



Golden Spike Arena, Ogden, Utah

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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From the **2006 NCHA Western National Championship Finals**, held April 25 – May 5, 2007 in Ogden, Utah, 12 new champions were crowned.

### **Open:**

**Missoula, Montana horse wins the 2006 Wayne Hodges\*Outlaw Conversions/NCHA Western National Championship in Ogden, Utah.**

On May 5, 2007, Rio CD, ridden by Lawson Hadlock, won the title of **Open** Champion.

Rio CD made a mark in Western National championship events when he not only carried rider Dax Hadlock to win the Junior Youth championship, but also won the Open championship with 220 points under Dax's dad, Lawson Hadlock. The horse is owned by Kathy Markette of Missouli, Montana. The Hadlock family is from Ogden, Utah.

"I felt pretty confident going in," said Hadlock. "But right off the bat, I cut a cow that gave me a miss. After that, she turned into a pretty good cow. The second cow ran across the pen and got us some good stops, and we were real tight on the third cow. My horse just got stronger as the run went on. In the end, it worked out."

This was the fourth Western National title for Lawson Hadlock. He won the Open in 1999 on Dandyolena; the \$10,000 Novice in 1997 on Cruella Dville; and \$3,000 Novice in 2001 on Stylish Lil Playgirl.

"I can't say enough good things about her," Hadlock said of Rio CD. "She's one of my most favorite horses. The harder it is, the grittier she gets."

Rio CD's owner, Kathy Markette, was not able to ride the horse this year due to health problems, and sold the mare to Steve Ralston of Morgan, Utah after the Finals. "It was emotional," said Hadlock. "Kathy wanted to keep her through the Finals. I've had this mare since she was four and she always gave me her whole heart every time. And she loves my boy. He's won two scholarships on her. Today he told me, 'Just go cut clean, Dad.'"

## **Non-Pro:**

**Menan, Idaho rider wins the 2006 Wayne Hodges\*Outlaw Conversions/NCHA Western National Championship in Ogden, Utah.**

On May 5, 2007, Preston Skaar, riding Stylish Windy, won the title of **Non-Pro** Champion.

Preston Skaar scored 216 points in the Non-Pro Finals to clinch the championship title. "The first cow was a little bit softer than I wanted," said Skaar. "But I just wanted to be correct, and I was able to get him shaped up good and cut clean in the middle of the pen. These cattle were a lot better than they were a week ago. I just knew that I needed to find something that would look at him."

The team of Skaar and Stylish Windy were also finalists in the \$3,000 Novice Non-Pro Finals, scoring 192 points. "He's been a warrior," said Skaar of his mount, who also won the Utah Non-Pro Futurity and Derby with Skaar aboard. The horse is a five year-old son of TL Stylish Hickory, and was purchased by Preston from his father, Justin Skaar.

Skaar assists in the family-owned feedlot business.

## **\$50,000 Amateur:**

**Fall City, Washington rider wins the 2006 Wayne Hodges\*Outlaw Conversions/NCHA Western National Championship in Ogden, Utah.**

On May 4, 2007, DeAnna Leigh, riding Bobs Tiana Doc, won the title of **\$50,000 Amateur** Champion.

DeAnna Leigh had confidence in her horse, Bobs Tiana Doc, to make the score. "If I do my job right and we ride hard, he whinnies really big at the end of the run," said Leigh. "He did that tonight, so I knew we were okay. The score was kind of secondary. He had a good time and I had a great time. It was awesome."

Leigh scored 216 points to win the \$50,000 Amateur championship. "I'd never won one of the big events and it was very exciting," said Leigh, who first started showing in 1997. "I knew I could ride him hard and it was just kind of go for broke. I had a pretty aggressive practice and that usually gets me set for the pen. I know if I don't ride him, he doesn't work. The harder I ride him, the more fun he has. I've never had a horse that actually loved to cut as much as he does. He really doesn't care if I'm on his back or not."

Bobs Tiana Doc, a gelded son of Bob Acre Doc, was purchased by Leigh in 2000 from Don Lester. "He didn't really want to sell him," said Leigh. "This was don's baby. But he sold him to me, and I've never looked back. He's real hard to lope. He hurts your body. Nobody likes to lope him a lot, but we've become a team."

Leigh's husband owns a business in Seattle. "I haven't shown much since 2004," she said. "But I have a great crew and with the internet, it's getting easier to handle things away from home. My husband actually said, 'You have to start cutting again.' He knows it's my dream."

### **\$20,000 Non-Pro:**

**Salem, Utah rider wins the 2006 Wayne Hodges\*Outlaw Conversions/NCHA Western National Championship in Ogden, Utah.**

On May 2, 2007, Aaron Hughes, riding Amazing Acre, won the title of **\$20,000 Non-Pro** Champion.

Aaron Hughes of Salem Utah, riding Amazing Acre, won the \$20,000 Non-Pro finals. He was the fourth rider in the second bunch of cattle, marking 215.5 points for the championship. "I just knew I had to go in there and have a clean run," he said. "The cows were kind of raunchy, but it worked out. There was no way I thought 215.5 would hold up."

Hughes has a twin brother, Daron, who was a finalist in the \$10,000 Amateur on Haidas Dry. Aaron has had Amazing Acre since he was a freshman in high school, and plans to retire the 14 year-old Bob Acre Doc daughter. "She's a best friend," said Hughes. "I let a bunch of people ride her through high school. Fallon Nuttall and Paige Hadlock both rode her."

Aaron Hughes and Amazing Acre also placed 8<sup>th</sup> in the Non-Pro finals.

### **\$10,000 Amateur:**

**Vernal, Utah rider wins the 2006 Wayne Hodges\*Outlaw Conversions/NCHA Western National Championship in Ogden, Utah.**

On May 1, 2007, Lola Searle, riding Hickory Valentino, won the title of **\$10,000 Amateur** Champion.

Lola Searle of Vernal, Utah, riding Hickory Valentino, drew first in the finals, and won the \$20,000 Non-Pro title with a score of 217 points. "I drew first last year and it kind of went all to heck really fast," she recalled. "But the way the cattle have been this year, the higher up in the herd that you draw, the better it is."

This year's title is Searle's second in three years. She also won the championship in 2004 aboard Hickory Valentino, a nine year-old gelded son of Doc's Hickory. "I knew if I went in and got up out of there, and gave myself plenty of room that he was going to do his part," she said. "It just worked out great and he was right on the money."

Searle is an employee for the Vernal School District, Human Resources Department. She purchased Hickory Valentino three years ago from an advertisement on the internet. "He'd been for sale for three of four years," she said. "I was told that no one could get along with him. He's got his little deals. He hates to sweat. The more he sweats, the more he flips his tail. But he's one of those horses that are right there for you every time. I'll probably never have another one like him."

### **\$2,000 Limited Rider:**

**Westbank, British Columbia rider wins the 2006 Wayne Hodges\*Outlaw Conversions/NCHA Western National Championship in Ogden, Utah.**

On April 28, 2007, Melissa Birchard, riding Monkeys First Freckl, won the title of **\$2,000 Limited Rider** Champion.

Melissa Birchard scored 222 points to win the championship. "It was awesome," said Birchard, who was riding eleven year-old Monkeys First Freckl, by Doc Freckles Leo. "I just wanted to drive out there and cut clean. I knew my horse would take care of me for the rest of it."

Birchard's mother, Barb Eccott, rode Moneys First Freckl in the \$50,000 Amateur class. The horse was raised by the Birchard family, and trained by Barb. "She's turned out to be a pretty nice horse," said Birchard, who scored nine points above the reserve champion. Monkeys First Freckl will go back to Canada with Barb after this championship event, while Birchard moves to Lipan, Texas to work as a "loper" for non-pro riders Steve and Jenell Vincel.

### **\$10,000 Novice:**

**Red Lodge, Montana horse wins two classes in the 2006 Wayne Hodges\*Outlaw Conversions/NCHA Western National Championships in Ogden, Utah.**

On April 26 & 27, 2007, Playin Playgun, ridden by Will Nuttall for Switchback Cutting Horses of Red Lodge, Montana, won the titles of \$3,000 Novice and \$10,000 Novice Champion.

Both classes had tough cattle, but they were just the way Playin Playgun likes them. The horse scored 219 points in the \$3,000 Novice finals, and 222 points in the \$10,000 Novice finals.

"I knew Scott Amos was behind me on his good horse, and I needed to get a lot done," said Nuttall, referring to Scott Amos and Wee Little Badger, who were the Western National champions in 2004 and 2005. "This horse has been a great individual. He likes cattle like this. He likes it tough," said Nuttall of Playin Playgun. "I knew it would be close. I just kept riding and praying and hoping that we did not get into the back fence. We were hung up behind the turn-back horse and ran out of time. But it worked out great. They even gave me another point," said Nuttall. Playin Playgun's score was adjusted up from 221 to 222 points.

Playin Playgun, son of Playin Stylish and a Playgun daughter, was purchased by Nuttall as a two year-old at the NCHA Futurity Sales, and was sold to Switchback Cutting Horses when Nuttall went to work for the ranch in 2004. "He was a great three year-old," said Nuttall. "He won the Futurity in Canada and in Wyoming, and was reserve in Utah. He also won a little futurity in Idaho and was fourth in the Pacific Coast Futurity."

The team of Playin Playgun and Will Nuttall rank seventh in the 2006 NCHA \$3,000 Novice World championship standings, and tied for the win in the last round of the World Championship Finals.

David Leuschen, owner of Switchback Cutting Horses, is founder and former head of the Goldman Sachs Global Energy and Power Group. Will Nuttall was \$10,000 Novice Reserve Champion last year at the Western Nationals, riding Flo Motion for Switchback. He also split 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> places on Keep It Short, owned by his son Wyatt.

### **\$3,000 Novice:**

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### **\$10,000 Novice Non-Pro:**

**Rocky Mountain House, Alberta, Canada rider wins the 2006 Wayne Hodges\*Outlaw Conversions/NCHA Western National Championship in Ogden, Utah.**

On May 4, 2007, Elaine Speight and Pistols Smart Acre, won the title of **\$10,000 Novice Non-Pro** Champion.

It was a busy day for Elaine Speight and Pistols Smart Acre, who not only won the \$10,000 Novice Non-Pro championship, but tied the same day for the Non-Pro go-round with 217 points. Her score in the \$10,000 Novice Non-Pro finals was 223, winning with a 13-point lead.

"It was very challenging," said Speight of her Finals ride. "There were times when I felt like he didn't even hit the ground from one move before he had to pick himself up and go the other way."

After watching the cattle before her run, Speight chose a black cow with ringworm on its face. Her helper, Gerry Hansma, concurred. "It worked out really well," she said. "Then I brought out two on my second cut and put my hand down when one looked me right in the face, and my horse was hooked. Luckily, my helpers scooted the other one away, and I worked that cow until the buzzer."

Speight and her husband, Bill, raised Pistols Smart Acre, a seven year-old by Smart Little Pistol, and sold him as a weanling. They bought him back as a three year-old. "We got him ready for

the Futurity, and since he hadn't been ridden, he was a year behind," said Speight. "But he started to come together as a four year-old, and made the finals in several derbies. At five, he won the Open 5/6 division with me at Calgary, and was reserve in the Non-Pro, and last year, he was sixth here in the Non-Pro."

Bill Speight became interested in cutting 30 years ago, and the couple purchased a ranch, built a covered arena, and have been involved in raising cutting horses and competition ever since. "We enjoy the challenge of the sport and the people," said Elaine Speight.

### **\$3,000 Novice Non-Pro:**

**Hailey, Idaho horse and rider wins the 2006 Wayne Hodges\*Outlaw Conversions/NCHA Western National Championship in Ogden, Utah.**

On April 30, 2007 Austin Keys, riding Attract a Dual, won the title of **\$3,000 Novice Non-Pro** Champion.

Austin Keys, age 19, from Hailey Idaho, clinched the \$3,000 Novice Non-Pro championship with a score of 217 points. "The cattle had a lot more feel in them than in the first go," said Keys. "We were just going for shape cuts, trying to find something that would look at me and stand in the middle."

Keys drew first to ride in the second bunch of the finals, and gives credit to his helpers: Kevin Coiner, Elaine Hutching, and Scott Amos. Keys has owned Attract a Dual for four years.

### **Senior Youth:**

**Peoria, Arizona rider wins the 2006 Wayne Hodges\*Outlaw Conversions/NCHA Western National Championship in Ogden, Utah.**

On April 29, 2007, Paige Kincaid, riding Dee Acre Doc, won the title of **Senior Youth** Champion.

Paige Kincaid, 17, won her second NCHA Western National Championship Senior Youth title, and it made her third Western National championship. She was riding Dee Acre Doc, by Bob Acre Doc, who also won with her in the \$10,000 Novice Non-Pro class in 2005.

"I really didn't have a set plan," she said. "My trainer (Mike Wood) got really nervous and told me I was going too fast and to slow way down. I had 45 seconds, when I cut my third cow. I don't know if I cut a fresh cow or a rerun, but it tried me really had and my horse was good and tried his best."

Paige borrowed Dee Acre Doc to show in the Summer Spectacular Youth competition three years ago, and then her parents purchased the horse for her. "We didn't know he was for sale, but then he came up for sale at the EE ranches Sale. We weren't able to get there, but his reserve wasn't met, so it was kind of destiny that we were able to buy him."

Paige is a home-schooled junior, and has been hauling this year in the \$50,000 Amateur division, currently holding the lead.

## **Junior Youth:**

**Ogden, Utah rider wins the 2006 Wayne Hodges\*Outlaw Conversions/NCHA Western National Championship in Ogden, Utah.**

On April 29, 2007, Dax Hadlock, riding Rio CD, won the title of **Junior Youth** Champion.

Dax Hadlock, age 11, won a second NCHA Western National Championship Junior Youth title riding Rio CD in the finals. His sister, Paige, had won the very same title back in 2004 aboard Classic Acre. Dax's parents, Lawson and Heidi, who host the annual Team Roping in Ogden, won the 1999 Open and Non-Pro Western National Championships, respectively, on Dandyolena. The Hadlock family has definite success in the sport of cutting.

The eight year-old Rio CD, by CD Olena, is owned by John Schuler and Kathy Markette of Missoula, Montana.

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).