



Open Competition Award Winner 2024



The 2024 Open Competition Award Winner is SS A Noble Star (AQHA Stallion Starlights Starbrite x AL Aleen) an 11-year-old Half-Arabian Bay Mare owned by Michelle Pease-Paulsen.

Michelle purchased Sansa in the fall of 2017, since then they have had a lot of success in the show ring not only on the AHA national level, but at the top level of reining competition. Michelle took Sansa to compete at the 2024 Run for a Million where she was up against some tough competition in an event that is primarily dominated by quarter horses. However, she was able to hold her own and really showcase what our breed can do in the reining arena. Out of 92 entries in the Rookie Level 2 class they ended up tied for 35th place and she was the only Half-Arabian in the class. Then with Michelle riding in the Non pro class with 52 entries, Sansa placed 37th.

Michelle's goal this year was to not only share her amazing mare with the world, but to let the open Reining world know that Arabians can play in that world too. In collaboration with National Horseman, she was able to make a series of videos for social media to share with the world. Which really highlighted Sansa's athleticism, heart, and demeanor with the other breeds in the equine industry.

The videos that were uploaded across all social media platforms received over a hundred thousand views and more than 380 shares. Including NRHA and The Run for a Million sharing the videos of Sansa on their own pages.



SS A Noble Star really represents the Arabian breed so well, not only in the Reining world that thank you to Taylor Sheridan has grown so much, but for the Open Competition aspect outside of AHA recognized shows. Congratulations again to SS A Noble Star and Michelle Pease-Paulsen! Thank you for sharing your amazing mare with the world to help advocate for the Arabian breed!