

# NCHA NEWS RELEASE



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Hi-res photos available.

**Five Champions were Crowned at the 2007 NCI/NCHA World Championship Futurity**

## **Open Futurity Champion:**

**Austin Shepard from Summerdale, Alabama, riding High Brow CD, by High Bow Cat, and owned by Arthur Noble of Madison, Mississippi, won the Futurity championship title – **Open Division**, in Fort Worth, Texas, on December 16<sup>th</sup>. Their 226-point score topped the field by 8.5 points.**

“I was just trying to be smooth on my second cow, but it wouldn’t let me off, and I kept having to be more aggressive,” said Shepard. “I didn’t think it was ever going to turn away. My horse was out of air, and I was trying to slow myself down.”

When the first cow he cut finally turned away, and Shepard turned back to the herd, he noticed a “volunteer” cow close to the front. Herd helper, Brett Davis, told him it was fresh, so Shepard chose and cut that one.

“I didn’t have any idea how much time I had,” he said. “It felt like I worked it forever. But when I went back (to the herd), I had twelve seconds left. So I kind of went back to my weekend experience. One thing I have learned through showing is that you can’t make a run like that. It just has to happen, and you have to be aggressive and smart, and pick your opportunities. But when it’s meant to happen, it happens.”

High Brow CD had tied for second in the first go-round with 221 points. But, it was in the Semi-Finals that High Brow CD and Austin Shepard predicted the outcome of the Open Futurity, scoring 224 points. "He's been one of the nicest horses to train that I've ever had," said Shepard of the High row Cat son, owned by Arthur Noble of Madison, Mississippi.

### **Non-Pro Futurity Champion:**

**Justin White from Chappell Hill, Texas, riding Wild Hickory Bob**, by Bob's Hickory Rio, won the Futurity championship title – **Non-Pro Futurity**, in Fort Worth, Texas, on December 14<sup>th</sup>. The pair shut out the competition late in the finals to win the Non-Pro Futurity with a score of 222.5 points.

"It's a dream come true," said White, 21, who purchased Wild Hickory Bob as a "pretty tough and bowed up stud" last June. White had the colt gelded just days after the purchase, and finished training him for the Futurity.

"I knew I had a pretty good horse when I came here," said White. "But I wasn't thinking about winning. I was just thinking about advancing. He was cowed down and ready to go tonight. My first cow was a great one, and after that one, I didn't have any doubts. I wanted to stay aggressive, so I went for a cow that we wanted on the back wall, and brought her up and she was a good one."

With 22 seconds on the clock, White quit his second cow and quickly chipped a third from the top of the herd. "I just came with her and threw him down, and tried to show the best I could," said White. "My horse was really dialed in."

The Whites are successful in cutting, with Justin winning over \$200,000, and his father, Jon, winning over \$300,000.

### **Amateur and Limited Non-Pro Futurity Champion:**

**Philip Layne, age 17, from Weatherford, Texas, riding Dual Ya Scoot**, won two of the five major Futurity championship titles – **Limited Non-Pro & Amateur Divisions**, in Fort Worth, Texas, on December 9<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>. The team of Philip and Dual Ya Scoot continued their winning ways, placing third in the prestigious Non-Pro Futurity as well.

Two weeks before the 2007 Futurity, Philip Layne purchased Dual Ya Scoot, a son of Smart Lil Scoot, from former Non-Pro champion, Chad Bushaw. He then competed in the Limited Non-Pro division at the Futurity, winning the finals with a score of 220 points. A few days later, he claimed his second championship, winning the Amateur division, scoring 219 points. Of his newly acquired champion horse, Layne said, "He seems like an old horse, and that I can hold anything on him."

"I'm really tickled for Philip," said Bushaw of Layne. "You have to sell good horses, too, when you have a cutting horse program." Ken Mock rained Dual Ya Scoot for Bushaw.

Layne learned to cut from trainer Lawson Hadlock in Utah. Layne, who is home-schooled, and his mother moved to Weatherford, Texas this year to be closer to the cutting horse action.

## **Limited Open Futurity Champion:**

**Kelly Kasun from Rockdale, Texas, riding Gunnin At Sundown, a Playgun gelding owned by Robert and Carrie Tiemann from Hutto, Texas,** won the Futurity championship title – **Limited Open**, in Fort Worth, Texas, on December 11<sup>th</sup>. The pair clinched the finals with a score of 216.5 points, earning Kelly Kasun his fourth Open Limited Championship.

“There were a lot of good cows down there, but we just wanted to be smooth and let the horse do what we trained him to do,” said Kasun, who drew 8<sup>th</sup> in the last bunch of cattle. “A bunch of times, being a green showman, I get in there and try too hard,” said Kasun. “So I made up my mind today to let the run take care of itself. Fortunately it worked out.”

“Thank God for the Limited. It’s hard to go against all those tough guys that have been doing it for so long,” Kasun said. “When we have the opportunity to show in this arena and have a little success, it’s good for us and good for the owners.”

It was six years ago when Kelly Kasun moved from Prescott, Arizona, to Texas to apprentice with trainer Roger Wagner. He went to work two years ago for the Tiemanns, who also compete and run 4,000 to 5,000 head of yearling cattle on their ranch south of Waco.

Kasun won the Breeders Invitational Open Limited in 2006 for the Tiemanns aboard Buckeye Dually, and came back this year on that horse to win the 5/6 division of the same event, and claim reserve on CDs Lucky Gal. Earlier in the season, he won the Memphis Futurity Open Limited on Place A Little Bet.

Kasun also rode Gunnin At Sundown, scoring 213 and 215 points, in the Futurity Open go-rounds.

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The National Cutting Horse Association is made up of over 17,000 members across the United States with a wide range of backgrounds. The sport of cutting has roots in Western ranching traditions, where good horses were a necessity for everyday ranch work and cattle handling. From cowgirls to CEOs, from firefighters to professional football players, the common ground is often in the cutting arena. Each year more than 2,200 NCHA-approved events are held throughout the country with more than \$42 million in prize money awarded. To learn more about the National Cutting Horse Association and the sport of cutting, call 817-244-6188 or visit [www.nchacutting.com](http://www.nchacutting.com).