

## **Austrian Reining Maturity 2020: Successful conclusion to a difficult season**

Helmut Schulz and his team made the seemingly impossible possible: despite Corona, he managed to set up a second international reining highlight in Wiener Neustadt with the Austrian Reining Maturity. The second edition of this highly praised event for 5- to 15-year-old horses had to accept losses in terms of the number of horses and participating nations. In terms of prize money (\$ 30,000 - added) as well as service, however, no compromises were made in Wiener Neustadt. As always, doping tests were conducted. Since visitors were not allowed due to the Corona requirements, the Maturity could be followed via livestream, which worked perfectly thanks to a new line. The new Video Wall, which had its premiere at the Austrian Futurity, was also used here and was received with great enthusiasm. The international interest in the event was once again great - on Facebook alone there were around 50,000 clicks.

A total of 84 horses from Germany, Italy, Liechtenstein, Poland, Slovakia and Austria were at the start, which meant a total of 315 entries (excluding Paid Warm Ups). Many of them had fallen victim to the travel restrictions. But the riders and owners present enjoyed the excellent conditions of the facility all the more, especially since dream weather prevailed on Saturday and especially on Sunday. Only in the evening it became very cool, so that the judges Filippo Masi and James Gerdes Hansen as well as their Scribes had to wrap up warmly.

### **Klaus Lechner wins Maturity Open L4, Pavel Orel the L3**

The Maturity Championship L4 Open was claimed by the longtime dream team Klaus Lechner and Cody Rooster Delmaso. The beautiful 15-year-old Cody Rooster Delmaso proved his class again and came out of the arena with a 147. Furthermore, the two were Co-Reserve Champion in the L3. The brown son of Ricochet Rooster out of Made of Lacy, owned by Julia Gaupmann Lechner, is the current NRHA World Champion Int. Open and was NRHA European Derby Champion Non Pro Level 1 and 2, NRHA European Champion Limited Non Pro, Austrian State Champion Reining 2014, International Austrian Champion Senior Reining Open and Int. Austrian Vice Champion Amateur Reining as well as multiple Bronze Trophy Champion.

The Reserve Maturity Champion title in L4 Open went to NRHA Million Dollar Rider Rudi Kronsteiner who scored a 145 with two horses: Face Time and AB Peppy Diamond - both owned by Jennifer Nixdorf. With AB Peppy Diamond, Kronsteiner also claimed the Open at this Maturity scoring a 147.

Show highscore was achieved by Pavel Orel, who scored a 148 aboard Remy Rooster SG (Remin Whiz x Tea Rooster) thus winning the Maturity L3 Open for owner Vladimir Cejka under difficult conditions - he was chased by a cattle dog. However, he refrained from a repeat ride, because there was no possibility to top his score. The 6-year-old Remy Rooster SG, bred by Silvia Gandolfi, was already IRHA Futurity Champion L1 and L2 as well as NRHA European Futurity Champion L1 (both under Wiktor Stanko).

Klaus Lechner rode two horses to tie for the Co-Reserve Championship L3 Open scoring a 147 each: Karoline Wesely's Whizagun and Cody Rooster Delmaso.

### **L2 Open Maturity Champion: Pavel Orel, Sebastian Eisler tops L1 Open**

In the L2 Open, Pavel Orel also took the lead, this time with 5-year-old FB Spooks Giant Dry (Spooks Gotta Gun x Noor Nicdry), bred in Italy and also owned by Vladimir Cejka. They both scored a 144.5, relegating Sebastian Eisler with Katharina Greil's JP K Pax to second place (143.5), closely followed by Barbara Bayer and Brigitte Polly's Where Does Rosy Go (143).

This meant the Maturity Champion title in the L1 Open for Sebastian Eisler and JP K Pax. The 11-year-old stallion by Got Smokin Chex out of Gallo Del Hollywood was among others ARHA Futurity Open Finalist L3 and 2 and third in L1 and NRHA Breeders Derby Limited Open third. Second in L1

Open was Barbara Bayer and Where Does Rosy Go ahead of Karoline Kirchl and Golden McMuey (142).

**Maturity Champion Non Pro L4 and 3: Julia Gaupmann-Lechner & Tinseltownsmokingun**

In the Non Pro, the Maturity Champion title in L4 and L3 went to Julia Gaupmann-Lechner and her Tinseltownsmokingun, who achieved a 145.5. The 10-year-old stallion by Colonels Smoking Gun out of Miss Tinseltown has been a winning combination with his owner as well as with her husband Klaus for years. At the AMERICANA 2019, he won the NRHA Intermediate Open Bronze Trophy as well as the Intermediate Non Pro Trophy. With the sorrel stallion, Julia was among others 2017 NRHA European Affiliate Champion Int. Non Pro. Julia and Tinseltownsmokingun also won the Non Pro at this Maturity - the score: 142.

The Reserve Maturity Champion title L4 and L3 was shared by Anna Lisek with her highly successful This Wimps So Fly and Tina Künstner-Mantl on Mizzfire, who scored a 145 behind. Tina also rode JP Vickie Barcelona to 4th place with a 144.5.

**Maturity Champion Non Pro L2 and L1: Anna-Maria Zehetbauer & Big Leo Gun**

The Non Pro L2 and L1 was won by Anna-Maria Zehetbauer and her 7-year-old Big Leo Gun (Mr Gun Dee x Mis Sujos Gunsmoke) scoring a 144.5 for herself. Reserve Maturity Champion was Markus Spreitzhofer on Cant Hide A Gun (142,5). Third place was shared by Barbara Reiter on Norbert Nestelbergers Brownies Chex Whiz and Rudolf Maurer with Tinseltownconnection - both with a 142.

Thus the difficult show season 2020 came to an end in Wiener Neustadt. Host and show manager Helmut Schulz was happy about an all around successful Austrian Reining Maturity 2020 - and this in spite of constantly increasing corona requirements and the uncertainty at the borders as well as the overlap with several other shows. For next year, he intends to further expand the Maturity. Among other things, a Youth Maturity is planned. The date is set for the penultimate week of September 2021, but will also adapt to the international show calendar.