



# Slide Street EJournal

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## ***NRBC Champions Among Those Competing in the U.S. Selection Trials***

With the 2010 Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games less than 80 days away, reiners are in Oklahoma City this week to vie for a spot on Team USA.

The U.S. Equestrian Federation National Reining Championship, CRI4\* & Official Reining Team Selection Trial will take place over two days at the State Fair Park Jim Norick Arena.

"This trial is during the new Battle in the Saddle and will feature two go-rounds," Show Manager Brad Ettleman said. "The scores will be combined from the two go's and the top four horse-and-rider combinations will represent the United States."

The preliminaries begin at 7 a.m. Thursday, July 8, with the first section of the second-go at 1:30 p.m. Saturday, July 10, and the second section of the second-go following at 7:30 p.m.

Among the 33 horses competing are four National Reining Breeders Classic Open Champions while seven of the 23 riders in the event have won at least one NRBC championship.

Former NRBC Open Champions include Custom Legend, Einsteins Revolution, Wimpys Little Chic and Boom Shernic. Riders who have won an Open Championship are Andrea Fappani, Shawn Florida, Dell Hendricks, Tim McQuay, Tom McCutcheon and Craig Schmersal. Mandy McCutcheon will also be competing in the Selection Trial and has won numerous NRBC Non Pro Championships.

"These trials will be the toughest we've ever had," said National Reining Breeders Classic President Tom McCutcheon, who will be competing on Darlins Not Painted and Gunners Special Nite. "In 2002 and 2006, we really didn't have enough of a program and enough of a history for people to plan. But the World Equestrian Games have been in place now long enough for people to actually have time to plan for it and save their horses for it. I think this is going to be the finest group of horses we've seen put together in one place and the riders are the best of the best."

McQuay, who won team gold and individual silver at the 2006 World Equestrian Games in Aachen, Germany, said there's not a horse in the Selection Trial that wouldn't make a good Team USA horse.

"At least 15 of the horses competing have been superstars in some of our major events," the \$2 Million National Reining Horse Association Rider said. "This deal in Oklahoma City is going to be an exciting, exciting event."

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

To qualify for the U.S. Selection Trial, riders were required to show at three qualifying events between April 1, 2009, and May 1, 2010, and achieve a minimum average score of 68 at two different CRIs during this period. The 2010 NRBC had the last qualifying CRI for riders with Matt Palmer and Whale Of A Whiz winning gold.

For more information on the U.S. Selection Trial for the 2010 World Equestrian Games, visit [www.battleinthesaddle.com](http://www.battleinthesaddle.com). To learn more about the 2010 Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games, visit [www.alltechfeigames.com](http://www.alltechfeigames.com).

