

Daily Chatter

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Oh Cay Felix! Unprecedented double winner



Craig Thompson (right) and helpers get a glimpse of the scoreboard with Oh Cay Felix's 227-point winning score. Stacy Pigott photo

Grit and guts aka Oh Cay Felix and Craig Thompson. That's what it took to win the 2006 NCHA Futurity in a spectacular eleventh-hour finish.

Hydrive Cat, winner of the Semi-Finals, had set a steep target with 225 points under Clint Allen midway through the second of two sets. Two crowd pleasers, The Silver Spoon with Allen Crouch and Spoonful of Cheerios under Terry Riddle, gave it their best shot with 219.5 and 222.5, respectively, but it was Oh Cay Felix

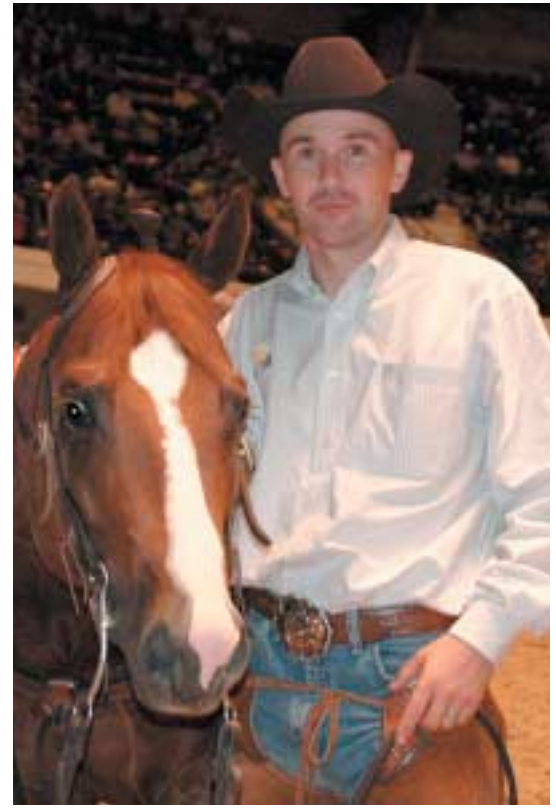


and Thompson who prevailed with 227 points — the second-highest score in the history of the NCHA Futurity.

The win earned Oh Cay Felix an unprecedented second Futurity championship. On Friday, he claimed the NCHA Amateur Futurity with 222 points under owner Patrick Collins, Lincoln, IL

The Open championship also earned Oh Cay Felix the richest

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On the left, Oh Cay Felix's owner and NCHA Futurity Amateur champion Patrick Collins (right) and Craig Thompson, who rode the horse to win the Open Futurity; on the right, Clint Allen and NCHA Futurity reserve champion Hydrive Cat, owned by Georgia and Dave Husby.

winner's purse in NCHA Triple Crown history — \$250,000, which makes the gelded son of High Brow Cat the richest three-year-old in the history of the sport, with earnings of \$262,164, including his Amateur winner's take.

"He's one of the grittiest horses," said Thompson. "He just loves to work. You cut him clean and he takes care of the rest."

Drawing dead last in the 26-horse field didn't faze Thompson.

"To be honest, I was happy to have the last spot because I knew exactly what cows I wanted to cut and what my job was," said Thompson.

"J.B. McLamb, Paul and Winston Hansma, and Shannon Hall were all great help. I had a lot of confidence in them. When we went down there, they gave me their input on the cows. There had been so many great runs and so many great riders ahead of me, they kind of narrowed the list down and we went with what was left."

Thompson cut three cows and clinched the win on the third with 28 seconds of working time.

"J.B. spotted my last cow," he noted. I wasn't sure about it, but I didn't want to waste any time. I just wanted to go down there and show my horse to his

best."

Oh Cay Felix was bred by Collins out of Oh Cay Shorty, the lifetime earner of \$61,000. Collins purchased the Shorty Lena daughter as an 8-year-old and rode her on weekends to earn more than \$40,000.

This past year, Collins rode Oh Cay Felix's three-quarter sister, Southbound Shorty, also trained by Thompson, to qualify for the NCHA Amateur Futurity Semi-Finals and earn \$15,293, through December 2006.

"They're both cow smart and gritty," said Collins of Oh Cay Felix and Southbound Shorty. "But he moves just a little bit more level and is a little easier to ride.

"He's a gift, an awesome horse. I just happened to be here at the right time.

"Craig has done a fabulous job training him and getting him ready. I'd seen him through the year and knew he was nice. But Craig kind of keeps the package always wrapped and smooth and silky.

"When I came down here (at the beginning of the Futurity) I saw him ask the horse for a little bit, and I saw what he had."

Collins, 51, a feedlot owner, was introduced to cutting when he began supplying cattle for local cuttings in

Illinois. He and his four sons, Max, the oldest at 24, Quinn, Patrick, and Lach, a college sophomore, participated in weekend cuttings.

Thompson, 35, operates his own training facility in Buffalo, Texas, where he lives with his wife Sasha and sons Chase, 6, and Catch, 2.

Thompson, who prior to his \$250,000 Futurity win had NCHA lifetime earnings of \$619,000, got his start training cutting horses with Matt Gaines. At the time, Gaines worked for the late Charles Spence; Clint Allen was one of his assistants, as well.

"Clint Allen has been an inspiration to a lot of people," said Thompson of the NCHA Futurity reserve champion. "He came over here (from his native New Zealand) not knowing anything and you see what a great job he does."

Allen, who won the Semi-Finals with 222 points on Highdrive Cat (Oh Cay Felix was second with 219), won the 2002 NCHA Open Limited championship on Its Just About Me, owned at the time by Alisa McCleary, who nicknamed the stallion "Charles," after Charles Spence.

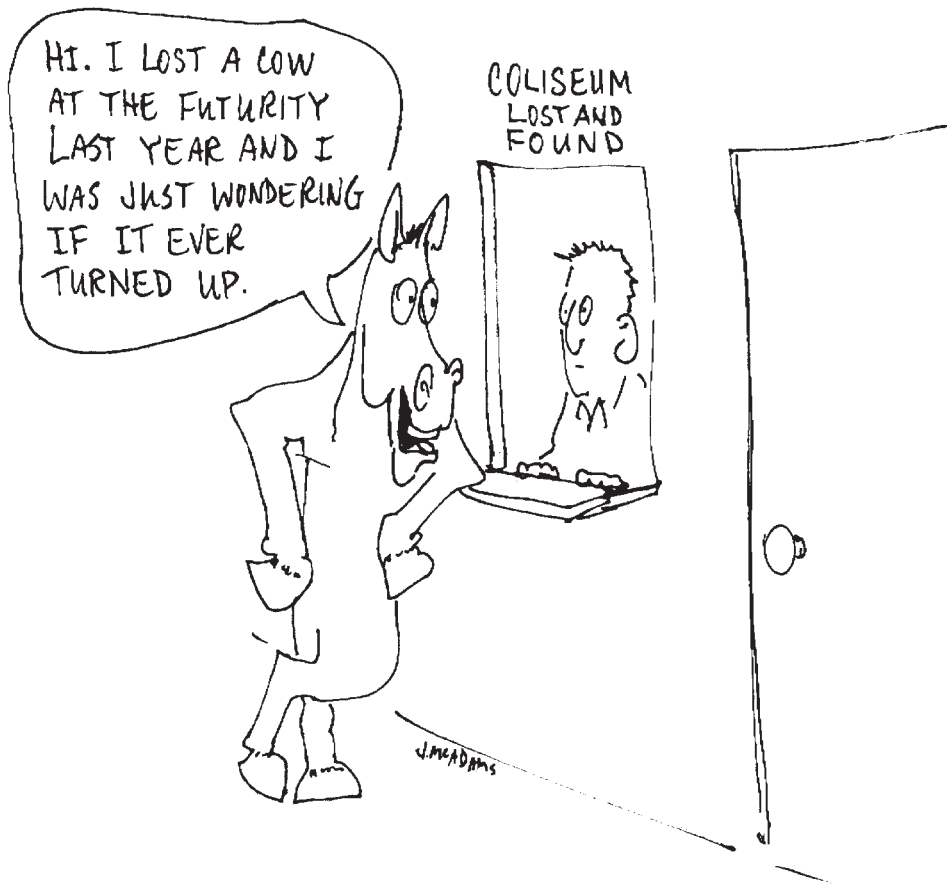
Allen had lifetime earnings of \$790,655 before his \$185,162 NCHA Futurity reserve championship ride.



Left to right: Terry Riddle placed third with 222.5 points *Spoonful Of Cheerios*, owned by Roger Anderson, and was also a finalist on *DMAC Easter Bunny*; Allen Crouch was fourth with 219.5 points on *The Silver Spoon*, owned by David and Stacie McDavid; Lloyd Cox was fifth with 218.5 points on *Bitty Little Lena*, owned by Lannie Louise Mecom, Avondale, CO.

2006 NCI BUILDING SYSTEMS NCHA FUTURITY OPEN FINALS

Score	Horse	Sex	Sire	Dam	Dam's Sire	Rider	Owner	Est. \$
227.0	Oh Cay Felix	G	High Brow Cat	Oh Cay Shorty	Shorty Lena	Craig Thompson	Patrick & Laura Collins	\$250,000
225.0	Hydrive Cat	S	High Brow Cat	Ruby Tuesday DNA	Peppy San Badger	Clint Allen	Georgia & Dave Husby	\$185,162
222.5	Spoonful Of Cheerios	G	Hes A Peptospoonful	Make O Lena	Doc O'Lena	Terry Riddle	Roger Anderson	\$162,052
219.5	The Silver Spoon	G	Hes A Peptospoonful	RSK Dinahs Prissie	Royal Silver King	Allen Crouch	David & Stacie McDavid	\$138,941
218.5	Bitty Little Lena	M	Smart Little Lena	Itty Bity Badge	Playboys Badge	Lloyd Cox	Lannie Louise Mecom	\$115,830
217.0	Myles From Nowhere	S	Smart Little Jerry	Fairlea Awesome	Colonel Pic	Beau Galyean	Beau Galyean	\$91,083
217.0	Mate Stays Here	M	Smart Mate	Cokette	Doc Quixote	Jason Clark	Darren Blanton	\$91,083
216.0	Cats Gotta Diamond	S	High Brow Cat	Diamond J Starlight	Grays Starlight	Tom Long	Tom & Jill Long	\$86,174
215.5	Copaspepto	G	Peptoboonsmal	Miss Martini Play	Freckles Playboy	Tag Rice	Marvine Ranch	\$82,902
214.0	Smart N Catty	M	High Brow Cat	Smart Little Fives	Smart Little Lena	Randy Holman	Sandy Sabey	\$79,630
213.5	Della Modena	M	Mick Be Jagger	Wayward Tracks	Poco Holey Doc	Gary Ray	Danny Perdue	\$76,357
212.0	Annettas Blue Genes	M	Peptoboonsmal	Annetta Quixote	Docs Okie Quixote	Mike Mowery	Vava Rey Elkins	\$69,813
212.0	Spookys Cat Deville	G	High Brow Cat	San Starlight	Grays Starlight	Gary Gonsalves	Jeff & Kay Barnes	\$69,813
212.0	Lucindas Catolena	M	High Brow Cat	Lenas Lucinda	Doc O'Lena	J B McLamb	Randall & Nicole Aldridge	\$69,813
211.5	Hissy Cat	M	High Brow Cat	Hustlin Leopard	Freckles Hustler	Darren Simpkins	Jennifer & Jeffrey Foland	\$61,632
211.5	Stylish To The Max	M	Docs Stylish Oak	Maximum Merada	Freckles Merada	Curly Tully	Curly & Missy Tully	\$61,632
211.0	Purely Gorgeous	M	Peptoboonsmal	Purely Smart	Smart Little Lena	Tom Long	Cutter Ridge Ranch	\$56,723
210.0	Ruby Tuesdays Color	M	Color Me Smart	Ruby Tuesday DNA	Peppy San Badger	Matthew Budge	Jackpot Ranch	\$53,451
209.0	Shes Icing Onthe Cat	M	High Brow Cat	Smart Lucinda Lena	Smart Little Lena	Jody Galyean	Wesley Galyean	\$50,179
208.0	Lil Itty Bitty Kitty	M	High Brow Cat	Lil Lucy Long Legs	Dual Pep	Kathy Daughn	Catherine & William Lacy	\$45,270
208.0	Cats Starlight	G	High Brow Cat	Cookie Starlight	Grays Starlight	John Wold	Debra & Jack Furst	\$45,240
206.0	Cats Quixote Jack	S	High Brow Cat	Oh Cay With Me	Oh Cay Quixote	Kory Pounds	Andy & Karen Beckstein	\$40,362
205.0	Boony Playboy	S	Peptoboonsmal	High Playgirl	High Brow Hickory	J B McLamb	Randall & Nicole Aldridge	\$37,089
195.0	Hey Georgy Girl	M	Wild Thing DNA	Miss Sarah Solano	Doc's Solano	Bruce Morine	Ty Moore	\$33,817
188.0	King Of The Cats	S	High Brow Cat	Jae Bar Maisie	Doc's Jack Sprat	Matt Sargood	Nive River Pastoral Co.	\$30,545
182.0	Dmac Easter Bunny	M	Young Gun	Pretty Bo Bunny	Smart Little Lena	Terry Riddle	Terry Riddle	\$27,272



Cartoonist Jerry McAdams, "that cow art guy," is publisher of the Hico News Review and a nationally recognized artist whose favorite subjects are horses and cattle. Visit Jerry and his gallery of art in the Amon Carter Exhibit Hall while you are at the Futurity and view his work at www.jerrymcadamsart.com

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TODAY'S MYSTERY PHOTO



Nancy Sullivan won an NCHA Video for her caption to yesterday's Mystery Photo of Jack Adams on Hesa Commander: "The herd help will be using new techniques for finding that perfect cow in the finals."

Honorable Mention:

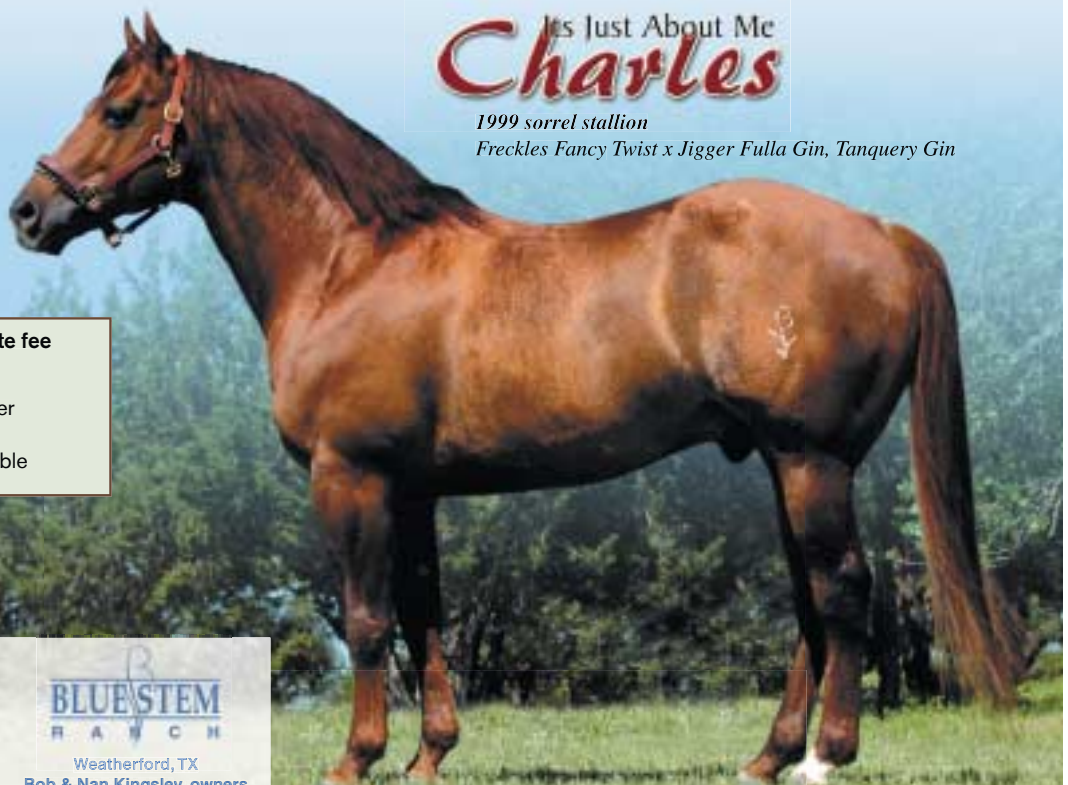
"Hesa Really Broke."—Laurence Williams

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