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For Immediate Release:

Mathieu Buton Wins SWRHA Limited Open Championship on Zumbar Rojo

Mathieu Buton competed in his first Futurity at last year's Southwest Reining Horse Association Futurity. He returned in 2008 on Zumbar Rojo to mark a 220.5 in the finals and earn the Limited Open Championship, a check for \$3,092, a saddle, and a Lawson bronze.

"I am really happy right now. It's the first time I showed her – and the first time I've scored a 220.5. I really want to thank her owners, Driscoll Ranch LLC, for giving me the opportunity to show the mare. They're great customers," Buton said prior to the awards ceremony.

It was the first show, ever, for Zumbar Rojo, by West Coast Whiz and out of Nanny Dos Olena. "She surprised me, and showed a lot of ability tonight. She can really stop and turn around, too. She was just sold to Clint Haverty," noted the 26-year-old. "She will make a really nice show horse and broodmare."

Hailing from France, Buton has worked for trainer Craig Schmersal for two years. "I showed in France some, but there aren't the same caliber of horses, so it's always been a dream of mine to work for Craig. I'm really lucky to be here, because it is a great program, with great people and customers, and everyone is really nice to me," he explained.

And although Zumbar Rojo has been sold, Buton still has horses that he'll be able to show at the National Reining Horse Association Futurity in December. "I'm just really lucky and happy that I have gotten this opportunity," he concluded.

Earning the Limited Open Reserve Championship was Barbra Bouchard, riding The Great Dunit. Their score of 217 earned The Great Dunit's owner Lance Griffin check for \$1,882. The Great Dunit is by Hollywood Dun It and out of Pines BH.

The SWRHA Futurity is held annually at the Hardy Murphy Coliseum in Ardmore, Oklahoma. It runs from October 21-October 26, and boasts added money of over \$135,000.

For more information on the Southwest Reining Horse Association Futurity, or to inquire about the SWRHA, please call 580-759-2572, or visit www.swrha.com.

