

# AMERICAN QUARTER HORSE ASSOCIATION

## NIGHT OF THE HORSE

As usual, Thursday kicked off the main match and the competition was well under way for the rest of the week. After Friday's competitions,

we held our annual Night of the Horse, where we held our SIP Stallion Review, Futurity Finals and the special premier running of the CMSA's American Quarter Horse Association (AQHA) Finals. This AQHA match which featured 24 finalists, provided an ex-



*(L/R) 1st Place winners in the AQHA Finals, Youth - James Ellet, Ladies - Tammy Townsend, Men's - Chad Little*

cellent showcase of the versatility, speed and overall athletic abilities of the CMSA's horses, with Chad Little taking the top honors, followed very closely by brother Charlie, and cowgirls Tammy Townsend and Shifarra Carr, respectively. Just a hair over a second separated Chad's winning time from Shifarra's 4th place finish. The CMSA was honored to have Trent Taylor, the AQHA Treasurer on hand to bestow the trophies on the winners of this shoot-out. The Futurity match too, while having only three competitors, proved to be an exciting match, with Charlie Little winning the lead, Dan Byrd in Reserve position, and Chad Little taking third place.



*Kenda Lenseigne presents Charlie Little with the award for winning the World Open Futurity Class. Charlie wins over \$6,000 riding Super Zandy Zion.*

Once again, Arizonan, Susan Turner, with able assistance from Jana Morris, along with some horse facts input from yours truly, produced a very entertaining and moving performance that paid tribute to the horses of Hollywood movies and television. Using CMSA riders and horses to simulate the real movie stars and their mounts, Susan's production, backed by Jana's wonderful selections of background musical



*Kenda Lenseigne presents Dan Byrd & Jana Morris (owner) with the award for winning the World Open Maturity Class.*

themes, was both inspiring and fun to watch. With performers such as Greg Garcia, who portrayed the Lone Ranger on "Silver," Wes Walton as Kevin Costner's 'Dances With Wolves' "Lt. Dunbar," riding "Cisco," his unforgettable buckskin, Natalie Johnson as the "Runaway Bride," who wildly galloped around the arena (chased by Darrin Moore) on "Hightower," and several other riders appearing as film's notable icons, the audience was in awe of this fantastic CMSA show. At times, the crowd of onlookers was in stitches with laughter, while other moments were very moving, with each portrayal bringing back fond memories of those magical moments of the big and small screens. Susan deserves a hearty tip of the CMSA sombrero for putting on such a show, especially with her use of non-professional CMSA personnel and animals—who each gave a very masterful performance!

## A ROCKIN' SATURDAY NIGHT SHOWCASE

The Saturday Night showcase is always our big night in the arena, and this Amarillo World and International Championship was no exception. Starting off with Susan Henning's beautifully choreographed and very moving Grand Entry (who can listen to Willie Nelson's "My Heroes have Always Been Cowboys" and Elvis' "American Trilogy," as the flags of our country's past and present are paraded by, with a dry eye?), the performance moved on to the Cavalry Class. This segment of the show was kicked off with a special tribute to America's troops around the world, via a parade of nearly 40 cavalry troopers and their ladies. Each one was uniformed from the various eras represented by the CMSA Cavalry Class—including Union and Confederate, Indian Wars-era, Spanish-American War, buffalo soldiers and Canadian



*Matt Sronce wins the World Wrangler Pro Finals by only two-tenths of a second, taking home over \$4,000!*



*Chad Little wins the World Colt Eliminator Finals for the second year in a row!*



*Kenda Lenseigne wins the World Colt Ladies Eliminator Finals, beating the competition by only a tenth of a second!*

Mounties. After a stirring duel of military horsemen, Confederate trooper John Krantz III galloped away with the Championship—marking a clean sweep by John in every one of the CMSA's Big Four matches! He was closely followed by Johnnie Reb, Jerry Bestpitch. The Best Dressed Cavalryman award went to buffalo soldier James McIntyre, who portrayed an 1880s cavalryman in Garrison dress uniform. Well done James! By the way, a special thanks goes out to Denny Lemons, for performing as our CMSA rodeo clown and providing us with many laughs in between course setups that evening.

The competitions of the evening, where the best of the best are featured, proved to be one rockin' show. The Ladies Wrangler Pro saw a very tight contest with Melissa Dragoo taking top honors with a time of 15.876 and setting a new world record, while Dianne Holmes-Purcelli was right behind her with a 16.187 score! The Men's Wrangler Pro proved no different when Matt Sronce came in first place with a searing 15.871 score and Chad Little rode right on his tail with a second place win of just 16.120—folks, these are what you call close competitions! Matt rode



*Melissa Dragoo runs a perfect pattern setting a new World Record and wins the World Wrangler Pro Finals.*