

NCHA NEWS RELEASE



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National Cutting Horse Association Triple Crown surpasses \$10 million in Total Prize Money

Cutting's Triple Crown prize money eclipses that of Thoroughbred racing's

(Fort Worth, TX) The National Cutting Horse Association (NCHA), which is about to pass the \$600 million milestone in purses awarded since its inception in 1946, will mark another landmark this year with a total of more than \$10 million awarded in cutting's Triple Crown events that culminate with the 2008 NCHA Derby finals on August 3.

The annual NCHA Triple Crown trail begins with the \$4.4 million NCI/NCHA Futurity in December, and continues with the \$3.4 million Ford Super Stakes in April, followed by the \$2.2 million Derby, a division of the Summer Spectacular presented by Great American Insurance. All three events are held at Will Rogers Equestrian Center in Fort Worth, Texas.

NCHA Triple Crown purses have increased 55 percent in the past five years. The total prize money for cutting's Triple Crown surpasses Thoroughbred racing's total Triple Crown purse (from the Kentucky Derby, Preakness Stakes and Belmont Stakes) by almost \$6 million, and Quarter Horse racing's Triple Crown (Ruidoso, Rainbow and All American futurities) by almost \$7 million.

"The excitement and popularity of cutting horse competition have driven the phenomenal growth we've seen in our Triple Crown events," said NCHA executive director Jeff Hooper. "We host a total of well over 5,000 entries at the three shows each year.

In 2007, purses for all NCHA events amounted to over \$43 million, exceeding that of the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association (PRCA), whose signature event is the \$5.6 million National Finals Rodeo, at the end of each year in Las

Vegas. According to a recent article in the *New York Times*, PRCA reported total purses of \$40 million for its 2007 season.

With a victory in the 2008 NCHA Derby, High Brow CD, winner of the NCHA Futurity and co-champion of the NCHA Super Stakes, would become just the fourth horse in history to win cutting's Triple Crown. Chiquita Pistol was the last Triple Crown winner, in 2003. Smart Little Lena (in 1983) and Docs Okie Quixote (in 1984) are the only other Triple Crown champions.

The National Cutting Horse Association is made up of 20,000 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 \$43 million in prize money awarded. For more information about the NCHA or the sport of cutting, please call 817-244-6188 or log on to www.nchacutting.com.