

Daily Chatter

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Itchin to win

Cat Ichi claims championship with 226



A smooch from his owner Jo Ellard was the only reward Cat Ichi wanted following his \$75,000 win in the NCHA Derby; Cat Ichi's trainer, Guy Woods looks on

They tied a red ribbon in his mane for good luck, but it was sheer talent and an electrifying performance that got Cat Ichi the win last night, in one of the most exciting finals in recent history, at Will Rogers Coliseum.

Widows Intentions and rider Austin Shepard threw down the gauntlet with 223 points scored as the fifth entry to work in the first bunch of cattle. Cat Ichi immediately followed and his rider, Guy Woods, had one goal in mind.

"I told my mother when we got here, 'We're going to rock and roll tonight,'" said Woods, whose family traveled from Australia to

attend the show. "I've been trying to have that ride in this building on that horse for a long time."

Cat Ichi, owned and bred by EE Ranches of Texas, was a go-round leader in the NCHA Futurity and winner of the Memphis Futurity, but a tangled third cut cost him points in the Super Stakes.

"He's the best one I've ever had," said Woods. "I've watched his (video) tapes and he looks like a big cat playing with a mouse. He reaches so far with that one move, it feels like you're on the other side of the arena.

"And it's so easy for him to read a cow and trap it. He loves it."

SUMMER CUTTING SPECTACULAR

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2004



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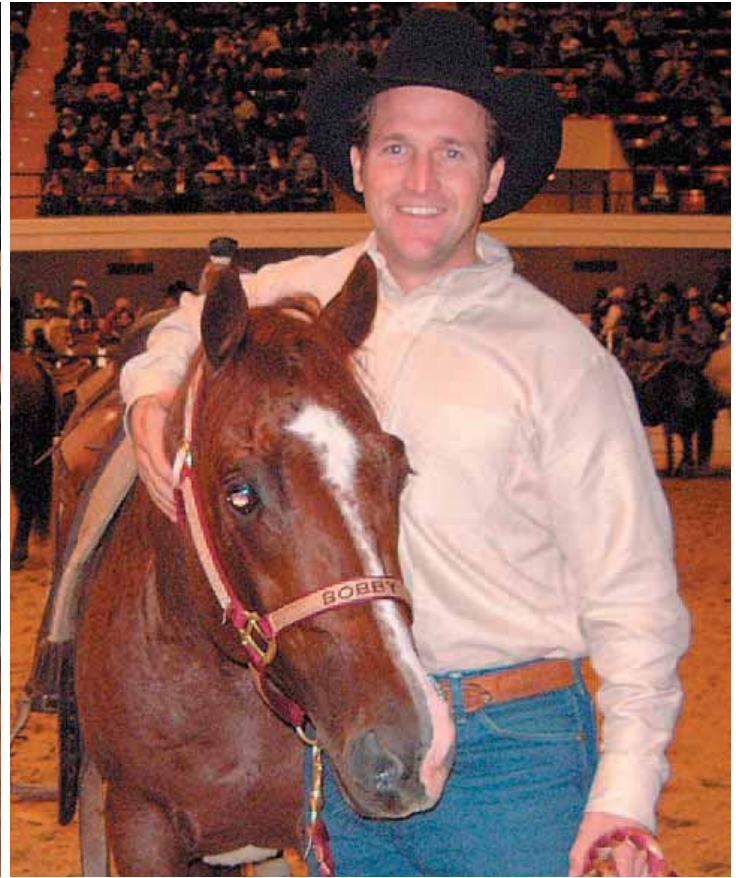
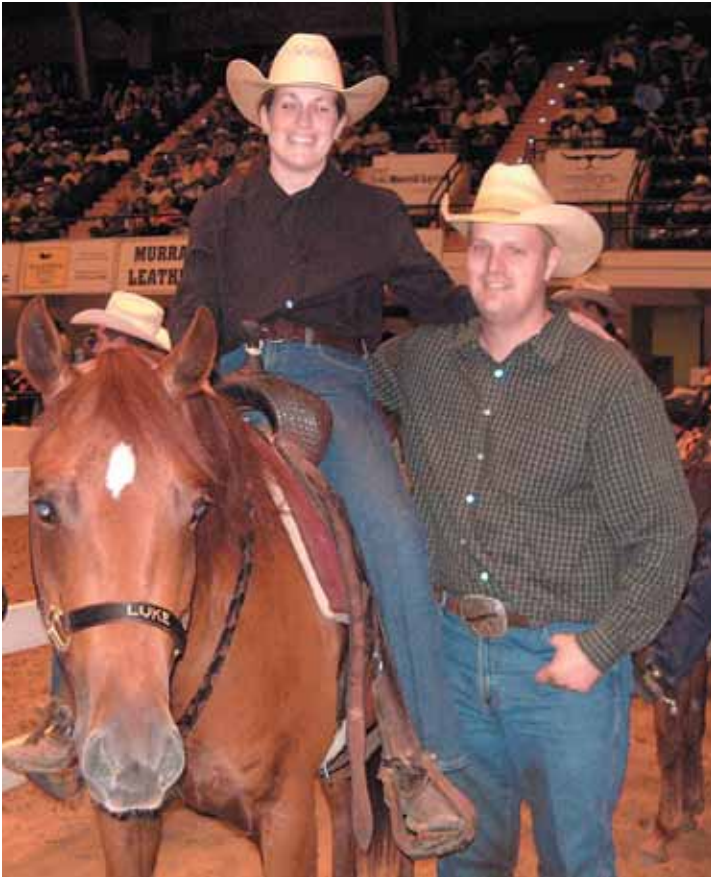


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Cat Ichi, by High Brow Cat, is out of EE Ranches' great producer Laney Doc, whose foals have earned more than \$1.2 million. Wood has trained and ridden all of Laney Doc's offspring, six of which have earned over \$100,000 and two of which have earned more than \$200,000.

"Every one of Laney Doc's babies have been dynamic," noted Woods, who was one of five native Australians, from 20 Derby Open finalists.



Above left, Austin and Stacie Shepard with Widows Intentions, NCHA Derby reserve champion; above right, Scott Ferguson, NCHA Derby Non-Pro champion, and Laredo Blue; right, Lewie Wood, NCHA Derby Non-Pro reserve champion, and PRF Playguns Pep.

Great Scott!

At Ichi wore a red ribbon for good luck and Laredo Blue wore a horse shoe. Scott Ferguson's stallion picked up a stray shoe during his dynamic 224-point winning run in the NCHA Non-Pro Derby. The shoe tangled in his tail and wrapped around his leg, but the gutsy little guy just kept cutting. After Ferguson rode out, he sent for scissors to remove the shoe.

As winner of the Non-Pro Semi-Finals, Ferguson was the favorite coming in the Finals, but he was concerned because Laredo Blue was also an Open finalist, under John Mitchell, and had already been through six runs.

"For that horse to put up with three different riders is pretty incredible (regular open rider Roger Wagner had been working him daily through the event)," said Ferguson. "We all have different styles of riding, but it doesn't seem to bother him."

Ferguson wanted tough cows for Laredo Blue in the Finals and he found them. "He likes to go," he pointed out. "He needs cows that will really test him. We never had a slow moment in the run. I think that's what put us in the lead.

"He's got a big heart and he's so gritty about everything. Even when he was a baby, he always wanted to go after it and he gave 100 percent. I knew from the first day I rode



him that he was an incredible individual."

Ferguson, who manages his family's ranch in Hempstead, TX, purchased the Mecom Blue son sight unseen as a yearling, from Betsy Mecom of Brenham, TX. Mecom's mother, Lannie, of Wichita Ranch, owns Mecom Blue.

Lewie Wood Jr. claimed the Non-Pro reserve championship with 222 points on PRF Playguns Pep, by Playgun. "I was trying to beat that 224," said Wood. "I didn't want to be second. I wanted to win. You can't win it unless you take chances. You don't get many chances at my age to win, so you'd better take them when you can."

2004 NCHA OPEN DERBY FINALS

Score	Horse	Sex	Sire	Dam	Owner	Home	Rider	Earned
226.0	Cat Ichi	S	High Brow Cat	Laney Doc	EE Ranches of Texas, Inc	Whitesboro, TX	Guy Woods	\$75,000
223.0	Widows Intentions	S	Widows Freckles	Intend To Do	Robert & Debbie Middleton	Summit, MS	Austin Shepard	\$44,069
222.0	Twice As Reycy	M	Dual Rey	Rey Lena Girl	Gail Holmes	Longmont, CO	Lloyd Cox	\$37,082
219.5	Jeeps Posi Traction	G	Genuine Jeep	Starstruck DB	Russ & Janet Westfall	Los Olivos, CA	Russ Westfall	\$30,095
219.0	Boon San Kitty	M	High Brow Cat	Boon San Sally	Walton's Rocking W Ranch	Mineral Wells, TX	Ed Flynn	\$19,613
219.0	Downtown B Brown	S	Dual Pep	SR Gettin Busy	Bar H Ranche	Weatherford, TX	Paul Hansma	\$19,613
218.0	Just Playin Smart	S	Freckles Playboy	Smart Little Pet	Brazos Bend Ranch	Houston, TX	Faron Hightower	\$14,892
218.0	Tornados First Mate	M	Smart Mate	Hickorys Tornado Rio	Kickapoo Farms LLC	Barrington, IL	Shannon Hall	\$14,892
216.5	Duals Play Kit	M	Kit Dual	Playgiarism	Clay McCullar	Baird, TX	Shannon Hall	\$13,665
216.0	Laredo Blue	S	Mecom Blue	Rosita Wilson	Scott Ferguson	Hempstead, TX	John Mitchell	\$12,437
216.0	Sonitanovemberlena	S	Sonitalena	November Dove	Michael James Krueger	Kingsville, TX	Mark Lavender	\$12,437
215.5	Jazzy Little Melody	M	Dual Jazz	Smart Little Leona	Darren Blanton	Dallas, TX	Graham Amos	\$11,210
215.0	Mia Uno Tassa	M	Smart Little Uno	Tassa Mia	Strawn Valley Ranch	Strawn, TX	Tim Smith	\$10,392
213.0	Bearlyaboonsmal	M	Peptoboonsmal	Bearly Smart	Mike & Kris Stevens	Cave Creek, AZ	Scott Weis	\$9,573
211.0	Nqh Shadow Play	M	Playgun	Dry Shadow	James & Gay Karhan	Blanco, TX	David Stewart	\$8,755
210.0	Little Diddie	M	Smart Little Lena	Nina Peppy	Strawn Valley Ranch	Strawn, TX	Tim Smith	\$7,937
209.0	Playboys A Smarty	S	Smart Little Lena	Lenas Playgirl	Cotton/Davis	Kaufman, TX	Shane Stovall	\$7,118
208.0	Reys Dual Badger	S	Dual Rey	Lipshy	S & S Partners	Houston, TX	Darren Simpkins	\$6,300
195.0	Little Cat Olena	S	High Brow Cat	Bonnie Tari	Carl & Shawnea Smith	Jacksboro, TX	Brady Bowen	\$5,482
190.0	Athena Puddy Cat	S	High Brow Cat	Athena Accent	James & Suzanne Thomas	Savannah, TN	James Bradley Mitchell	\$4,663

2004 NCHA NON-PRO DERBY FINALS

Score	Horse	Sex	Sire	Dam	Owner	Home	Rider	Earned
224.0	Laredo Blue	S	Mecom Blue	Rosita Wilson	Scott Ferguson	Hempstead, TX	Scott Ferguson	\$18,929
222.0	PRF Playguns Pep	G	Playgun	Shes My Darling	Lewie Wood Jr	Dennis, TX	Lewie Wood Jr	\$18,178
220.0	Smart Miss Jeri	G	Smart Little Jerry	Miss N Mac	Skip Queen	Lipan, TX	Skip Queen	\$17,246
217.0	Light N Lena	S	Grays Starlight	Little Missie Lena	Billy Martin	Millsap, TX	Billy Martin	\$16,675
216.5	Junies Unlimited	M	Short Of Santana	Tuffs Junie	Vicki Bass	Fort Worth, TX	Vicki Bass	\$15,293
215.0	Smokes Peppy Twist	M	Ducelena	Smart Peppy Smoke	Rick Beard	Devol, OK	Rick Beard	\$15,172
214.5	Hi Kitty Kitty	M	High Brow Cat	Osage Award	Wesley Galyean	Ardmore, OK	Wesley Galyean	\$14,420
214.0	Jeeps Posi Traction	G	Genuine Jeep	Starstruck DB	Russ & Janet Westfall	Los Olivos, CA	Janet Westfall	\$13,293
214.0	Royally Aristocrat	M	Smart Aristocrat	Miss Royally Doc	Chad & Amie Bushaw	Weatherford, TX	Chad Bushaw	\$13,293
213.5	CD Glamorous Girl	M	CD Olena	SR Glamorous Lady	Milt & Mary Bradford	Weatherford, TX	Mary Bradford	\$12,166
212.0	Smart Like Reba	M	Smart Little Lena	Dual Tari	Steve Anderson	Victoria, TX	Steve Anderson	\$11,415
211.0	Chitas Blue Boon	M	Duals Blue Boon	Chita Cash	Paula Wood	Stephenville, TX	Paula Wood	\$10,287
211.0	Dual Heritage	M	Dual Pep	San Jo Pat	Greg & Shelly Coalson	Weatherford, TX	Greg Coalson	\$10,287
210.5	Montana Blue Oak	G	Doc's Oak	Montana Doc Queen	Catherine & William Lacy	Crested Butte, CO	William Lacy	\$8,160
207.0	Colonel Dually	S	Dual Pep	Colonel Gunsmoke	Austin Blake	Canyon, TX	Austin Blake	\$8,409
205.0	CD Lissa	M	CD Olena	Lissa Lena	Elizabeth Queen	Lipan, TX	Elizabeth Queen	\$7,281
205.0	Justanotherwhiteboy	G	CD Olena	Savannah White	Bar H Ranche	Weatherford, TX	Bobby Pidgeon	\$7,281
191.0	Lectric Boom	M	Lectric Playboy	Peps Little Boomer	Kenneth & Diane Kern	Waterloo, IL	Kenneth Kern	\$6,154
000.0	Lil Smokin Dynamite	M	Dynamite Badger	Bobette Smokin	Lindy Merryman	Baird, TX	Lindy Merryman	\$5,027
000.0	MH Milliondollarbill	G	Bodee Boonsmal	High Brow Dido	Hope Mitchell	Weatherford, TX	Hope Mitchell	\$5,027



Cartoonist Jerry McAdams, "that cow art guy," is publisher of the Hico News Review and a nationally recognized artist whose favorite subjects are horses and cattle.

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