

Performance Horse Showdown

2026 Recap



Top level horsemen were drawn to Denver to compete in the Performance Horse Showdown on Opening Day of the 120th National Western Stock Show. Reining, roping and reined cow horse competitors joined forces to participate in the third annual event. Exceptional riders from three prominent disciplines in the western performance horse world were invited to compete in their respective event to vie for the team championship in the CINCH Arena

in the Events Center. The teams of three are randomly drawn in this double-judged event with over \$17,000 in prize money. Each team earned a payout plus the high score individuals pocketed a winner-take-all jackpot for the high score in each event.

The championship came down to the first-ever runoff after a tied team score of 577 between Team Purple (Sharee Schwartzenberger, Jet McCoy and Kyle Trahern) and Team Red (Drake Johnson, JD Yates and Jecca Ostrander). With the NRCHA fence work the declared tie breaker, both reined cow competitors returned to the arena. Kyle posted a stellar 150 while Jecca worked her fifth cow of the day to earn a 143 to leave the title with Team Purple. Drake Johnson was the reining high score with a 144, JD Yates earned the roping high score with a 147.5. Finally, Kyle's brother Chase Trahern tallied a 290 in the reined cow division using his rein work and cow work scores to win the reined cow horse high score.



The Showdown captivated an enthusiastic crowd, showcasing the remarkable diversity and athleticism of these skilled competitors. The camaraderie among competitors was clear and the popularity among spectators solidified the inaugural status as a must-see ticketed feature.

Photos by Performance Horse Photography

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