

# NCHA NEWS RELEASE



**For Immediate Release**

**October 11, 2006**

NCHA CONTACT:

Jennifer Lavin

Marketing Department

817.244.6188 x 125

## **National Youth Cutting Horse Association names Mitch Straub as Hall of Fame inductee**

(Fort Worth, Texas) -- The NYCHA Hall of Fame was established to recognize youth members who have excelled in the cutting arena and demonstrated leadership in the NYCHA. In much the same way as the NCHA Hall of Fame recognizes its outstanding members.

Currently there are 100 members in the Youth Hall of Fame with four inducted in 2006. The latest inductee Mitch Straub, a native of Nebraska, is currently attending the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque, New Mexico (UNM) majoring in marketing, and is the son of Mike and Sue Christensen.

Mitch showed Shorty Highbrow, Jae Bar Marty and Hickory Handy Candy during his years competing in the youth classes. He has been a finalist at the Eastern National Championships, the Memorial Scholarship Cutting and was ranked in the NCHA Junior Youth Top 15 in 2000. He served as an NYCHA Area Director for five years as well as claiming the Area Championship in Area 7 for three years in a row.

Over the years, the NYCHA Hall of Fame has recognized many of the men and women who have gone on to be outstanding members of the NCHA and have even been inducted into the NCHA Hall of Fame. In order to be inducted into the Hall of Fame, a member must accumulate 7,500 LEAP points, be a finalist in at least one of the major youth events and accumulate at least 50 points from the cutting accomplishment chart. Mitch has earned over 11,000 LEAP points and 74 lifetime youth points.

Mitch has turned his athletic attention to football and is looking forward to the upcoming season with the UNM Lobos. After graduating from college, Mitch would like to continue playing football and later work at ESPN as a sports broadcaster. He is grateful to his step-dad, Mike Christensen for educating him about horses and always finding him great horses to ride; to his brother Ted Straub and to Bill Freeman for their encouragement and to his mom, Sue Christensen for her guidance and support.

- more -

Mitch's words of wisdom .... "Always remember each day is a gift and you can use it anyway you want – either to improve or to rest, but the best are always moving."

The sport of cutting has roots in Western ranching traditions, where good horses were a necessity for everyday ranch work and cattle handling. The National Cutting Horse Association was formed in 1946 by a group of cowboys and ranchers, who wanted to promote cutting competition, standardize rules and preserve the cutting horses' Western heritage. Youth have been competing on cutting horses probably as long as there have been competitions. In 1993, the National Youth Cutting Horse Association was formed to offer youth members the opportunity to develop both their horsemanship and their leadership skills.

Today, the Fort Worth-based NCHA represents over 16,500 people with a wide range of backgrounds. From cowgirls to CEOs, from firefighters to professional football players, the common ground is often in the cutting arena. Each year there are more than 2,200 NCHA-approved shows with more than \$35 million in total prize money awarded annually. The NYCHA also awards more than \$130,000 annually in college scholarships to reward members for their cutting accomplishments and leadership in the organization. For more information about the NCHA, the sport of cutting or youth activities please call the National Cutting Horse Association at 817-244-6188 or visit [www.nchacutting.com](http://www.nchacutting.com).