

# Silver Spurs Equine 7-and-Up Non Pro

By Laura Mae Schoeller

**N**ow in its eighth year, the Silver Spurs Equine 7-and-Up Non Pro continues to thrive. The class had 84 entries this year vying for the more than \$24,000 in added money in Levels 1 through 4 and concurrently run Non Pro, Intermediate, Limited, and Prime Time Non Pro classes. The score to beat was set early on when Amy Stoney and Skeets Whizard competed as draw 13 to mark a 145. But it was Molly Morgenstern aboard her 9-year-old gelding Wimpys Little Freckl that topped the class to clench the championships in all four levels of the 7-and-Up Non Pro as well as the \$6,000-added Non Pro ancillary class.

## A Surprise Win

Morgenstern and Wimpys Little Freckl, aka “Zeke,” showed 47th in the draw and scored a 146.5 for the win. They took home \$8,634 in prize money, four Lawson bronze trophies, a Morrison bronze trophy, and five championship belt buckles.

“Winning the 7-and-Up and all that money and hardware was a bit of a pleasant surprise for us,” Morgenstern shared. “Although I knew that I was mentally ready for a big run like that, I didn’t know if Zeke was ready to step up like he did after being off since March.”

Zeke spent three weeks at The Ohio State University’s Veterinary hospital earlier this year recovering from an illness. The NRHA Derby was their first show back.

“I sometimes send him down to Pete (Defreitas) two weeks before a show to get him tuned up, but Zeke’s been at home with me the whole time,” she shared. “So before heading out to the Derby I called Pete and asked if he minded if I went somewhere for a lesson before heading out to Oklahoma. That’s when I went and rode with Robin Schoeller for a day. Once we got to the show, he was all business and knew what he needed to do. He’s such a cool horse that you can do stuff like that with him, and he’ll always be right there for you.”

The win for Morgenstern and Zeke marked the second major championship the pair has earned since teaming up in 2016.

“This horse is so special, and every day I realize I like him more and more,” she said.



Molly Morgenstern and Wimpys Little Freckl



Amy Stoney and Skeets Whizard

## Tie for Reserve

Amy Stoney on Skeets Whizard, owned by Connie Stoney, and Jesse Asmussen aboard his Southside Juice both marked a 145 for the L4 reserve honors and also tied with Cathy Brant on Smart Dundee for the reserve title in the L3 and Non Pro ancillary class.

Brant and Smart Dundee added even more to their earnings as they tied with Stoney and Skeets Whizard for the L2



Jesse Asmussen and Southside Juice



Brenda Joyce and Miss Mcdreamy



Cathy Brant and Smart Dundee



Giselle Aebly and Spooks Big Bang



Greg Hall and Chics Mainattraction

reserve championship, earned the L1 reserve title outright, and captured the \$2,000-added Intermediate Non Pro ancillary class championship. The win for Brant marked the best run she'd had to date on her 11-year-old gelding.

"The last two years, I always entered every division in the ancillary classes and every division in the 7-and-Up, and I didn't do well because I got too nervous under pressure," she said. "So, this year, just to take the pressure off, I didn't enter

the Level 4. Sure enough, I would've tied for reserve in that if I'd entered it. But it took the pressure off of me, and we ended up having the best run we've ever had and won the Intermediate Non Pro. I was really happy with that. This was just the best run I have ever had in my entire life. He was just perfect for me everywhere, and it was the best that I have ever got him stopped."

All total, Brant and Smart Dundee, better known as "Mic," won \$4,397. But winning it on Mic is what made the show all the more special for Brant.

"Brandon, my husband, picked him out as a 2-year-old, trained him, and made his first NRHA Open Futurity finals on him. He's a really special horse for us," Brant said.

Polly Hilliard on Little Man Spook and Paul Queen aboard Outta Dough both scored a 143.5 to tie for reserve honors in the Intermediate Non Pro.

The \$500-added Prime Time Non Pro Championship went to Greg Hall on Chics Mainattraction, owned by Mary Anne Hall. The duo scored a 144.5 for the win. Brenda Joyce showed Miss Mcdreamy, owned by husband Frederick Christen, and Giselle Aebly showed Spooks Big Bang, owned by Brian Aebly, to matching scores of 144 for the Prime Time Non Pro Reserve Co-Championship. ❖