

# NCHA NEWS RELEASE



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## Champions of the 2008 NCHA Summer Spectacular presented by Great American Insurance announced

### **Derby Open:**

*Horse from Veguita, New Mexico wins 2008 Derby Open Finals*



***Peptos Stylish Sue***

Peptos Stylish Sue and Boyd Rice, from Spearman, Texas, third to work in the 20-horse NCHA Open Derby, scored 224-points that couldn't be beat. Playin N Fancy Smart and Kory Pounds, co-champions of the NCHA Super Stakes, posted 223 points for the Derby reserve championship; Rice placed third with 218.5 on Sails Lil Solano.

"She's pretty much the same every time I show her and she's real cow smart," said Rice of the Peptos Stylish Oak daughter. "My first and second cows were really good. I wasn't going to cut the last cow, but it stopped out there in the right spot, and it was probably the best cow I cut. It was real aggressive."

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“She’s a good mare and he’s one helluva a trainer,” said owner Barry Syra, Verquita, NM, who purchased Peptos Stylish Sue from Tongue River Ranch as a long yearling at the Best of the Remuda Sale. She is the first horse that Syra, who has been showing for 10 years, and his wife Kimberly, have sent to a trainer to be conditioned for major events.

It was a sweet victory for Rice, who has earned more than \$1.3 million cutting competition and won last year’s Snaffle Bit Futurity. But until yesterday, had not won a major cutting event in Fort Worth. “I’ve been after it forever,” said Rice, who recalled his first time to show at Will Rogers Coliseum, when he was a sophomore in high school, in 1979, and rode a horse for his father, Hall of Famer Sonny Rice. “I don’t even remember the horse’s name,” said Rice. “I couldn’t even get him loaded in the trailer when we got ready to come here. He’d never been hauled off the place.”

Reserve champion Kory Pounds was pleased for Rice, as well. “My mare was on the very top of her game and she worked those cows as good as she could, but Boyd won and I’ve never been more tickled to be second. “I don’t like to lose, but I like it when my buddies do good. I was rooting for Boyd when he showed.”

In addition to placing first and third in the Derby, Rice had a supporting role in the story behind Derby Non-Pro champion Wild Hickory Rio. It was Rice who showed that horse’s sire, Bobs Hickory Rio, to win the 2005 NCHA World Championship for owner James Kenney.

### **Derby Non-Pro:**

**Justin White from Chappell Hill, Texas, riding Wild Hickory Bob, won the Derby Non-Pro Division, in Fort Worth, Texas, on August 3, 2008**



***Justin White***

Twenty-year-old Justin White didn't rest after he won the 2007 NCHA Futurity on his gelding Wild Hickory Bob. "The Futurity was nine months ago and this is another cutting and another day," said White, who won the Non-Pro Derby with a 225-point performance. "I wasn't thinking about the Futurity, I was thinking about showing my horse."

White began showing in the youth division when he was 11, and purchased Wild Hickory Bob in June of his 3-year-old year. "He was a stud when I got him and he was pretty tough and bowed up," said White. "He'd been through two or three trainers before I got him and he was pretty rough. But he did so many cool things and I made a pretty good buy on him. I cut him a couple of days after I bought him and he really started coming on. Being a gelding he really sweetened out and matured. He's a fun horse – a great horse."

White attended junior college near his home in Chappell Hill, TX, but hopes to follow in the footsteps of his father, Jon, and become a trainer. Jon White stood the popular buckskin stallion Dun Commander. Although Wild Hickory Bob is a buckskin, Justin says the gelding is not related to Dun Commander and the fact that he is a buckskin is a coincidence, although he is definitely partial to the color today.

### **Derby Amateur:**

**Julie Jarma of Prosper, Texas, riding Crazy Rey, by Dual Rey, won the Derby Amateur Division, in Fort Worth, Texas, on July 23, 2008**



*Julie Jarma*

The action had been mostly dismal in yesterday's NCHA Derby Amateur Finals, before Julie Jarma, 19, rode to the herd in the first bunch. "I watched the other horses go and I got a little worried," admitted Jarma, who rode Crazy Rey to score 215 points. "I tried to stay calm, because I get a little nervous."

It was Jarma's first major win and her first time to show in the finals at Will Rogers. "I've been cutting since I was 11, but it was kind of hit and miss," said the Texas Tech sophomore, whose family raised Crazy Rey, by Dual Rey, on their farm in Prosper, TX. Jarma's father, Doug, a roping competitor, named Short Handle Bars' bay colt after Crazy Ray, the unofficial Dallas Cowboys mascot for over 40 years.

"He's not crazy," said Jarma of her gelding. "He's actually pretty mellow." Joe Wolter started Crazy Rey for Don Jarma and trainer Doug Jordan brought the horse to the NCHA Futurity, where it was discovered that he had EPM. Dan Popeck has conditioned Crazy Rey for Jarma since the gelding's recovery. Don Jarma also raises and manages Thoroughbred race horses for Julie's grandfather, Robert Folsom, who was mayor of Dallas from 1977 -1981.

**Derby Open Limited:**

**Wilds My thing, owned by Bobby and Francie Butler of Valley Mills, Texas, and ridden by Casey Morris of Victoria, Texas, won the **Derby John Deere Division of the Open**, in Fort Worth, Texas, on August 2, 2008**



Casey Morris rode Wilds My Thing, by Wild Thing DNA, to win the John Deere Division of the Open with 219 points. “We had a plan and it worked out,” said Morris, 28, who rides Wilds My Thing for Bobby and Francie Butler. “The horse works a cow really well and tries not to get out of position. It was a simple, safe run.”

Morris bred his mare Lenas Star Gona Shin to Wild Thing on the advice of the late Bill Freeman, who Morris had worked for at one time. Wilds My Thing was the result. “It was a great opportunity to work for a legend,” said Morris of his experience with Freeman. “He was a good friend and a mentor.” Morris sold his mare in foal, and then bought Wilds My Things at the NCHA Futurity Sale.

“He’s a lot like his mom,” said Morris. “He’s extremely cowy. That’s his best attribute.”

### **Derby Non-Pro Limited:**

**Darren Blanton of Dallas, Texas, riding Hick Of A Mate, won the Derby Limited Non-Pro Division, in Fort Worth, Texas, on August 1, 2008**



*Darren Blanton*

Blanton was on a mission, when he rode to the herd in the Non-Pro Limited Finals. “Adan (Banuelos) beat me in the Super Stakes Limited,” noted the Dallas businessman, who wound up as reserve champion to Banuelos in the NCHA Super Stakes Non- Pro Limited. “He’s an aggressive showman and he rides better than I do. I knew I had to go out there and play to win. If you’re not first, you’re last.”

This time it was Blanton who beat Banuelos, with a score of 220 points. Kippi Cogdell was second with 217.5 on Dual With Lena, and Banuelos finished third on Dual With Christy. “I wanted to win this, but I thought it would be a good practice to get in the groove for the Semi-Finals. I’ve never gotten along better with a horse. He feels old and wise and he makes me feel comfortable.”

Blanton purchased Hick Of A Mate, by Smart Mate, as a last minute entrant for the NCHA Futurity. He didn’t have much success with the gelding at the Futurity, but he has qualified with him for the finals of eight major events since then, and trainer Jason Clark has been a finalist with the gelding in six additional events.

### **Classic Challenge Open:**

**Royal Red Pepto owned by Clay McCullar of Baird, TX, and ridden by Shannon Hall of Loco, OK, wins the **Open Classic Challenge Division**, in Fort Worth, Texas, on July 21, 2008**



*Natalie, Royal Red Pepto, and Shannon Hall*

Shannon Hall claimed his \$50,000 win aboard Royal Red Pepto in the NCHA Classic Challenge, and boosted his earnings past the \$3 million mark. “We took a risk and cut two first cows that were a little tricky, but they were great,” said Hall, following the 222-point performance in the first bunch. “My third cow was fresh and offered itself. “The mare couldn’t have missed anything or that would have been the end. I was really proud of her.”

Royal Red Pepto advanced to the Open Finals ranked sixth by cumulative score with go-round scores of 218.5 and 217 points. “I always felt that if we could get it all together, she’d be one to beat,” said Hall. “Until tonight, I haven’t proven it.” Royal Red Pepto, by Peptoboonsmal, was bred by Meredith McCullar’s 4M Ranch of Baird, TX, and is owned and will be shown in the Non-Pro Finals by Meredith’s son, Clay McCullar.

“Shannon has our horses working fantastic,” said Meredith, who has recently been sidelined from showing following rotator cuff surgery. “The way he works horses and does things is a lot like Buster (Welch) did.”

Royal Red Pepto is half-sister to Duals Play Kit, by Kit Dual, owned and shown by Clay McCullar to earn \$251,664 and as champion or reserve in 10 major events. Royal Red Pepto has earned nearly \$170,000 as a finalist in 18 major events, including as a 2007 NCHA Classic Challenge Open finalist (6th) with Hall.

Hall’s earnings rank him among cutting’s all-time top 15 money earners. He has won 37 major events, including the 1999 NCHA Futurity on Shania Cee, and the 2001 NCHA Super Stakes Classic on Shania Cee.

The Classic Challenge field of finalists included 6 out of the top 15 leading active NCHA money earners with total earnings of more than \$2.2 million.

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### **Classic Challenge Non-Pro:**

**Jim Vangilder of Jackson, Missouri, riding Pet Squirrel, wins the Classic Challenge Non-Pro Division, in Fort Worth, Texas, on July 24, 2008**



*Jim Vangilder, shown center, with daughter Grace, 10, and NCHA staff*

Jim Vangilder and Pet Squirrel put on a show with a 223-point winning performance in the NCHA Classic Challenge Non-Pro. It was the sixth NCHA championship win for the Jackson, MO rider and the ninth major win for his 6-year-old Playdox daughter.

“I wasn’t trying to win anything, I just wanted to have a decent score,” said Vangilder, who drew up first to work in the second set, where Barbara Brooks’ 216 was leading the event. This is the first time that Vangilder has shown Pet Squirrel since he won the Brazos Bash Non-Pro in September 2007.

Roger Wagner was entered to ride her in the Open division, but when he missed the bubble and qualified instead for the Wildcard round, Vangilder purchased a slot in the Non-Pro. “Normally, we don’t like to double up,” Vangilder explained. “But the Wildcard is iffy and I didn’t want her to miss being shown.” Pet Squirrel and Wagner won the Wildcard with 221 points and placed third in the Finals with 219 points. “I haven’t ridden her that much,” said Vangilder. “Roger has won most of the money on her.”

Since February, Pet Squirrel and Wagner have won the Breeders Invitational 5/6 Classic; placed second in the Tunica Classic; and finished fifth in the NCHA Super Stakes Classic. Pet Squirrel’s lifetime total is nearly \$400,000.

Vangilder has earned over \$1.1 million in the seven years that he has been showing cutting horses. He was reserve champion of the 2005 NCHA Futurity on Mr Tele San, and most recently, winner of the 2008 NCHA Super Stakes Senior Non-Pro on Playin At The Mall. His first major win was as Amateur champion of the 2002 Super Stakes on Merada Clone.

### **Classic Challenge Amateur:**

**Jennifer Foland of Weatherford, Texas, riding Hissy Cat, wins the Classic Challenge Amateur Division, in Fort Worth, Texas, on July 25, 2008**



*Jennifer Foland and group*

Seth Holcombe led the field in the Classic Challenge Amateur finals until Jennifer Foland came to the herd as the fourth rider in the second set. Twenty-two riders followed Foland, but failed to match or surpass her 218-point score. Holcombe and his mare Hot N Smart prevailed as reserve champions. “I was tickled to draw fourth and have some cows to pick from,” said Foland, who rode homebred Hissy Cat.

The 5-yearold High Brow Cat daughter was a finalist with Foland in the Classic Challenge Non-Pro Ltd; Foland also split 6/8 in the Non-Pro Amateur Derby riding Aristothat. “This is the first time that I’ve ever made three finals at one show in my life,” said Foland, whose husband, Jeff Foland DVM, operates an equine veterinary facility in Weatherford, TX. The Folangs bred Hissy Cat, out of Hustlin Leopard, who was given to their daughter, Jordann, by Jennifer’s uncle, Don Christmann.

Hissy Cat acquired her name as a baby, when she was treated for an eye injury and pinned her ears and lunged at people who entered her stall. Once the eye healed, she became everyone’s friend and is a favorite of the Foland children.

Darren Simpkins trained Hissy Cat and showed her as a finalist in the NCHA Futurity. In 2007, Simpkins and Hissy Cat placed fourth in the NCHA Super Stakes and sixth in the NCHA Derby. They also claimed reserve in the South Point Futurity and third in the Western Horseman Cup. Foland began riding the mare last year and won the South Point Non-Pro Limited on her. Hissy Cat has career earnings of \$220,000.

### **Classic Challenge Limited Non-Pro:**

**Kade Smith of Farmington, UT, riding A Little Reylena, won the Classic Challenge Limited Non-Pro Division, in Fort Worth, Texas, on July 22, 2008**



*Greg, Sadee, and Kade Smith*

When Kade Smith rode in this year's Super Stakes, it had been ten years since he had shown in Will Rogers Coliseum. "When you're nine years old, this arena is huge. Even now, it's still huge," said 19-year-old Kade, who won the Classic Challenge Limited Non-Pro with 219 points riding 5-year old A Little Reylena.

Kade focused on the Limited Finals as a third step toward the Non-Pro Finals. "I tried to make my first cut as smooth as possible to get my run started off good," he said. "The cow was really good and everything started to fall into place. My second cow was maybe a little rougher, but everything clicked and my horse was on the money."

Smith qualified for the Limited Finals, as well as Thursday's Non-Pro Finals, with go-round scores of 217 and 216 points. Kade's dad is Greg Smith, who had trained A Little Reylena for a client, then purchased her this past January for his son. "She's very talented and cowy," said Kade of his Dual Rey daughter. Every once in a while she panics, but she has been very calm, cool and collected at this show. She's made me a lot calmer, that's for sure."

Kade and A Little Reylena placed third this year in the South Point Non-Pro and third in the NCHA Super Stakes Classic Non-Pro Limited. Kade's first show in Fort Worth was at the 1998 Eastern-Western Shootout for NCHA National champions. Kade was the Junior Youth Western National champion that year; his sister, Ashley, won it in 1997, and Kade came back to claim it again in 2000.

**Classic Challenge John Deere Division Open Limited:**

**Spotlights on Pepto, owned by Kevin and Georgia Allen of Lexington, Texas, and ridden by Billy Bob Moore of Buffalo, Texas, won the Classic Challenge John Deere Division Open Limited on July 20, 2008**



*Billy Bob Moore, right*

At the end of the 10-horse Classic Challenge John Deere Open Finals, Play Too Much, owned by Jerry White, Weatherford, TX, held her ground as reserve champion, but it was Billy Bob Moore and Spotlights On Pepto that won the day with 219 points. “I give all of my credit to Ronnie Rice, every bit of it,” said Moore, referring to the NCHA Hall of Fame rider, following his win. “All the bad stuff you saw me do, I taught myself. All the good stuff, Ronnie taught me.”

Moore and Spotlights On Pepto, by Peptoboonsmal, missed the cut-off to the Classic Challenge by half a-point and qualified for the Wild Card, where they scored 214 points. “My horse has a lot of try,” said Moore, who trained the 5-year-old stallion and shows him for Kevin and Georgia Allen, Lexington, TX. “He covers up a lot of my mistakes. I was very pleased. He’s really strong and reads cattle really good.”

Moore, is a third generation rancher from Buffalo, TX, and has been training horses since he was 15. He has concentrated on cutting horses since 1998. The Allens purchased Spotlights On Pepto as a 2-year-old and sent him to Moore. “When he came, he could have walked through a plank fence,” said Moore. “He was a long-legged, two-year colt. Now he’s really strong and never struggles around,” he added. “And he reads cattle really good, has a lot of try, and he covers up a lot of my mistakes.” Moore, who stands 6’ 4”, thinks Spotlights On Pepto is at least 15 hands, and probably 1200 pounds.

“He’s got a character about him,” said Moore of Spotlights On Pepto. “He has a unique personality. He kind of aggravates you a bit and buddies up. But he just wants attention.” Moore rode Spotlights On Pepto as reserve champion of the \$3,000 Novice at the Houston Livestock and Rodeo, and won the NCHA Day show at Athens, TX with 77 points. Hall of Famer John Carter put Moore on his first cutting horse; Carter’s son, Roy, was also a contender in the John Deere Finals. “Roy’s backed me in everything I’ve done,” said Moore. “I promise, he was more tickled for me than if he would have won.”

**Buffalo Ranch Scholarship Cutting – Junior Youth:**  
**Harris Shepard of Verbena, Alabama, riding Peponita Times Two, won the Junior Youth Division, in Fort Worth, Texas, on July 18, 2008**



*Harris Shepard*

Harris Shepard, 13, Magnolia Springs, AL, won the Junior Youth championship with 224 points. This was Harris's first time to show in Will Rogers Coliseum. He was aboard Peponita Times Two, owned by Khader Daoud.

“It was the best run I've ever had on a horse,” said Harris, who had been on a five-year hiatus. It was his brother, Austin Shepard, winner of the 2007 NCHA Futurity and co-champion of the Super Stakes on High Brow CD, who inspired Harris to begin cutting again. “I got really nervous and I didn't like being that way, so I quit for a while,” Harris explained about his decision at eight to stop showing. “Seeing my brother win the Futurity, I fell in love with it and started back because I wanted to show, and now I don't get as nervous.”

Peponita Times Two, with \$180,000, was trained by Austin Shepard.

**Buffalo Ranch Scholarship Cutting – Senior Youth:**  
Caleb Anderson of Weatherford, Texas, riding Las Vegas Lights, won the **Senior Youth Division**, in Fort Worth, Texas, on July 18, 2008



*Caleb Anderson*

Caleb Anderson and Las Vegas Lights lit up Will Rogers Coliseum with a 228-point winning performance in the Senior Youth. “My adrenaline and heart were pumping so hard,” said Caleb, 15, a freshman at All Saints Episcopal School in Fort Worth. “I knew I had a monster run.”

Caleb chipped a third cow with 20 seconds left on the clock, going for the win. “I was just hoping I could hold it,” he said. “After my run, I remembered that it had run over the first rider and was one of the worst cows in the herd.” Nine-year-old Las Vegas Lights, by Smart Mate, is owned by Caleb’s dad, Steve Anderson. Caleb won the 2006 Junior Youth riding Sun Valley Shorty.

***Results for non-working finals-***

**Classic Challenge Senior Non-Pro:**

Jim Vangilder riding Peptowood

**Classic Challenge Senior Amateur:**

Billie Aylesworth riding A Classic Sport

**Derby Non-Pro Senior:**

Jim Vangilder riding Playin At The Mall

**Derby Amateur Senior:**

Ronald Clark riding Exzackarey

The National Cutting Horse Association is made up of over 17,500 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

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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. 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).

