

Premiere of the extra class:

AustrianRHA Maturity 2019 accepted with enthusiasm

From 20 to 22 September 2019, Helmut Schulz invited to the first AustrianRHA Maturity at his facility in Wiener Neustadt - and the premiere was a complete success! 135 horses were entered, resulting in a total of 629 entries. A total of \$ 43,841.05 prize money was distributed. In addition there were beautiful Buckles and Maturity halters for the Reserve Champions. As expected, especially the Austrian Reiners used the opportunity of showing their 5- to 15-year-old horses in the Maturity classes as well as the Ancillary classes. Almost all Austrian trainers were there with their Non Pros. But also riders from Slovakia, Czech Republic, Poland, Hungary, Italy, Germany, Liechtenstein, Canada and USA were present. Helmut Schulz had obviously hit exactly the right nerve and received enthusiastic congratulations from all sides for the successful event. The rush of visitors was also astounding, cheering on their favourites loudly and being rewarded with lots of outstanding runs. The judges Lara Maiocchi and Uli Kofler ha a tough job. For example, in the Open Maturity classes the top 5 riders of the different levels were only half a point apart.

Rudi Kronsteiner claims Open Maturity L4, Sylvia Rzepka L3

NRHA Million Dollar Rider Rudi Kronsteiner achieved the top score of this Maturity aboard Jennifer Nixdorf's AB Peppy Diamond (OT Taris San Peppy x Mare Made). The 10-year-old stallion, who was French Derby Champion, NRHA Breeders Derby Reserve Champion and Open Champion at the Austrian Futurity 2017 with Kronsteiner in the saddle, earned a 148 with his run becoming Maturity Champion Open L4.

Sylvia Rzepka and 7-year-old Winnie The Boo (Spooks Gotta Whiz x Jac Golden Faith) followed in second place with only half a point difference and at the same time secured the Maturity Champion title in the L3 Open. With Winnie The Boo, owned by Florian Aubrunner and bred by Claudia Hahn, Sylvia was 2017 NRHA Breeders Derby Open Co-Champion Level 3 and 2019 Reserve Champion of the Open Bronze Trophy at the IRHA Derby. Two riders tied for second place in L3 Open scoring a 147 each: Johannes Hasenauer with Olga Hofmann's 9-year-old Walla Whiz Keen (Walla Walla Whiz x Keen Little Katie) and Markus Morawitz with the 11-year-old Dr Lee Hook (Ray Gay Quixoute x Chicadualsha) owned by Glis Ranch.

Valentina Sagmeister becomes L2 Open Maturity Champion, Gabriela Wendlinger L1 Champion

In the L2 Open, the title went to Valentina Sagmeister and her SZ Gunners Newcomer (Colonels Smokin Gun x Cowboys Newcomer), who scored a 147. The 10-year-old stallion, with whom Valentina was NRHA European Int. Open Reserve Champion in 2016, was bred by Stefanie Zotti. Reserve Champion was Steve Ouellet with the 13-year-old mare Lil Catalyst Gun (Colonels Lil Gun x Catalyst King), owned by Martina Guetlbauer, only half a point behind.

The L1 Open was won by Gabriela Wendlinger aboard the 10-year-old mare Dudas Rietta Girl owned by Lisa Gutmeier – the score: 143. Both had won the Rookie Professional at the Spring Time Classic this year. Reserve Champion was Noemi Kiss aboard the 12-year-old stallion Dun Ok Dun (Okie Dun It Too x Tari Miss Badger) owned by Istvan Horog.

Florian Kainz wins Non Pro Maturity L4 and L3, Martina Zant the L2 and L1

The Non Pro Maturity classes were very strong, with a total of 136 starts - twice as many as the Open Maturity (68). Maturity Champion L4 and L3 was Florian Kainz, who achieved a 144.5 with his 13-year-old mare The Ladys A Lil Ruf (Lil Ruf Peppy x The Ladys A Gambler). The victory was another success in an already very successful season: among others, the two had won the Intermediate Non Pro at the Youth Classic here in Wiener Neustadt and were co-reserve in the Non Pro at the Spring Time Classic. The Maturity Reserve Championship Non Pro L4 and L3 was claimed by Anna Lisec and her well proven

9-year-old stallion This Wimps So Fly (Wimpys Little Step x Fly Flashy Jac) who scored a 143.

Martina Zant and her 7-year-old gelding Dunit Yankee Style (Hollywood Yankee Kid x Zena Kaliz Dee Dun) rode top score in the Non Pro division: 145. Both were AustrianHA Futurity Non Pro Reserve Champion L1 in 2016. The horse was bred by Gabriela Wendlinger.

Reserve Champion of the Maturity Non Pro L2 and L1 was Anna-Maria Zehetbauer with the 6-year-old Big Leo Gun (Mr Gun Dee x Mis Swos Gunsmoke), who scored a 143.5.

Markus Morawitz and Gunners Chic Magnet win Open, Ulrike Krüger Non Pro

The Open and Non Pro were the highlights of the Ancillary Show, which had 146 starts on Friday alone. With a 147, Markus Morawitz and Gunners Chic Magnet (Colonels Smoking Gun x Wind Her Up Chic) dominated the Open. With the 8-year-old stallion owned by Tamara and Josef Ahorner, Morawitz had already won the Open Maturity in Wels this year. Second place was shared by Lukas Brucek aboard CF Frozen Smart Jaba (RS Red Little Jaba x Chic Sailor) owned by Petr Lamich-Lama and NRHA Million Dollar Rider Rudi Kronsteiner aboard Jennifer Nixdorf's The Gun Maker (One Gun x Mare Made) who scored a 144.5 each.

Ulrike Krüger became Non Pro Champion with her 7-year-old mare SL Shesgotmesparklin (Jacs Electric Spark x Shes Customized). The two, who were already NRHA Breeders Derby Non Pro Champion this year, scored a 145, followed by Julia Gaupmann-Lechner with her Tinseltownsmokingun (Colonels Smoking Gun x Miss Tinseltown), who scored a 142.5.

Plans for Maturity 2020 already underway

The 2019 AustrianRHA Maturity is in the books, but planning for 2020 has already begun. The exact date for next year has not yet been set, as it depends on the international dates, which are only slowly arriving at the present time. Either the 18th to 20th September or the 25th to 27th September 2020 are planned. However, it is certain that the AustrianRHA Maturity 2020 will again be just as attractive - both in terms of cash and non-cash prizes as well as the conditions for horses and riders.