PERFORMANCE HORSE





NEW TO THE GAME

TREA ALLEN'S FIRST SNAFFLE BIT WAS A MAJOR SUCCESS

BY AMY OLSON PHOTOS COURTESY OF TREA ALLEN

rea Allen thought she had showed up to the NRCHA Snaffle Bit Futurity with a trailer of misfits, but her horses both pulled checks before the first week was through.

The Snaffle Bit Futurity is an NRCHA premiere event, and has been historically renowned as one of the toughest performance horse events to compete in. The overall payout this year is in excess of \$1 million and the best horses and trainers come to ride for just a piece of that.

Allen's horse Gus snagged her \$1,275 and third in the Limited Open Bridle class with a score of 288.5. Gus is a grade horse, his parentage is unknown or unregistered, meaning he is quite the standout amongst the NRCHA open riders. The announcer tends to joke about Gus' heritage and commonly announces him as "out of Oklahoma by Bloomer Trailers."

The ongoing joke for Trea's two years as an open rider has been Gus the grade pony, but now it might be "Teq", the Shetland pony.

Pale of Magaritas, "Teq" is Allen's futurity horse, and although he isn't actually a Shetland pony, he is under 14 hands. The little flaxen maned sorrel is out of Magarita and by Pale Face Dunnit. Allen bought him as a yearing after another prospect sustained a career-ending injury.

"He was kind of a peewee, sorrel gelding out in the pasture with witches' braids in his mane," Allen said. "He was wilder than heck. So I rolled up in my rusty trailer and decided that I was going to take a chance on him."

Little did she know, Allen was about to step out of the Non-Pro classes and into the world of Open riders.

Trea Allen with Pale of Magaritas and Gus at the Colorado State Fair.

Before finishing Laramie County Community College's agriculture programs, students are sent on internships to work in their prospective job field. Trea wanted to be a horse trainer and interned Kyle Trahern. As the internship turned into a job, Allen was presented with the opportunity to show in the Level 1 and Limited Open.

She took the chance and rode her bridle horse Gus into the open pen along with a horse from Trahern's training program.

After about a year with Trahern, Allen was ready for change and headed back to help her folks on their hay farming operation near Kiowa, Colorado.

She continued to ride but wasn't putting in the time that most futurity horses get.

"I spent a lot of time this summer in the mountains and farming, just doing stuff that wasn't horse related so I didn't think I would have one trained," Allen said.

Teq's first NRCHA sanctioned outing was to the Colorado State Fair. There he won the Level 1 Open Futurity. Trea still had no intentions of coming to Fort Worth in October.

"I didn't think I had the funds or the horsepower and frankly I didn't want to show up on one that would look bad," Allen said.

She attended the Colorado Reined Cow Horse Association's Mid-America show in Douglas, Wyoming thinking it would be Teq's last futurity. He not only improved his score in the reining but took second out of 18 horses in the Level 1 Futurity with a composite of 418.

"After that I had a lot of people tell me I should show him in the Level I so I just sent it." Tree said.

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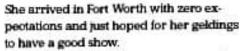
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"Teq" and Trea Allen reining at the CRCA Mid-America Show.



Teq showed the world what he was made of in the Level 1 Open Rein Work pulling second with a score of 221.

Two never asked him to run that fast or stop that hard. It was a big pattern so he was really out of gears and I was asking for everything he had," Trea said.

Teq gave her just that, and without even considering the cow or herd work he made Trea's first Snaffle Bit more than a success.



"Teq" gives his all during the large fast circles of a reining pattern.





Trea Allen and "Teq" take a cow down the fence in Dougas, Wy.

The Mid-America was "Teq's" second big show during his
futurity season.

