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Congratulations to the NRBC Alumni! ***NRBC Champions Head to Kentucky***

The four riders who will represent the United States at the 2010 Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games are all former National Reining Breeders Classic Champions as is one of the horses to be shown.

Team USA was decided Saturday, July 10, during the Adequan/U.S. Equestrian Federation Open Reining Championships, which were also sponsored by Jerry Kimmel/Mister Nicadual. Placings were based on a two-go-round composite score with the top four horse-and-rider combinations earning spots on the official U.S. Reining Team. The fifth place horse-and-rider pair is the alternate.

- * Shawn Florida & RC Fancy Step, owned by Buffalo Ranch
- * Tom McCutcheon & Gunners Special Nite, owned by Turnabout Farms
- * Craig Schmersal & Boom Shernic, owned by Boom Shernic Syndicate
- * Tim McQuay & Hollywoodstinseltown, owned by David Silva
- * Casey Deary & Rootin Tootin Dunit, owned by Wolf Stern Partnership (alternate)

After leading the first go-round with a 223.5, Shawn and RC Fancy Step solidified the No. 1 spot on the team by marking a 223 for a composite score of 446.5. Tom won second with a 445.5 composite (1st go - 220.5, 2nd go - 225). In third was Craig with a 444 composite (1st go - 221, 2nd go - 223). Tim earned fourth place and a spot on Team USA with a 443.5 composite (1st go - 219.5, 2nd go - 224). Casey, who scored a 440.5 composite (1st go - 218.5, 2nd go - 222), will serve as the alternate for Team USA.

"I think we have a great team and I am very happy to be on a team with these guys because it is really a 'dream team,'" Tim said.

Shawn is a two-time NRBC Open Champion, earning the title in 2006 on Einsteins Revolution and in 2008 on Wimpys Little Chic. Tom won an NRBC Open Championship on Smartest Chic Olena in 2001 while Tim and Miss Tinseltown took the title in 1999.

Craig was the 2010 NRBC Open Championship with Boom Shernic, the same horse he'll be taking to the World Equestrian Games. The 6-year-old stallion last competed at the National Reining Horse Association Derby in June, and Craig lightly worked Boom Schernic between the two competitions.

"We have some serious horses on this team ... we have four horses that are major players," Craig said.

Shawn, Tom and Craig were part of the first Team USA to compete in reining at the 2002 World Equestrian Games in Jerez de la Frontera, Spain. The team took gold and Shawn won the individual gold with Tom earning the silver.

Tim was a member of the 2006 Team USA, which won the gold at the World Equestrian Games in Aachen, Germany. Tim also took the individual silver on Mister Nicadual. Tom was the alternate for the 2006 team.

"Experience is our strength - everyone has been here before," Shawn said of the team.

The 2010 World Equestrian Games comes to U.S. soil for the first time September 25-October 10 in Lexington, Kentucky.

"Being the only homegrown sport for the United States, I expect that place to be rocking," Chef d'Equipe Jeff Petska said. "Our guys are ready but the other countries are coming with their guns loaded. The leap in the level of competition and the depth of riders since the first Games is impressive."

Offered every four years like the Olympics, the World Equestrian Games were initiated in 1990 in Stockholm, Sweden. Since then, there have been four more Games with Reining included for the first time at the 2002 FEI World Equestrian Games in Jerez de la Frontera, Spain.

To learn more about the 2010 Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games, visit www.alltechfeigames.com.