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Contact: Ella Hood  
(817) 244-6188 Ext. 121  
(Hi-res photos available)

***The National Cutting Horse Association announces the 12 World Champions of the NCHA World Finals in Amarillo, Texas***



*Dual Rey Me, owned by Jeremy and Candace Barwick, wins second Open World Finals Championship.*

## **All Champions:**

### **OPEN:**

**Jeremy and Candace Barwick, owners of Dual Rey Me**, a Dual Pep son, experienced another exciting win for their horse. Dual Rey Me, ridden by Jeremy Barwick, claimed the NCHA Open World Championship for the second consecutive year. The 9-year old gelding clinched a win the at Open World Finals show with a show tally of \$18,167, which, added to his year-end earnings, the prize money gave him a total of \$99,712 for 2007.

Dual Rey Me also claimed the title of NCHA World Champion Gelding, as well as AQHA World Champion, and has lifetime earnings of more than \$600,000. "I never intended on hauling him last year," said Barwick. "I was hauling another horse that got hurt, so we went with him as a backup and finished the year."

Dual Rey Me, who only started his campaign in late April 2007, won the title with a little more than six months of competition. In September, an auto accident shattered his eye socket, and he was out of competition for a month following reconstructive surgery. "The first time that I

showed him after we started back, he was a little shaky, but after that he was back to his old self,” said Barwick, who will be turning the reins over this year to his wife, Candace.

“I’m not going to haul him,” said Candace. “I just want to try to stay in the Top Ten. When he gets to the \$1.1 million (a NCHA all-time record), we’re going to retire him.”

## **NON-PRO**

**Dan Hansen**, who claimed the Reserve Champion of the \$3,000 Novice/Non-Pro earlier in the World Finals, took the Non-Pro World Champion title with \$101,578 on **Woody Be Lucky**. \$15,462 he earned as Reserve Champion of the Non-Pro World Finals.

“Breaking \$100,000 was a benchmark,” said Hansen. “I don’t think there have been a lot of non-pro world champions who have broken \$100,000.” Hansen is just the fourth rider to accomplish this as a NCHA Non-Pro World Champion. In addition to the Non-Pro and \$3,000 Novice/Non-Pro, Hansen also competed in \$10,000 Novice/Non-Pro. “This week has been pretty typical of our year, hauling the same five horses,” said Hansen, a business owner who with his wife, Karen, divides his year between home in Nampa, Idaho and a second home in Weatherford, Texas.

“If I don’t have a very good run on one of the horses, I didn’t have long to pout about it. I got right back in the saddle on the next one.” Woody Be Lucky, by Nitas Wood, is out of Playboys Lady Luck, by Freckles Playboy.

## **\$10,000 NOVICE NON-PRO**

**Bobcorn**, a 9-year old daughter of Bob Acre Doc and Mia Tiana, carried owner and rider **Dan Hansen** to his second World Championship of 2007. Earlier, Hansen rode Woody Be Lucky to win the Non-Pro title.

Bobcorn’s total earnings of \$72,505 shattered the \$10,000 Novice Non-Pro record of \$45,989 established by Lee Garner and Cow E Chick in 2002. Bobcorn also took the World Finals Show Championship with earnings of \$6,640. “That was her last run,” Hansen said. “This caps a phenomenal year, but it’s with a heavy heart that I’m retiring her, because I enjoy showing her. She’s been one of those that always wanted to be an overachiever. She trains that way and she always gives you 120% every time she walks to the herd. I can only remember losing two cows on her in her entire show career, and both times when the cow got around the corner guy, she stopped and nickered, like she was saying, ‘I’m sorry.’”

The Hansen’s Texas ranch had been home to some poisonous snakes, which earned Bobcorn a new nickname. “I’ve seen two copperheads in the ten years we’ve been there,” Hansen recounted. “Both of them were dead, and both of them were in Bobcorn’s pen. We called her ‘Bobcorn the Snake Killer’ for a long time, but there haven’t been any snakes come by lately.”

Hansen also finished third in the year-end standings on Neverey.

## **\$20,000 NON-PRO**

**Devlyn Drake**, age 17 and a senior high school student from Napa, California defended her turf in the \$20,000 Non-Pro division. “I was nervous in the go-rounds,” said Drake, who rode 8-year old **Travalin Ms Sammie**, by Travalena. “Especially after the first round.”

Second-placed Chelsa Crouch got a \$1,300 jump on Drake in the first round, and came within \$129.26 of taking the lead. But, Drake gained in the second round, and won the final round with 220 points. Drake ended the year with a total of \$14,393.

## **\$50,000 AMATEUR**

**Paige Kincaid**, age 18 and a senior high school student from Peoria, Arizona, was unbeatable riding **Dee Acre Doc** in the \$50,000 Amateur division. She came to Amarillo and the World Finals with a \$15,757 lead over second-placed Lynn Davis. “We knew we really didn’t have much to lose,” said Kincaid, who pulled ahead of Davis by more than \$19,000 in the final tally, with a grand total of \$52,770.

Kincaid rode hunter-jumpers prior to the sport of cutting. She rode Dee Acre Doc, an 11-year old gelding by Bob Acre Doc and out of Meradas Dee Jay in the World Finals. “I couldn’t have asked for a better horse today,” said Kincaid, following her 222-point victory. “I threw him out there in a couple of touch spots, and he did what he was supposed to do.”

Kincaid was in a close race with second-placed Davis during 2007, until July when Kincaid pulled ahead. She kept up a heated pace at the weekend shows, claiming a \$13,000 lead by August. “They had a lot of \$1,000-added shows in Mississippi. I knew Lynn (Davis) was from there, and if I had slowed down, he would have been able to catch me.”

## **\$2,000 LIMIT RIDER**

**Rae Greer**, riding **Just Call Me Socks**, had a \$792 margin over second-placed Matthew Booth before the World Finals, and much confidence in her horse. “I knew this horse was capable, if I just sat there and jockeyed him and did what I was supposed to do,” said Greer of the 9-year old horse, Just Call Me Socks, by Cols Lil Dynamite.

Greer is a former rodeo barrel racing competitor and team and tie-down roper, and had ridden many horses to get to Amarillo and the Finals after her own mare was injured earlier in the year. Her friend, Spunky Hawkins, came through for her last September when he let her start riding Just Call Me Socks. “His barn name is Suitcase because he used to run off so much,” said Greer. “It was kind of a joke. He was subject to leave at any time, and we’d say he always had his suitcase packed. You could see his potential, but he was kind of a diamond in the rough. But he’s never attempted to run off with me.”

## **JUNIOR YOUTH**

**Cameron Thompson**, had an unbeatable lead coming in the NCHA World Finals Junior Youth division, and his closest rival was his sister, Jordan. “I had a really big lead, but then my sister

started gaining on me in the summer,” said Thompson. “Then I hit a hot streak around October and got a lot of points, and I figured I had it wrapped up.”

Thompson, age 14, has been riding all of his life and competing since he was seven. His father, Maben, is a veterinarian as well as a member of the NCHA Executive Committee. Sister, Jordan Thompson, age 12, was Reserve Champion of the 2007 Eastern National Championships, \$2,000 Limited Rider division.

Cameron was able to ride Cats Rascal, the horse that took him through eight months of the 2007 year, for the first time since August, in the World Finals. “He pulled his back suspensory,” said Thompson, who was able to finish out the year on Little Bingo Hickory. With a schedule that included basketball and football, as well as school and homework, Thompson had not planned to haul for the World title, but he and Cats Rascal rode fast and furious into the spring, when Thompson convinced his father that he needed to “haul.”

Cameron Thompson gives much credit to his trainer, Zeke Entz. “He let me stay with him all summer and work my horses,” said Thompson. “And he gave me my first cutting lesson, and has always been there for me.”

## SENIOR YOUTH

**Elizabeth Brumbaugh** ended her last year riding in Youth competition by claiming the Senior Youth World Championship title. “I just wanted to have a good year and keep my horse sound,” said Brumbaugh, age 19 and a freshman at Texas A&M University. “It (hauling) provided a lot of structure in my life. Monday through Friday I had to do all of my homework for the next week, because Saturday and Sunday I was gone showing. It was a chore, but it kept me organized.”

Brumbaugh’s horse, Nutn Buta Houndog, a 10-year old son of Smart Mate, was her main mount throughout 2007. “He’s an incredible horse,” said Brumbaugh, who purchased the gelding from Arthur Noble, owner of the 2007 NCHA Futurity champion, High Brow CD.

In addition to winning the World Championship, Brumbaugh was also honored last year with the Greg and Whitney Welch Memorial Sportsmanship Award.

## \$10,000 NOVICE

**Zeke Entz** of Collierville, Tennessee, riding **Leadfreepeperoni**, owned by Tami Belton-Rocke, held his rank coming into the Finals, and won the \$10,000 Novice World Championship by \$1,633.

Trainer Zeke Entz told the horse’s owner that he was not really interested in hauling when Belton-Rocke approached him in October 2006 about showing Leadfreepeperoni, a Peptoboonsmal son she had purchased at the NCHA Futurity Sale to use as a team penning horse. “He didn’t really like that,” said Belton-Rocke of the gelding’s experience as a team penner. “His calling was cutting, so we went back to that and I learned how to cut on him.”

Belton-Rocke qualified to show Leadfreepeperoni in the \$10,000 Novice/Non-Pro at the World Finals. “He’s a good horse,” said Entz. “He’s gritty and tough, and he likes to work cattle. I didn’t have a Futurity horse last year, so right there at the end, I made a pretty hard run at it on him, and it paid off. He only missed a handful of checks.”

## **\$10,000 AMATEUR**

It was a race to the finish as **Tara Madgwick** turned the tide over Jenifer Karnes by \$14.64 to win the \$10,000 Amateur division of the NCHA World Finals. “It was a photo finish,” said Magdwick, who rode **Spinnies Star Olena**, an Australian cutting champion that her family imported seven years ago.

“Jenifer (Karnes) lives in Texas, and I live in California, so this is the first time I’d seen her show or met her. The Finals was a little difficult because the cattle were tough, but it was exciting.” It was a tight race as only \$240 separated Karnes and Madgwick coming into the Finals.

## **\$3,000 NOVICE/NON-PRO**

**Ron Davis** had been leading the \$50,000 Amateur division in 2001 when his horse was injured and had to be retired, and eventually put down. **RD Bud Light**, Davis’ \$3,000 Novice/Non-Pro Champion, is the offspring of that horse. “He’s just a super horse – as honest as he can be, and he tries his heart out every time,” said Davis. “He moves a lot like his mother did, but he’s a little more laid back than she was.”

Davis is a real estate broker in the Northwest, and had not really considered hauling for the World until his friend, Steve Norris, suggested that he do just that. “That’s when I got serious,” said Davis. “It was tough all the way to the end. The last go-round was the one that determined it. Dan (Hansen) and I were friends to begin with, and after this year, we’re even better friends. He’s a great competitor and a good guy. I’m proud to have been able to beat him.” Hanson finished Reserved Champion in the \$3,000 Novice Non-Pro.

## **\$3,000 NOVICE**

It was a clear-cut victory in the \$3,000 Novice division for Mike Coleman, Lufkin, Texas, and Smart Peanut Bubba, owned by Buck Daniels of Okeechobee, Florida. The horse is a 6-year old son of Smart Little Lena out of \$92,000-earner Justaswinging Peanut. Not only did Smart Peanut Bubba carry Coleman to his first NCHA World Championship, he also helped Senior Youth World Champion, Elizabeth Brumbaugh, win her title while her primary mount was sidelined.

“He’s real solid,” said Coleman, who also won with the horse at the Kansas City Royal, San Antonio, and the Tunica Winter Circuit. “He’s been up and down the road, and he’s stayed sound. He was a good horse all along, and he brought me here.”

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).