

BY HEATHER LOVERIDGE

### Russell Giles, Waco, Texas

**R**USSELL GILES GREW UP RIDING ON HER family's Texas ranch and began competing in weekend playday shows as a youth. Eventually she went to Baylor University, graduating with a bachelor of arts in English. She planned to go to law school and then realized sitting behind a desk day after day wasn't for her. Instead, she became an entrepreneur and started several successful businesses, including Giles Motors. She kept a horse or two around for occasional riding, but didn't compete.

"One day I decided I wanted to get back into horses. I looked at all the events and picked Reining," Giles said. "I realized it was more of a refined, artistic sport like golf. I'm a fairly good golfer and I could understand the finesse in Reining."

That was just three years ago. Since then, Giles has swiftly become a reining success. She became a quick study at

bloodlines and began looking for a prospect. When she found Lil Joe Cash, her trainer at the time tried to talk her out of the horse. She bought him anyway and sent him to NRHA Professional Brent Loseke, Aubrey, Texas, who then recommended sending him to NRHA Professional and Two Million Dollar Rider Andrea Fappani before last year's NRHA Futurity.

Their efforts paid off and Fappani and Lil Joe Cash won the 2011 NRHA Futurity's Level 4 Open division and over \$157,000 in 2011.

"It was such an exciting time! I have to say Brent is the main reason 'Joe' got where he is. He's a very selfless, honest man who told me Joe would have the best chance at winning with Andrea," Giles said. "Andrea will keep showing Joe, but Brent will have a major part in his future." ♦

### Rebeca Martin, Gold River, California

**I**F SOMEONE HAD TOLD REBECA MARTIN THAT ONE DAY SHE'D OWN horses, she'd have laughed at them. A city girl who knew nothing about horses, she spent years working as a graduate gemologist and raising her son. When she reached her 40's though, she decided it was time.

"I'd always wanted to ride horses so I made up my mind to go do it. At the time I thought all there was was trail. It wasn't as exciting as I would have liked so my trainer took me over to NRHA Professional Mike Boyle's ranch. I rode a reining horse and, boy, was it exciting!" Martin said. "I started taking lessons and for years took three, two-hour lessons a week. I showed at every show I could and had a great time no matter what."

It wasn't until Martin got her first stallion, Cee A Chocolate Chic, though, that her non pro career really took off.

"In one year, 2006, we won 37 firsts, 17 seconds, 4 saddles



and were top 10 in the world," she said. "That was the kind of a year you dream about."

Eventually she retired "Reggie" and purchased Show Me The Buckles. The palomino stallion has turned into another dream horse. Last year he was the NRHA Futurity's level 4 open co-reserve champion with Arno Honstetter.

"I just wanted a great non pro horse," she said. "Instead, under (NRHA Professional and Two Million Dollar Rider ) Andrea Fappani and Honstetter's guidance, he's turning into something even better."

Martin, now retired and recently married to husband Tom, is having the time of her life.

"I'm the happiest I've ever been," she said. "I'm just as excited about Reining today as I was the first time I threw a leg over a reining horse." ♦

### CURRENT TOP 20

(As of shows input December 12, 2011)

	Owners	Earnings
1	Rancho Oso Rio LLC	\$234,696
2	Manuel Bonzano	\$226,263
3	Rosanne Sternberg	\$194,990
4	Russell Giles	\$157,450
5	Arcese Quarter Horses USA	\$129,924
6	Smart Like Juice Inc	\$129,870
7	KC Performance Horses, LLC	\$128,467
8	Shaunda Ruckman	\$126,188
9	Rebeca Martin	\$120,041
10	Robert Santagata	\$119,794
11	Double Run Farm	\$118,416
12	Jerry Kimmel	\$110,153
13	Amabile & Strusiner	\$101,551
14	Lance Griffin	\$101,537
15	Gaynia Revenberg	\$97,863
16	Rhodes River Ranch	\$97,086
17	Claudio Riso	\$97,045
18	Jefferson Abbud	\$94,320
19	CDR Farms	\$87,147
20	Fabrizio Bevilacqua	\$81,595