

# 20 NRHA TOP TWENTY

## PROFESSIONALS

BY HEATHER LOVERIDGE

### Crystal McNutt, Scottsdale, Arizona

She's been on a horse since she was a toddler and wouldn't have it any other way. For NRHA Professional Crystal McNutt, horses, and Reining, are life.

"I'm so lucky I get to do this for a living!" McNutt said.

As a five year old, McNutt won her first Stock Seat Medal and then, at nine, actually landed in the pages of *Sports Illustrated* when she became the youngest person to win a U.S. Arabian Nationals Top 10. She started training horses as a teenager and hasn't looked back since.

Today, she and her husband Mike Brock, who runs a trucking business, live on a ranch with their horses and Basset Hounds. Mike helps around the ranch when he's not working, and Crystal devotes her time to training and showing.

"This year I have a futurity horse



named Hollys Final Spark," she said. "I'm really looking forward to the Futurity because I haven't had a horse in a few years. It's exciting to be able to prepare for that event! I also have a few really nice Arabians and Half-Arabians for the nationals and a couple of world show horses - so lots of fun!"

Already this year, McNutt has made some lasting memories.

"At the Wildcard Reining Challenge, I won the Half-Arabian Futurity's Level 4 Open on TR Por Quixote, was reserve on TR Flash Flood and third on Wheres Wanda RA," she said. "Showing in the Futurity at the Las Vegas High Roller Reining was another highlight - it was just a super fun ride!"

"I'm also extremely lucky I have a great group of non pros. We've won at Youth Nationals, Scottsdale and our regionals. Nationals are next!" ♦

### CURRENT TOP 20

(As of shows input October 4, 2016)

Rider	Earnings
1. Jason Vanlandingham	\$172,813
2. Andrea Fappani	\$168,022
3. Casey L. Deary	\$150,018
4. Jordan Larson	\$88,564
5. Martin Muehlstaetter	\$88,292
6. Ann Fonck	\$83,267
7. Shawn W. Florida	\$76,126
8. Tom McCutcheon	\$74,456
9. Jimmy Van Der Hoeven	\$74,261
10. Fernando Salgado	\$72,591
11. Bernard Fonck	\$72,066
12. Gabe D. Hutchins	\$61,515
13. Rudi Kronsteiner	\$58,566
14. Franco Bertolani	\$53,402
15. Crystal T. McNutt	\$53,101
16. Brian Bell	\$50,809
17. Ruben Vandorp	\$49,995
18. Matt Mills	\$49,226
19. Arno Honstetter	\$47,134
20. Craig C. Schmersal	\$46,027

### Matt Palmer, Elverson, Pennsylvania

For Matt Palmer, 2016 has been full of variety and he's loved it.

"I've been very fortunate to have several horses in different categories: derby horses Dun Alotta Chics, All About Magnum and Lil Kid Whiz; Spook N Sparks, currently leading top 10 in novice horse open level 2; and CC Enterprise, open and 7&Up," Palmer said. "I've been blessed with good customers!"

Palmer's year started off in Florida, showing Dun Alotta Chics for Punch Haring.

"We purchased the horse for a retired lady to show in the green and rookie. She had surgery and asked me to show him," Palmer said.

Lo and behold, Dun Alotta Chics surprised them all.

"He won the Level 3 and came in third in the Level 4 in Florida. There was a lot more horsepower under the hood!" Palmer laughed.



"Then it was off to my favorite show, the NRBC, where I made the open derby finals on Dun Alotta Chics and All About Magnum. I also won the Carolina Classic Levels 4 and 3 Reserve championships on Lil Kid Whiz."

Palmer's non pros have had their share of the spotlight, too.

"I've been blessed with really good clients and students," he said. "I've helped six young ladies accomplish their dreams of riding on division 1 college teams."

One of the most important lessons Palmer has learned over the years is patience.

"It's a very important aspect in the business, together with good people. I've been fortunate in having really good family and client support

as well as Professional Rocky Dare, a.k.a. Uncle Rock," Palmer said. "When you are young, you think you have all the answers. You soon learn that you keep learning every day!" ♦