

Justin/American Quarter Horse Association
2007 Oklahoma Youth Rookie of the Year

Amelia Crites, an Owasso 10th grade Honor Student, has been awarded the 2007 Justin/American Quarter Horse Association Oklahoma Youth Rookie of the Year Award. Since Amelia was a young child her dream was to competitively compete with a top quality Quarter Horse in the American Quarter Horse Association pleasure riding circuit. She started riding horses when she was 5 years old and continued to grow through riding and showing at Open and 4-H horse shows.

In late December 2006 Amelia's family was blessed with the opportunity to purchase a 3 year old Hunter Under Saddle Quarter Horse named Divine Playboy. It was with no surprise that with Divine Playboy and Amelia Crites as a team they had the possibility to take Amelia to her Quest of becoming Oklahoma's Justin Youth Rookie of the Year. Under the direction of Jess and Maureen Herd of Mounds, Oklahoma, Amelia reached her Rookie Quest with hard work, determination and dedication. Amelia was extremely excited and pleased to accomplish this goal. She received the Rookie award with a Montana Silversmiths trophy belt buckle and a certificate for a pair of Justin boots.

To be eligible for this Rookie award, the exhibitor cannot have won any AQHA points prior to the year of the award. AQHA National points are calculated throughout the year and the exhibitor with the highest point totals ending in December of the award year is recognized as the respective Rookie of the Year for each state/province.

The American Quarter Horse Association was formed in 1940, and its international headquarters are located in Amarillo, Texas. More than 5 million American Quarter Horses have been registered by the Association.

Designed for American Quarter Horse enthusiasts 18 years of age and younger, the American Quarter Horse Youth Association was established on the premise of expanding youth participation with and knowledge of the American Quarter Horse. AQHYA currently has more than 31,000 members.

AQHA Corporate Partners are an important factor in AQHA's continued success, corporate partners join together to recognize AQHA Members with prizes and provide opportunities for members to excel in the American Quarter Horse industry. AQHA Corporate Partners provide more than \$9 million each year to support programs and member activities. Justin Boots sponsors the Rookie program and provides a pair of boots and belt buckle for each state's award winner.

Amelia's other accomplishments in her first year riding in the AQHA Quarter Horse Circuit include a Top Five Placing at the 2007 All American Quarter Horse Congress in Hunter Under Saddle out of 102 exhibitors and 2007 Reserve Champion in the Go For The Gold 4 year old Hunter Under Saddle Futurity. Amelia's equine accomplishments are just one part of this young girl's capabilities with her determination and always wanting to perform above and beyond one's abilities. Amelia is the daughter of Leon and Leesa Crites.

Submitted May 16, 2008