

Sign up to WIN a FREE Breeding!
Contest Runs NOW – Jan. 15, 2021

QUARTER HORSE NEWS

BREEDING GIVEAWAY

QUARTER HORSE NEWS

[Home](#) [Quarter Horse News](#) > [News](#) > [Current News](#) > [Cutting News](#) > [Olan Hightower Passes Away](#)



CUTTING NEWS

Olan Hightower Passes Away

Posted on November 4, 2014 by [Admin](#)

On Nov. 2, Olan Hightower, who won the 1976 National Cutting Horse Association (NCHA) Futurity Open, passed away in Chappell Hill, Texas. He was 79.

Hightower was born on Oct. 10, 1935, in Trinity, Texas, to James



Olan Hightower in 1989

Virgil and Ural. Growing up in Waller County, he learned about horses from his father, James Virgil (“Ted”), who Hightower said viewed horses as a “tool to do a day’s work on.” He began riding cutting horses in 1959, at age 24.

“I had seen [cutting] at the Houston Stock Show and thought it was the prettiest thing I had ever seen,” Hightower told **Quarter Horse News** in a 1995 interview. “My daddy’s mother, Elizabeth, was part Indian and she said, ‘Son, put some pride in it when you ride a horse.’ I thought it was beautiful to get a horse to play with a cow.”



Olan Hightower

According to **Equi-Stat**, from 1970 through 2012, Hightower accumulated \$495,273 in earnings. His was a career that ended almost before it got started. In the early 1970s, Hightower gave up

cutting for about five years to focus on the landscaping business he ran with his wife, Peggy, and their four young children – son Faron and daughters Melissa, Margaret and Tina Marie. He showed sporadically during that time, until Bob McLeod talked him into showing a horse at the 1976 NCHA Futurity. As fate would have it, the horse was Colonel Freckles (Jewel’s Leo Bars x Christy Jay x Rey Jay).

Facing a field that included future standouts such as Freckles Playboy, Doc’s Oak, Doc’s Remedy, Doc Athena, Montana Doc and Doc’s Becky, Hightower and Colonel Freckles marked a 223 to win the NCHA Futurity Open and \$44,801. The stallion began breeding mares in 1977, with his first foal crop debuting at the 1981 NCHA Futurity. Thirty-six Colonel Freckles offspring entered, seven made the semifinals and four advanced to the finals, including Open Champion Colonel Lil. Colonel Freckles died in 1986 at the age of 13. He has progeny earnings of more than \$4.9 million, according to **Equi-Stat**, and was inducted into the American Quarter Horse Association Hall of Fame in 2004.

Hightower, who was known for his hugs and cutting in his 1960s roping saddle, watched his son, Faron, get inducted into the NCHA Riders Hall of Fame, and his grandson, Hunter, win the 2009 National Youth Cutting Horse Association Junior Scholarship Cutting and the Boys Cutting at the 2011 Texas High School Rodeo Association Finals.

Yet Hightower's influence extended far beyond his immediate family. As news of his passing spread, cutters from across the country took to Facebook to share memories of Hightower and how he had impacted their lives. It was a touching tribute to the man who, in a 2003 *Quarter Horse News* article, summed up his philosophy on life by saying, "When I'm dead and gone, if one person will stand up and say, 'That old man helped me,' it'll be worth more than hundreds of folks saying what I've won."

While he'll always carry the title of 1976 NCHA Futurity Open Champion, Hightower's lasting legacy can be seen in his family, friends and people he helped in the cutting horse industry he loved for so many years.

Funeral arrangements will be added when they become available.

POSTED IN

[Cutting News](#)

[← American Royal](#)

[Minnesota CHA Breeder's Incentive
Futurity Offers Rich Payouts >](#)

 ROAD TO THE
HORSE 2021

**THE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP
OF COLT STARTING**

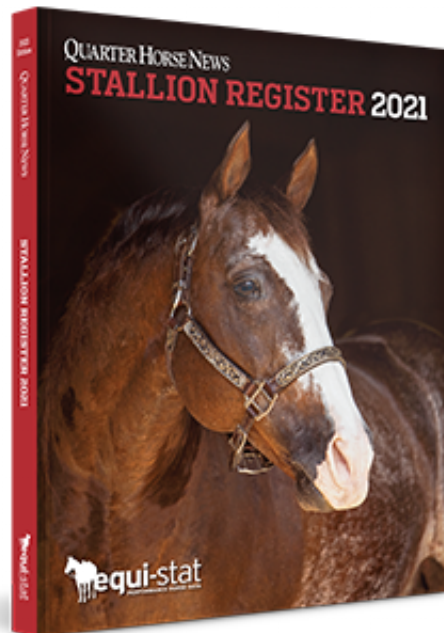
MARCH 25-28, 2021

LEXINGTON, KY

Tickets on sale | 1.800.514.3849

www.RoadtotheHorse.com

Available Now
**STALLION
REGISTER
2021**



**Click to order
or call 817-737-6397**

FOLLOW US



2021 QHN STALLION REGISTER

QUARTER HORSE NEWS

STALLION REGISTER 2021



Click Here

Five Winners will
Receive a

**\$100 gift certificate
to Stride Animal Health
& a Bluebonnet Feed
t-shirt.**



to Enter!

QUARTER HORSE NEWS

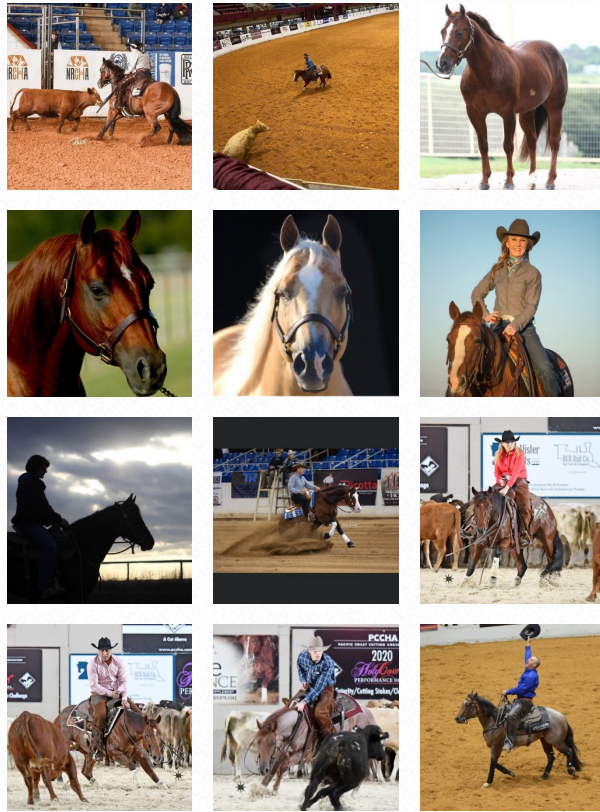
BREEDING GIVEAWAY

Sign up to WIN a FREE Breeding!

Contest Runs
NOW – Jan. 15, 2021

Winner Announced Feb. 14, 2021

FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM



Proudly Presents

"THE MANE EVENT VIII"

February 16 thru 21, 2021

[HOME](#) [ABOUT](#) [ADVERTISING](#) [CONTACT](#) [PRIVACY](#) [TERMS](#)

PARTNERS

- [BARREL HORSE NEWS →](#)
- [EQUI-STAT →](#)
- [HORSE CITY →](#)
- [NBHA →](#)
- [ROAD TO THE HORSE →](#)
- [WESTERN HORSEMAN →](#)
- [WESTERN LIFESTYLE RETAILER →](#)

CONTACT QUARTER HORSE NEWS

GENERAL INFO

[\(817\) 737-6397](#) [Email](#)

SUBSCRIPTIONS

 (800) 414-9101  Email

MAILING ADDRESS

2112 Montgomery St. · Fort Worth, TX 76107

Copyright © 2021 **QUARTER HORSE NEWS**

[Privacy Policy](#) · [Terms & Conditions](#)

Proud member of the  MORRIS MEDIA NETWORK

TRAVEL

LIFESTYLE

OUTDOOR

LOCAL INTEREST

SPECIAL INTEREST