



Vantage Point customer Audrey Buckley did several pin and ink drawings for the show for promotion and trophies.

Summer Dreams

REOPENS SHOW SEASON

BY BOB FUNKHOUSER | PHOTOS BY SYDNEY YOUNG

KATY, TEXAS was the site of the first show back in business after the pandemic brought a sudden halt to all normal activities, including horse shows. May Chadick and her team at Vantage Point Stables did a great job of providing exhibitors a chance at normalcy with all of the safety protocols in place. Brian Hadley judged the May 22-23 event, which was held at the Great Southwest Equestrian Center.

Performance classes for American Saddlebreds and road ponies were held over the two days, in addition to a small offering of Academy classes.

“It was 100 percent positive,” said May Chadick. “Some people were worried about crowds and some were worried would it still be fun, and we came through on both of those points. We were just happy to have a horse show; it was like a breath of fresh air.”

Chadick had the idea of a one day show at her farm in case the TASHA show had to be canceled this spring, which it was. The one day show was going to be invitational with four visiting barns showing off the trailer. Then, when that area went into Phase II, a small hunter/jumper show was held at the Great Southwest Equestrian Center in Katy and Chadick spoke to their manager

Amy Uniss about the possibility of an American Saddlebred show. Chadick polled the trainers to see if they would want to have a two-day show at the center and there was strong interest.

“With the CDC and USEF protocols in place the facility could host the show and we could have everyone, not just a handful of barns,” said Chadick. “Our one-day show at the barn was going to work but it wasn’t ideal. This was much better for everyone. The Great Southwest facility is incredible with 650 permanent stalls and state of the art footing. There were signs and areas for hand washing all over the place.

“It was also wonderful for us to highlight a little of our home grown talent such as Sydney Young as our photographer and another young lady here in the barn, Audrey Buckley, did several pin and



The joy of being back in the show ring was evident for Teri Beaty who rode Arrowhead's Power Stroke to the Saddle Seat Pleasure Championship and qualifying blue.



Pictures like this represented the “new normal” for horse show protocols.

ink drawings for our championship trophies and for the artwork for the show.”

Show season 2020 is back on track! With everyone in Texas doing their part to make it safe, yet enjoyable, the door has been opened for the show horse world to once again take its place in our lives.

Complete results can be viewed at www.saddle-horsereport.com. ed starting at 9:00 a.m. with the sale starting at 1:30 p.m. World renowned Joseph Mast will serve as the auctioneer. One-hundred and forty-five Standardbreds have been consigned, including top-end roadster prospects and broodmares. The prospects are all driving and are three-years-old and up.

“For people who have never been to the sale they’re going to be pleasantly surprised at the condition and turnout of these horses,” said Hershberger. “These horses are fit and ready to go. We have several nice horses this year, including a grey roan that is attracting a lot of attention. He comes from the same consigner that put Divide N Conquer through last year. He sold in May and went on to win the USTA Classic at Louisville with Jimmy Robertson.”

In fact, horses that have sold through the Mid-Ohio Memorial Trotting Sale have won the USTA Classic World’s Championship the past three years. In 2018, Debbie Foley drove CU Later to the title for Scott Hagan and the year before that James Nichols was the winning driver behind Genesis for Joe O’Brien’s Covered Bridge Farm.

From the first seven sales have come some of the country’s best. In addition to the above mentioned stars, My Casey was the 2019 Reserve World’s Grand Champion Roadster To Bike titleholder with Ricky Harris after winning the Youth Roadster To Bike World’s Championship with Danny Hicks the previous year. My Casey has

also been the Canadian National Champion for the past two years.

In 2019, the sale sponsored the first ever \$10,000 Memorial Trotting Sale Challenge at the Lexington Junior League Horse Show for graduates of the sale. It was a great class with Scooter Scheurich driving Thunder Rolls to the win for Cascade Stables. Reserve world’s champions in the USTA Classic, they went on to win the UPHA Roadster To Bike Classic Grand Championship at the UPHA/American Royal to close out the season. Hershberger is excited to announce this year the Memorial Trotting Sale Challenge will be a \$20,000 event.

“With all of the interest we plan to keep increasing the prize money for that class,” said Hershberger.

Other graduates of note from the sale include Uncle Beav who was reserve in that Trotting Horse Challenge at Junior League and reserve in the UPHA Classic Grand Championship at the Royal, both with Melissa Moore for Covered Bridge Farm. World’s champions Thunder Up and Crazy Daisy, as well as regional champions Justintime and Laser Leo also represent the sale as graduates.

“We worked for two years before we had our first sale trying to generate interest and promote it,” explained Hershberger. “We were told over and over that people wouldn’t come because they would think horses were going through a sale for not a good reason. I think we’ve proved them wrong. These are top horses and it’s the Super Bowl for the Amish community. I think in the next few years we’re going to see some Standardbreds like they’ve never seen before. There are a lot of Amish breeders and in the past, they’ve always bred for speed. Now, we’ve got breeders crossing upright mares with a lot of style to top stallions with a lot of style, purposely breeding for a show horse. It’s an exciting time for the road horse division and I see a lot of new people getting involved.”



May Chadick safely prepared Brinna Williamson for her time in the show ring.



Officials practicing social distancing included Great Southwest Equestrian Center Manager and Co-Show Manager Amy Uniss, Co-Show Manager May Chadick, Judge Brian Hadley, and Ringmaster Doug Sullens.