

Online Horse Judging Contest – January 2024

Aged Stallions Class #1:

Official: 1234

Cuts: 1-4-4

We have two horses in our top pair, Horse 1 and Horse 2, who demonstrate exceptional balance and muscling. Both the sorrel and the buckskin exhibit are relaxed in their shoulder and hip angles, are strong over their toplines, in addition to being heavy muscled. The buckskin is especially developed in his pectoral region, forearm, and in his hind quarter. However, we are still going to give the edge to the Sorrel as he is more refined down the bridge of his nose, while being tighter through his throatlatch and leaner about his neck. As we move to the bottom of our card, we find an easy bottom in Horse 4. Horse 4 is the coarsest made, being plain headed and thick through his neck, in addition to being the steepest and shortest though his shoulder and hip. The palomino gets a bit straight behind in his hind legs as well, making him as distant fourth as he is the weakest in terms of balance, structure, and quality. Then, we have a horse, Horse 3, that falls into third place. This horse gets a bit long and unlevel over his topline, in addition to being lighter made. He simply cannot compete with our top pair.

Aged Mares Class #2

Official: 3421

Cuts: 4-2-4

We have an easy winner in Horse 3, and an easy last place in Horse 1. Starting with Horse 3, the palomino, she not only expresses more femininity and refinement about her first third, but she also is more relaxed about her shoulder, setting back further into a shorter and tighter topline, all leading into a long and powerful hip. Horse 1 easily finds her way to the bottom of our card as she is the coarsest fronted, steepest on both of her ends, and longest middled. While Horse 2 follows the most closely behind our winner in terms of quality, we cannot overlook that she is longer over her back, shallow bodied, and light muscled. Therefore, Horse 4 gets to be placed second, as she is shorter over her top, deeper bodied in proportion to length of leg, all while being more developed in her muscling pattern, especially seen in her forearm, gaskin, over her croup, and in the lower quadrants of her hip.

Aged Geldings Class #3:

Official: 4213

Cuts: 2-5-2

The top pair is made up of more balanced, structurally correct geldings, I use the deeper bodied chestnut to win, as he is leveler and stronger behind his wither blending all the way into his loin. I will grant that 2 is leaner and trimmer on the bottom side of his neck, still he drops off behind the wither and gets somewhat uneven in his topline, all white being a bit soft in his front leg.

Regardless in the middle pair, the cleaner profiling chestnut is easily more balanced and maintains more structural integrity when compared to 1. He is more laid back in his shoulder angle, shorter in the length of his back and more correctly turned out over his croup. This helps make him more easily divisible into thirds. He is also more correct down his hind leg. Yes, 1 is another that is longer necked, but he gets long middled, stands over at the knee, and is sicklehooked.

In my final pair that have their trade-offs, I opt for the added size and dimension and sort the heavier muscled, taller statured bay over 3. He is longer hiped, while having more carry down in his lower quarter. On top of this he carries more mass and expression in his muscling pattern from every angle. I will give some credit to 3, as he does stand on a more correct column of bone up front and behind, but he is the smallest framed, lightest volumed, all while being the shortest hiped and also the lowest quality.

Yearling Fillies Class #4:

Official: 1234

Cuts: 2-4-3

The top pair is made up of two heavier muscled, smoother profiling fillies. However, it is from the withers back the leaner necked black has a clear advantage. She is shorter in the length of her back, blending into a stronger loin, and then has more length to a 3-dimensional hip, with more carry down in her lower quarter. 2 is another higher quality filly, but she gets weaker behind the wither, steeper over her croup and has some set to her hock.

Regardless in my middle pair, balance lets me easily place the more feminine palomino over 3. She is more angulated through her shoulder, and longer hiped, making her more easily divisible into thirds. Yes 3, is more correct down her rear leg, but she is longer about her face and topline, all while being lighter framed.

In my final pair, it is overall profile where I use the leveler topped bay over 4. She stands more even from knee to her hock, helping her be smoother profiling. On top of that, she stand more correctly up front and behind all the way down to the ground, in terms of her structure. I will give some credit to 4 for being deeper bodied, but not only does she stand cowhooked behind, but she is extremely uneven in her topline making her the most unbalanced.

Western Riding Class #5

Official: 2314

Cuts: 2-3-5

This class easily sorts into a top pair-bottom pair. Our top pair, Horse 2 and Horse 3, are easily the higher quality movers in this class. Horse 2 still gets the edge over Horse 3 as he exhibits more self-carriage and is flatter through his knee, which enables him to appear as if he is floating across the ground and effortless in his changes. Our longer strided top pair, consistently maintain their frame and cadence, are timely and have fluidity in their changes, all while staying straighter through their bodies coming to and from the changes. As we move to our bottom pair, we have two horses, Horse 1 and Horse 4, who are mouthy, short strided, quick legged, require more shaping, and get elevated through their frames. Horse 1 is poorly cadenced over the jog log and is especially poor in the crossing change following the lope log, as he accelerates in his speed and is animated in his head carriage. At the bottom of our card is Horse 4 as he is extremely rough in his changes and incurs multiple penalties, including numerous 1-point non-simultaneous changes throughout, while also getting extremely ill and incurring a 3pt late to change in the last line change.

Western Horsemanship Class #6

Official: 4312

Cuts: 3-3-5

We start this class with both the strongest rider and pattern laid down by the duo combination of 4. She draws a crisper pattern with a taller upper body, stronger core, and more stable lower leg, helping be more educated in her cues, executing cleaner, faster spins, as well as a more effortless lead change. I will grant 3 is another with a smoother, more free flowing pattern, but she utilizes more hand in her turnarounds, raising her hand high and being softer in her core.

Regardless, in the middle pair, I use the rider who executes a higher degree of pattern precision. First the rider on the sorrel pushes her horse into a more engaged lope, and her horse turns more correctly on his hind during the 360s. She also aids her horse to have more contrast from the regular jog into the extended. Yes, 1 does keep her hand more stationary while asking for the turns, but her horse is completely incorrect in his footwork upon the execution.

In my final pair, rider ability easily puts 1 over 2. The rider on the brown more easily keeps her horse in the bridle with a positive expression from start to finish, being softer and more balanced in her hand and seat. The rider on the dark bay is an easy last, her horse is extremely ill-mannered and pushes on the bit, this is because she leans into her hand, resulting in discounted maneuvers from start to finish.

Ranch Riding Class #7

Official: 1342

Cuts: 2-4-4

In this class we see two horses in our top pair who easily set themselves apart with their superior ranch horse sense, being the softest across the ground at all gaits and showing the most extension at the extended gaits. Both of the horses were the quickest and most efficient in their footwork over the logs, while demonstrating a higher degree of difficulty throughout. Horse 1 still is easily found to the top as he is more prompt and fluid in his transitions, while also being more consistent, staying penalty free at the end of his pattern. In our bottom pair, we have two horses who incur 3pt penalties for going out of lead. Horse 2 incurs an additional penalty for the 1pt upwards break of gait and is also the poorest off the rein, most indistinct in his line or travel, and requires the greatest degree of handle.

Reining Class #8

Official: 1234

Cuts: 2-5-7

Horse 1: Chestnut (71); This horse is slightly above average. He has additional speed, correct footwork, and an even cadence in his first set of spins. Both his circles are correct, but there is little degree of difficulty. The first set of circles appear to have a slightly greater difference in speed between large fast and small slow and a clean lead change, so some credit can be rewarded. This horse has very little increase in speed in his rundown, but instead has a quick increase in in speed in his last stride prior to initiating his stop. He is also poor in attempt to get back over his hocks in the rollback. He is more correct in his RS RRB, and even earns some credit in his last RSB, as he commits his hocks to the ground, while continuing to pedal in his front end, followed by a fairly hard back.

Horse 2: Chestnut (68); This horse exhibits a very good first set of spins, with added speed, a low center of gravity, efficient footwork, and a good shutdown. This horse continues to demonstrate a high DOD and superior athleticism in this set of 4, however, he incurs a 3pt out of lead for staying in his left lead in his hind end at second lead change(should have switched to right lead), and he continues to drag the wrong lead all the way around the bend and into his first rundown. On his last RSB, he leaves his left hock out behind him at the end of his stop.

Horse 3: Palomino (58 ½); This horse is easily sorts to our bottom pair due to his lack of athletic ability, being lethargic and consistently busy in his tail on both his spins, circles, and rundowns. As he enters into his small slow in his left lead circles, he not only shows little to no speed differential, but also pops out of lead for a 1pt penalty, attempts to correct his lead with a 2pt break of gate, but fails by picking up the wrong lead for 2 quadrants of the small slow incurring another cumulative 2pt penalty. He is excessively slow into every stop and is unresponsive to the rein when asked to rollback and back at the end of the pattern.

Horse 4: Palomino (DQ); This horse is not only busy in his tail, high headed, and incurs a 1pt underspin in his first stop, but he takes himself out of the game in his second set of spins by completing 5 revolutions. The pattern calls for 4 spins to the right, so he must be disqualified. He also incurs a 5-point kick out at the lead change between the circles. This horse is blatantly unresponsive and shows very little to no variation in speed. On his first RS LRB, he drastically comes out of the ground and significantly out of frame.

In your top pair, you have two horses who are clearly more athletic, however horse 2 incurs a significant out of lead penalty, which helps him fall into second. Yet, it is important to note that he did have a higher DOD than horse 1 in both his spins and circles. Then in our bottom pair, we have two incredibly unathletic and unbroke horses, who do not adhere to A. General in the slightest bit, as they are ill in their manners, being busy in their tail and poor in their frames, while also, incurring an excess of penalties, which further secures their spot in the bottom pair. Horse 3 simply falls into third, even with his numerous out of leads and break of gait, as horse 4 disqualifies himself by completing 5 spins in his second set of spins to the right.