

Kevin Stallings Wins Open Two-Rein World Championship, Reserve Championship and Fourth Place at N

Written by Stephanie Duquette



Kevin Stallings On the first morning of NRCHA World Championship Finals competition Feb. 5, it was tough to find a harder-working horse trainer than Kevin Stallings. Not only did the Tucson, Ariz., horseman qualify all three of his Open Two-Rein entries for the finals – he rode them to three of the top four places.

Stallings won the World Championship on Shining Lil Nic, a 7-year-old buckskin stallion owned by Bill and Janiejill Tointon. Stallings and “Nic” have been on a winning streak dating back to the 2009 NRCHA Snaffle Bit Futurity in Reno, Nev., where they captured the Open Bridle and the Open Two-Rein Championships.

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The easygoing Stallings, with his trademark toothpick clenched firmly between his teeth, guided Shining Lil Nic through a smooth reined work, earning a 217 from the judges. His sparkling cow work, with powerful fence turns and eyeball-to-eyeball circles, netted a 225. The World Championship paid \$4,755.

Stallings and Nic have been a winning pair since the fancy buckskin’s futurity year in 2006, and the stallion always rises to a challenge in the show pen.

“He never says ‘no.’ He always says ‘yes,’ ” said Stallings, wiping sweat from his brow after three demanding Finals runs. “I have to thank Bill and Janiejill for the opportunity to ride such a great horse.”

Stallings won the Reserve Championship on Voodoo Chic, a mare owned by Rogers Heaven Sent Ranch. The bay mare turned in a gritty performance, good for a 434 composite score and a \$3,804 payday.

His third entry in the Open Two-Rein, Shining Miss Lena, also owned by Rogers Heaven Sent Ranch, worked her way to a 431.5 composite, adding \$1,902 to her earnings.