

2014 New England Horsemen's Council Western Reining Seat Medal Finals

A bright sunny morning greeted the 2014 New England Horsemen's Council Western Reining Seat Medal Finals held in conjunction with the Octoberfest Horse show at the Eastern States Coliseum in West Springfield, MA. The handsomely turned out Western Reiners', three Juniors and five Seniors, competed in their respective Medals. Each section entered the arena for a short workout on the rail prior to lining up to ride their test pattern. Competitors individually rode an accurate and careful test, requiring halt, extended trot, 270° turn to the left, lope on a circle with a lead change, halt and back. All the finalists returned in the afternoon to complete the rail work phase of the Medal finals.

The finalists entered the ring as the last class of the afternoon session, promptly moving onto the rail to work



in both directions before lining up for judges Anne Judd of Bonzall, CA and Stephan Shank of Ranso, NY. First to go was the Junior Medal with polished rides by all the contestants. Riding into the presentation area several times, 2014 NEHC Junior Medal Champion Emily Wise proved to be the best this night, also garnering the High Point Quarter Horse Trophy donated by the Owen Family for her wonderful horse "Half A Cookie", Emily also won the Essay competition prize of a NEHC \$500 Scholarship. Reserve in the class was Ciara O'Sullivan, whose sister

Naima won last year, both aboard the family's always "Absolootly Ready". Ciara was also presented the Junior Sportsmanship Award of a \$50 gift package from Smith Brothers. Third in the class was Hailey Boisvert riding "Delightful Krimson".

The Junior Champion receives a \$2,000 Scholarship to William Wood University, a Belt Buckle, NEHC Trophy, and a set of custom leather spur straps donated by Balmy Acres Bling. Reserve Champion receives a Director's Chair and all competitors receive a Gift Card from Smith Brothers and a NEHC Backpack from the Western Committee

Next in the coliseum arena, the NEHC Senior Western Reining Medal brought back five finalists to ride off before the judges. After an extended work on the rail riders lined up to await the final decision. In the interim the Senior Sportsmanship award was presented to April Sandland who also placed fourth.

Announcing in reverse order the tension built as Victoria Mayer was announced fifth, April fourth, Bryanne Macdonald called in third, and after the big hush, Tiffany Katelyn riding "Sonny's Cool Renegade" was announced Reserve, making Heather Chumra the 2014 NEHC Senior Western Reining Medal Champion. Heather was aboard returning champion "Absolootly Ready" who carried Heather's Mom Chesley to the win in last year's Medal!



The Senior Champion receives a NEHC Trophy, Belt Buckle, Fat Max donated by Camille Pepin and Jim Mullaly. Reserve Champion receives a Director's Chair and all competitors receive a Gift Card from Smith Brothers and a NEHC Backpack from the Western Committee members, Camille Pepin, Kathileen Keefe, Jim Mullaly, Brittany Mayer, and Lisa Doyle.

Visit the NEHC on the web, <http://nehcwesternmedal.webstarts.com/> and on FaceBook.