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Tractor pulls climax Second Farm Equipment Expo

HARRISBURG — The tractor pulling competition at the Farm Equipment Exposition wrapped up on Saturday, with the 9000 pound class qualifications in the morning and the finals held that same evening.

The mechanical horse power pulling contest was a crowd-drawing event despite the \$5 a head charge to attend the final piston-popping matches.

The stock tractor pulls were a first at second annual Expo, with three weight classes. The 5500 and 13,000 pound classes were held on Thursday, with close to forty and fifteen entries respectively.

Qualifying in the 9000 pound class out of 23 entries were: Paul Hoch; Harry Barrick, Jr.; Ray Mowry; Gary Brown; Craig Frey; John Wetmore; Elton Muth; Donald Zaleski; Russell Byers; and Dean Innerst.

These men, along with the Thursday finalists, were ready to draw their positions for the final one-pull eliminations in the Saturday championship decision.

In the 5500 pounds finals, the top three placings went to entries who hadn't placed in the top three on Thursday.

The championship trophy went to George Easton, R1 Cogan Station. He had the winning pull of 167 feet, 2½ inches with his Oliver 88. On Thursday, Easton had placed ninth with a pull of 116 feet, 10 inches.

Gilbert Watson, R2 Mars, and his Farmall M came in second with a pull of 165 feet, 11½ inches. Watson came the closest to the top on Thursday, placing fourth.

And, Carl Modica, Jr., Asbury, N.J., driving his Farmall M, had the final third place pull with 165 feet



Champion of the 9000 pound class was Harry Barrick, with his Oliver 1855 and winning pull of 159 feet, 5½ inches.

even. His best pull on Thursday got him to seventh place.

In the 1300 pound class, David Gross, of R1 Hamburg, held onto third place in the Thursday competition and in the finals. With his John Deere 4230, he turned in a final pull of 169 feet, 4½ inches.

The champion of the 13,000 pound class was Randy Greene, R2 Canton. His winning pull of 173 feet, 7 inches was made with an International 1206. Greene's best pull on Thursday was ranked the tenth best, just barely qualifying him for the Saturday night finals.

And Larry Klinger, R1 Winfield, who followed Gross in placing on Thursday, traded his fourth place for a second in the finals. His Oliver 1850 dragged the load 168 feet, 6 inches.

Another Oliver topped the 9000 pound finals, only this model was an 1855. In close competition, and after a pull-off match, Harry Barrick, Jr. out-distanced Paul Hoch to trade his second place ranking for the grandchampion. Barrick's pull measured 159 feet, 5½ inches, where Hoch's Case 930 wound down at 140 feet, nine inches.

Third place went to Henry Achenbach, R1 PenArgyl, whose Ford 5000 turned in a pull of 172 feet, 10½ inches before the Barrick-Hoch pull-off.-SM

The final results for the tractor pulling debut at Expo were:

5500 pounds
1. George Easton; 2. Gilbert Watson; 3. Carl Modica, Jr.; 4. Mike Miller, R3 Carlisle; 5. Dale Shupp, R2 Tunkhannock; 6. Donald Remlev, R3 Benton; 7. Paul

Hoch, R1 Shippensburg; 8. Claude Homan, R1 Centre Hall; 9. Richard Troxell, R1 Andreas; and 10. Larry Klinger, R1 Selinsgrove.

9000 pounds
1. Harry Barrick, Jr., R4 Newville; 2. Paul Hoch; 3. Henry Achenbach; 4. Elton Muth, R1 Alburts; 6. Craig Frey, R2 Conestoga; 5. John Wetmore, R4 Honesdale; 7. Dean Innerst, R3 Red Lion; 8. Ray Mowry, R1 Roaring Spring; 9. Russell Byers, R1 Ruffsdale; and 10. Gary Brown, R1 Lake Ariel.

13,000 pounds
1. Randy Greene; 2. Larry Klinger; 3. David Gross; 4. Albert Kiefer, R4 Bangor; 5. Ray Reighard, RD Woodbury; 6. Gary Fry, R1 Winfield; 7. Robert Kiefer, R4 Bangor; 8. Paul Hoch; 9. Ronald Jumper, R3 Newville; and 10. Barry Ott, R2 Bangor.



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