

in the bridle and give him a good, full year of being shown and schooled. When we did that, it gave me time to go take him to doctor calves and brand [cattle] on him. That has been real fun and great for his mind," Edsall said. "Plus, that two-rein year, there is a big need for it. To be able to help those horses as they are getting used to being shown one-handed is needed before they get thrown in with the wolves in the big bridle class."

As soon as a horse show was on the horizon, the game plan switched back to show preparedness. At WestWorld, Edsall says his excitement to get back to horse showing was forefront, but the lack of a chance to show Bet He Sparks in the two-rein at a horse show prior left some questions unanswered.

"I had an idea he could be that good in the bridle, the two rein, but without being able to school him, I haven't shown him since the Hackamore Classic last year," he explained. "My game plan was not to win the herd work but to stay in a good enough spot that when the reining and fence work came around I could still be competitive. When the reining came around, I had to run him. Then, it was wait for the cow and try to have a big score."

The crowd was behind Edsall and Bet He Sparks as the two made a hard-running fence go, marking a 151, the highest of the class.

"I saw a lot of horses run and weren't able to keep [the cow] on the fence for the second turn. I barely did; I was just wanting to make sure my horse stayed straight and gave us a chance to hold the cow back on the fence. He did a pretty good job of it. We had a couple big turns and he circled great, I was really happy," Edsall said. "I was telling Chelsea, my wife, that of all the head gear, the bridle really complemented him. He looks good in a snaffle and hackamore, but I felt like that was as good as he's ever looked."

**"You get lucky when you're able to run a horse hard, because it feels like the more big runs you have, you don't want to waste them." -Clayton Edsall**

With another major title under their belt, the two are aiming at the two-rein event at the Stallion Stakes and then look to do double duty in the two-rein and bridle at the Snaffle Bit Futurity. Then, Edsall may focus on preparing for the World's Greatest Horseman event in 2021.

"You get lucky when you're able to run a horse hard, because it feels like the more big runs you have, you don't want to waste them," Edsall said. "He's an extremely nice horse to be around and very trainable. [The two-rein] has become a great class, and I'm really impressed with how its grown in the last few years."

The reserve spot went to Corey Cushing riding Shining CD Light (CD Lights x Jennys Spark x Shining Spark), owned by Ophir Creek Stables LLC, who earned \$3,700. The duo scored a 440 composite (H:148/R:145.5/C:146.5).

Shining CD Light was trained and shown early on in its career by Edsall, and Cushing has had him since late 2018. The pair were finalists in the 2019 Stallion Stakes, Derby and the Hackamore Classic.

"Now that I know him inside and out, and going into his bridle years, he's been a lot of fun," Cushing said. "I was really happy for his first big outing. He is shaping up to be a nice bridle horse. He is low maintenance, and he's a lot of fun. I've grown to enjoy how he goes about it all; he's got a big stop and makes you want to keep playing with him, for sure."

### NON PRO TWO REIN SPECTACULAR

Scottsdale, Arizona, could not be any more different from the situation Non Pro Lia Savas left in Long Island, New

York. The native New Yorker departed a city and state shuttered due to the coronavirus and emerged into a relaxed, welcoming event complete with her horse show friends she'd missed for months. To cap off the elation she felt simply by attending, Savas boarded a plane back to New York with the 2020 NRCHA Derby Non Pro Two Rein Spectacular champion title.

"New York has been shut down completely, so going from that to a plane to a horse show, it was a lot more relaxed and freeing," Savas said. "We've been on lockdown, on quarantine, because both of my parents got [COVID-19]. My sister and I dropped everything to move in and take care of them; we quarantined ourselves. They both made it—my dad is 91 and my mom is 86. It could have been really bad."

But Savas was blessed with their health and blessed again with a successful horse show. The East Coast rider piloted her gelding, Metallic Nickle (Metallic Cat x Nickel N Dime Smart x Smart Little Lena) to a 430 (H:142/R:143.5/C:144.5) and earned \$1,880.

Though the horse was trained by Mark Sigler and Savas rides with Sigler on the East Coast, NRCHA \$2 Million Dollar Rider Todd Crawford assisted her in Arizona.

"We have shows on the East Coast but not as big of events," Savas explained of her two-trainer situation. "I want to swim with the big kids, you know? That was one reason I sent my horse to Todd to be able to attend these big shows and see what I can do to win against a deeper set of riders."

Initially, Savas planned to attend the 2020 Stallion Stakes, and though it was postponed until August, she will be in Las Vegas. First though, she and Metallic Nickle will show back East at a familiar event that is now an NRCHA premier show—the Eastern Derby.

“That was a regular event for us as the East Coast Reined Cow Horse Classic, so it’s exciting it is a bigger event,” she said. “I’ve got to keep the ball rolling. The closest I’ve been [to winning a premier event] has been since 2012, when I was reserve in the World in the Novice Bridle class. I have shown since but haven’t hit first or second at a big event, so a bit of a dry spell.”

Aboard the gelding she says has a lot of try, Savas is ready to swim in the deep end of the reined cow horse pool.

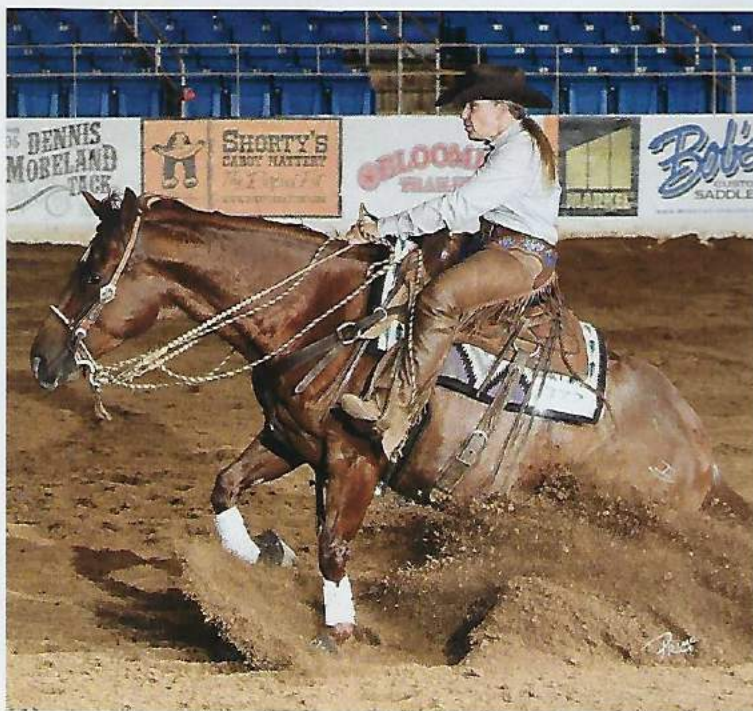
“The faster a cow goes down the fence the better he is; [he is] that kind of horse. He’s good for me, really good for a Non Pro because he is always going to help me out when I’m not right,” she said. “There is a lot of room for error on him, for me, and he’s always been easy to operate.”

Reserve in the Non Pro Two Rein Spectacular, Dakota Cox piloted Metallic Dual Pep (Metallic Cat x Playgirls Miss Grace x Mister Dual Pep) to a 429.5 (H:142/R:139.5/C:148) to earn Circle C Ranch \$1,410 for second place. 🏆



### OPEN TWO REIN SPECTACULAR RESERVE CHAMPION

Corey Cushing and Shining CD Light (CD Lights x Jennys Spark x Shining Spark), owned by Ophir Creek Stables LLC, won reserve with a 440 composite (H:148/R: /C: ) and \$3,700.



### NON PRO TWO REIN SPECTACULAR CHAMPION

Lia Savas and Metallic Nickel (Metallic Cat x Nickel N Dime Smart x Smart Little Lena) captured the Non Pro Two Rein class win with a 430 (H:142/R:143.5/C:144.5) and earned \$1,880.



### NON PRO TWO REIN SPECTACULAR RESERVE CHAMPION

Dakota Cox piloted Metallic Dual Pep (Metallic Cat x Playgirls Miss Grace x Mister Dual Pep ) to a 429.5 (H:142/R:139.5/C:148) to earn his family’s Circle C Ranch \$1,410 for second place.