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**NEWS RELEASE**

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## **Christianson clan has one proud (and prosperous) papa**

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CALGARY – Loren Christianson stocked up on horsepower last Christmas. Why? Because as successful as he is in the cutting-horse ring, Lorne knows the women in his life are cut from the same cloth.

When Christianson, an accomplished cutting-horse trainer from Stony Plain, Alta., visited Fort Worth, Texas, last December to show a client's steed at the National Cutting Horse Association (NCHA) Futurity, he also brought his chequebook. After all, wife Lisa is no slouch in the show ring. Daughter Skye, 11, will need four firm hooves beneath her when she starts learning the ropes. And daughter Carly, 14, was looking for another equine companion as she continued her meteoric rise in the show ring.

"Yeah, I went down with the intentions of buying three horses," recalls Loren, who'll climb into the saddle at the Stampede Corral from Oct. 12 to 16 during the 31<sup>st</sup> annual Calgary Stampede Cutting Horse Futurity, presented by Wrangler. "Carly won everything she could win at her age last year — the Junior Youth title for Canada, the (NCHA) Western National championship in Junior Youth (at Ogden, Utah), the Canadian finals (in Junior Youth), the \$2,000 limit for Alberta — but she was on a leased horse (Bob Playin) that was getting a little old.

"Lisa's quite an accomplished rider herself; when I met her, she was showing English and Western pleasure horses. She's kind of been behind the scenes the last couple of years, but we wanted her to be part of the cutting scene again. And we wanted a good horse for Skye when she starts showing," adds Loren. "So I came back from Texas with three horses (five-year-old mare Itchi Majorette for Carly, five-year-old gelding Can You Dual It for Lisa, and five-year-old gelding Shake a Tail Feather for Skye) . . . and actually, they've all turned out great."

Loren, a former rodeo competitor in saddle bronc and calf roping, also showed working cow horses and plied his trade as a farrier for 15 years, but seems to have truly found his niche as a cutting-horse trainer, with his own training facility, a devoted clientele, and official NCHA earnings of more than \$250,000.

A stout competitor at the Stampede's Cutting Horse Futurity, with reserve championships in each of the past two years, Christianson will be back in full force at the Corral next month during one of the highest-profile cutting competitions in North America — showing an estimated 15 horses in various classes.

The Stampede's Cutting Horse Futurity features Open and Non-Pro rider categories — Open for horse trainers and professional riders, and Non-Pro for those who make no part of their income by training horses. Non-Pro entries can only ride horses owned by themselves or immediate family members.

Equine age classes are headlined by the Futurity category for three-year-olds, and also include Derby (four-year-olds) and Classic Challenge (five- and six-year-olds). On the Non-Pro side, there's also the 7 Up class for horses aged seven years or older. A \$50,000 Limit Amateur Class, for those with NCHA earnings of less than \$50,000 as of Jan. 1, 2011, is also offered within Non-Pro's Derby and Classic Challenge classes.

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Christianson enjoyed a great 2010 season, earning his third Canadian Open championship on Annie's Cat and his third national \$3,000 Novice Horse title on EBR Eye Candy, as well as a reserve Stampede Futurity championship in Open Futurity aboard Annie's Pretty Smart, a gelding out of Annie's Cat.

Annie's Cat is now retired, but Christianson has high hopes at this year's Stampede Futurity for a trio of three-year-olds in the Futurity class — a full sister of Annie's Pretty Smart with barn name Outcast; a "very, very talented" bargain stud colt with great lineage named Feather That Smarts; and EBR Eye Candy's first baby, a filly by the name of Gracie's Cat.

"I've trained horses since I was 14 years old. A guy's never going to get rich at it, but it's a great way of life," says Christianson. "I had a great year last year, with quite a few championships. I'm home with the family. Everyone's involved. We're so incredibly proud of Carly, with what she's already accomplished.

"And I've got some really nice horses. I'm really excited about all the horses I'm going to show this fall."

The Stampede's Futurity event showcases the pure athleticism, instinct, agility and intelligence of the cutting horse. With horse-and-rider teams attempting to cut at least two, and most often three, individual cows out of a herd within 150 seconds, cutting has evolved into one of the most exciting equine events in North America. Contestants are evaluated by a panel of three judges and assessed a score based on the horse's instinctive reactions, the challenges made by the cows cut, and any errors in judgment.

The 2011 Calgary Stampede Cutting Horse Futurity, presented by Wrangler, will also feature a live and silent auction on Saturday, Oct. 15, with previewing starting at 5 p.m. at the Corral, and all proceeds going to the Bill Collins Youth Excellence Award scholarship fund. Anyone wishing to donate an auction item is asked to contact Stampede agriculture program co-ordinator Tracey Foster via phone at 403.261.0127, or via e-mail at [tfoster@calgariystampede.com](mailto:tfoster@calgariystampede.com)

The Stampede's Western Performance Horse Committee has also commissioned the production of up to 100 identical Vic Bennett Custom All-Round Saddles, which are handcrafted exclusively for the 2012 Calgary Stampede Centennial and available for sale to the general public. Anyone interested in purchasing one of these limited-edition keepsakes should e-mail [saddle@calgariystampede.com](mailto:saddle@calgariystampede.com) or call Foster at 403.261.0127.

For more information on the Stampede's Cutting Horse Futurity, visit [www.calgariystampede.com/ag](http://www.calgariystampede.com/ag)

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The Calgary Stampede is a volunteer-supported, not-for-profit community organization that preserves and promotes western heritage and values. The Stampede contributes to the quality of life in Calgary and southern Alberta through its world-renowned 10-day Stampede, year-round facilities, western events and several youth and agriculture programs. All revenue is reinvested into Calgary Stampede programs and facilities. For more about the Stampede, visit [www.calgariystampede.com](http://www.calgariystampede.com).