Virtual Contest, made in December 2023

Summaries, Placings, and Cuts

Official for Class 1, Aged Geldings: 2314

Cuts: 2-4-5

There is a top pair of geldings that are more balanced, (2/3) are more laid back in their shoulder, stronger topped and longer from the flank back. They are both deeper bodied and heavier muscled. The chestnut 2, is a notch higher tying in his neck and shorter backed, letting him win the pair. The palomino (1) logically fits into third, when compared to the top he is longer middled and unlevel over his topline. He also his substantially lighter muscled. However, an easy place to end is the poorest profiling bay. Not only is he the smallest framed, but he is also the deepest tying in his thicker neck, the steepest shouldered and shortest hipped, so the poorest balanced is a distant 4th.

Official for Class 2, Aged Mares 2143

Cuts: 5-3-4

There is a big winner here, in the #2 mare, she is by far the most complete, being higher quality, more balanced, and heavier muscled. On top of that structurally she is still very good. In the middle pair I go with the more laid back shoulder and a bit deeper hip in 1. While, I agree that the sorrel is more refined about her face and maybe leveler from wither to croup, she is still thicker on the bottom side of her neck, steeper shouldered, and shorter hipped. 3 is the lightest muscled and needs more conditioning. She is also the longest about her face, and steepest shouldered.

Official for Class 3, Performance Geldings: 1234

Cuts: 4-4-2

We have another big winner in 1, the sorrel gelding is extremely high quality, you have to love his shorter face, and longer and leaner neck, which sits higher on a more laid back shoulder, and then blends into a more level topline. The middle pair still needs to go 2 over 3. 2 more closely follows the outline of the winner, and he is shorter faced, thinner about his neck and proportional as you evaluate his balance. I agree 3 is a stronger in his knee and leveler from wither to croup, but he is so poor quality, we have to put him third. 4 goes last being the lightest muscled and poorest balanced. He is long and uneven in his topline, standing downhill, and just overall the roughest blending.

Official for Class 4, Performance Mares: 3214

Cuts: 2-4-3

The most smooth profiling and complete mare is 3. Where she is really exceptional is her more relaxed shoulder, stronger, tighter topline and more correctly turned, longer croup. The chestnut mare is another who is heavier muscled and higher quality, but when compared to 3, she gets a bit thicker on the bottom side of her neck, weaker across her back, and is just a bit soft in her front leg. In third is 1, she gets longer middled and shorter hipped when compared to 3 and 2, but she is still cleaner fronted, more feminine and longer shouldered than the black rounding out 4th. 4 is a bit better in her knee than 1, and leveler topped, but she is the deepest necked, smallest framed, steepest shouldered mare, making her the roughest blending.

Official for Class 5, Western Pleasure: 4312

Cuts: 3-5-3

We have a top pair of more consistent, and higher quality movers. The chestnut is flatter kneed at all gaits, and slower legged. While the bay roan, might be a bit more positive in his expression on the initial entrance down center, he still is shorter strided, and more animated about his knee and hock. The bottom pair is made up of indistinct joggers, that are also poorly engaged at the lope. While 2 is more positive in his expression and quieter in his mouth than 1, he has to go 4th today when he breaks gait at the lope the 1st way of the pen, making him the most functionally incorrect.

Official for Class 6, Hunt Seat Equitation: 2314

Cuts: 2-4-5

In the top pair, I opt for the more functional rider, who places her horse in more precise locations per each transition. The rider on the brown (2) is quieter about her hands, most noticeably in the canters, which ultimately aids her into executing a more effective, cleaner lead change. She is also more direct and balanced in her contact while showing the hand gallop. 3 may have more heel deep through her iron, but she overuses her hands in the canter, and has a somewhat late, poorly engaged lead change. On top of this, she is disconnected in her reins while pushing her horse up after the change. 1 is in third, she is penalty free, but she balances on her hands throughout, and is rides an uncoordinated 1st maneuver. A distant 4th is #4, she is the heaviest penalized, including multiple wrong diagonals (2 strides or less each time, penalty 3s), a minor break of gait at the trot (penalty 3), blatantly looking down for diagonals (penalty 5), and a break of gait at the canter (penalty 5). She is the most insecure in the tack and the weakest rider overall.

Official for Class 7, Western Horsemanship: 3214

Cuts: 3-4-7

Rider 3, pushes her horse into the most engaged lope as well as the most contrast from her collected jog, to a more authoritative, longer strided extended jog. She is the most educated about her hand helping her horse have the more effortless 360s and more pleasant expression throughout the ride. In second is 2, she keep her horse fairly quiet and is more connected than 1, helping her have a smoother lead change and easier lopes on both leads. 1 leans on her hand throughout the pattern and it causes her horse to be extremely ill-mannered throughout, shaking his head in the bridle, and being negative in his expression. 4 is another one who is extremely ill-mannered, with a poor, abrupt right lead departure, getting animated in his hock, and had the poorest turns in the class. More importantly though the rider cues her turns out of order based on the pattern directions, which will cause for a disqualification.

Official for Class 8, Trail: 3412

Cuts: 4-1-5

3 is not only an exceptional mover, he is also more positive in his expression throughout the pattern. He has more self-carriage in the lope overs, and is more effortless during the jog overs. The middle pair gets close, I'd argue the red roan had the most credit earning back-up, at least over 3, but he is a bit negative in his expression at times, somewhat mouthy, making him an easy second. 1 the black is quitter mouthed and positive in his ear, but he is a bit tighter reined and a notch rougher in transitions. 2 required the most guiding and handling. He also had a penalty 3 in the left lead lope overs for breaking gait.

Answers to questions:

Class 1: Aged Geldings

1. Which horse has the more correctly shaped neck, that is set the highest, to a more laid back shoulder? = 2
2. Which horse is the lightest muscled? = 4
3. Who is more balanced, 3 or 1? = 3
4. Who has the shortest hip in the class? = 4
5. Who had the shortest, strongest topline? = 2

Class 6: Hunt Seat Equitation

6. Who has the quietest hands at the canter, with the most correctly placed, cleanest lead change? = 2
7. Who shows the greatest degree of pattern precision and placement of transitions? = 2
8. Which rider balances on her hands throughout the ride, but does have a penalty free go? = 1
9. Who has multiple wrong diagonals? = 4
10. Who is the poorest positioned rider, being the most insecure in the tack? = 4