunter/Jumper Show.

[Full Results](#)
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