



Olenas Little Barb Becomes **FIRST MARE** NFQHA Champion

Charlene Roberts and Olenas Little Barb

NFQHA is proud to announce the first NFQHA Championship earned by a mare. Olenas Little Barb (Diamond Dude Olena x Crimsons Little Barb), ridden by owner Charlene Roberts, Conyers, GA, steamrolled over the 2002 competition on her way to the historic milestone of first NFQHA Champion Mare. Along with the title she also earned the NFQHA Championship Trophy, a check for \$1,000, and the honorary NFQHA certification number F009000. Olenas Little Barb takes her place beside only three other NFQHA Champions: Peppermint Brick (first Champion Gelding) owned by Bob and Linda Banks, Roseburg, OR; A Washington Tivio, owned by Robin Ordway, Spray, OR; and RRR Dry Bar (first Champion Stallion), owned by Julie Stanly-Noble, Mountain City, TN. This exciting mare also won the 2002 NYEC competition in Open Versatility, and was the NFQHA 2002 High Point Open Versatility horse along with many class wins (see 2002 NYEC and High Point results in this issue).

Charlene says “In March of 2000 we went to Bobby Atwood of Kosciusko, MS to find a team penning prospect for my husband Bryan. I remembered seeing a horse he had ridden at San Antonio and persuaded my husband to buy her. After a couple of shows we decided I got along with her better than he did, and she would be my backup penning horse. Later that summer, Bobby decided she was probably his best shot to win the Oklahoma Sorting and Penning Futurity to be held during the OK State Fair. He took her back and rode her until September when he won the Sorting Futurity on her. I continued to pen and win money with her.

The next year I decided to try showing her at NFQHA sanctioned shows in the versatility competition. In 2000 I had the SFQHC high-point horse, Jessie Mentiroso, but I retired her at the end of that year at 21 years old. Lena’s first show was Clemson, SC where she was reserve versatility champion and high-point mare. In 2001 she was Reserve Versatility Champion at every SFQHC show except one and Versatility champion at a NCTFQHC show in Glen Rose, TX. She placed 3rd in the National Versatility standings with 5 class championships and 2 reserves.”

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At the beginning of 2002 Charlene decided to try to win the NFQHA National Year End Versatility Championship and also to try to make Olenas Little Barb the first NFQHA Champion Mare. In 2002, she was Versatility champion at every SFQHC show and one NCTFQHC show. Lena has also been the high-point mare at every NFQHA show she has ever attended.

Olenas Little Barb was bred by Rita and Reginald Blankenship of Mount Hope, Alabama. She originally was started in cutting, but it was decided she might be a better penner since she was too chary for cutting. She is still actively penning and Charlene plans on competing in AQHA Versatility classes in 2003.

L.T.E. Over \$25,000 in Team Penning

2000 OK State Fair Sorting Futurity Winner

2001 **SFQHC Reserve High-Point Horse**

NFQHA National Versatility Comp 3rd

NFQHA National Class Champion:

Open Pole Bending

Open Key Race

Open Using Cow Horse

Open Ranch Cutting

Open Team Penning

NFQHA Reserve National Class CH:

Open Cow Work

Open Barrel Racing

2002 SFQHC High-Point Horse

NFQHA National Versatility Champion

NFQHA Champion - 1st Mare

NFQHA High Point Horse:

Open Versatility

Open Working Western Pleasure

Open Working Ranch Horse

Open Ranch Reining

Open Western Riding

Open Barrel Racing

Open Pole Bending

Open Key Race

Open Cow Work

Open Ranch Cutting

Open Breakaway Roping

NFQHA National Class Champion:

Open Versatility

Open Versatility Conformation

Barrel Racing

Pole Bending

Key Race

Open Cow Work

Open Using Cow Horse

Cow Work

Ranch Cutting

Bronze Certificates of Ability: *Open Versatility, Open Working Western Pleasure, Open Working Ranch Horse, Open Ranch Reining, Open Barrel Racing, Open Pole Bending, Open Key Race, Open Cow Work, Open Using Cow*

Horse, Open Ranch Cutting

Silver Certificates of Ability: *Open Versatility, Open Pole Bending, Open Key Race,*