

RODEO REPORT

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By
SPRINGER

GOLDEN RUNS:

LATRICA DUKE TALKS ABOUT
HER STAR STUDDED STALLION
DM HIGH ROLLER AND
THEIR RODEO GOALS FOR 2025



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RODEO REPORT



What is the RODEO REPORT?

The Rodeo Report, LLC is a new media source covering all things related to rodeo - at all levels. What does that mean? We are covering everything from association news of organizations all across the country, to pro-rodeos, to futurities, and everything in-between. We capture stories from both ends of the arena.



We offer various different services, and will continue to offer more as our business grows. The main “report” will be sent out monthly via email, and posted on our website and our social media pages. Interesting stories, results, and a link to association content will be included in every blast.

We are in the process of onboarding associations, so stay tuned for association links within our next issue. Are you apart of an association that might be interested in our service? Heres what we offer: The Rodeo Report can serve as a central location for all things related to your association. Our website will offer a content source for your association: news, membership info, results, you name it! We can host it. Content will be updated bi-weekly. A link to association news within every email blast will help grow recognition for your association, attract new members, and keep your current members in the know on all things happening within your association! Once a year, an association highlight will be placed in an issue also!

The staff at the Rodeo Report is excited to bring you high quality, rodeo content!

RODEO REPORT

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*"Vanilla Wafer"
Et Latricia Duke*

**#12 IN THE
WORLD!**

DM High Roller

Frenchstreaktovegas x Happy To Run Em, Firewaterontherocks

Coors
Banquet

RED BLUFF
ROUND-UP

- 2024 Co-Reserve Champion Horse of the Year!
- 3rd in the 2024 NFR Average!

LTE: \$649,000+

2025 FEE: \$3,500 // Standing at: Switzer-Hill Horses - Weatherford, TX

Breeding info: Jeff Switzer - 620.408.5427 // Owned by: Bravid Duke



GOLDEN RUNS & THE ROAD AHEAD

LATRICIA DUKE AND VANILLA WAFER HAVE LIT UP THE PROFESSIONAL RODEO SCENE OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS, QUALIFYING FOR THE 2024 NFR, WHERE THE STALLION WAS HONORED WITH TWO PRESTIGIOUS AWARDS VOTED ON BY DUKE'S PEERS.

By Teal Stoll



LATRICIA DUKE & DM HIGH ROLLER, AKA "VANILLA WAFER", AT THE 2024 NATIONAL FINALS RODEO.

PHOTO CREDIT: KENNETH SPRINGER PHOTOS COURTESY OF LATRICIA DUKE.



They say good horses are one in a million and barrel futurity trainer Latricia Duke has developed countless top contenders throughout her career. Over the past few years, she has been on the ride of a lifetime with one of those extra-special horses: DM High Roller, affectionately known as "Vanilla Wafer."

As May and June saw the transition to bigger, outdoor arenas, this pair has been racking up checks at major pro rodeos from Oregon to Arizona. With lifetime earnings over \$649,000 and sitting no. 12 in the World Standings, this will be a fun duo to watch through the summer run once again.

So when did she know the stunning palomino stallion was going to be a standout?

"THIS IS GOING TO SOUND REALLY CLICHÉ, BUT THE FIRST TIME I LOPED HIM THROUGH THE BARRELS, HIS FIRST DAY. I TROTTED HIM THROUGH A COUPLE TIMES, THEN LOPED HIM, AND WHEN HE CRACKED THE CORNER AT THE FIRST, I WAS LIKE, 'THAT'S REAL. YOU CAN'T TRAIN THAT.' SINCE HE WAS THREE YEARS OLD, NOT MUCH HAS CHANGED ABOUT THE WAY HE DOES IT."

Duke often describes Vanilla Wafer as "easy" and the incredible athlete makes running barrels look effortless. With a lengthy background in the industry, she knows what it takes to be a standout stallion.

"As far as keeping him a stallion, he was just perfect from the day he was born. Conformationally, there was absolutely nothing I would've changed about him. He was always sweet. I never really thought about standing a stallion for the public, and I said if he ever got studly, I would cut him. His attitude was what dictated whether he was going to stay a stallion or not."

From little girls who want to pet a real-life unicorn to ropers who would like to take him for a spin, Vanilla Wafer has a dedicated following that crosses equine disciplines.

"I love him and think he's amazing, but you never think of your own horse being one that other people notice. Being voted Co-Reserve Horse of the Year and receiving the Scoti Flit Bar Rising Star Award, those are voted on by the top 15 barrel racers in the world. That's humbling beyond anything I could ever put into words."

For Duke, Vanilla Wafer's demeanor is one of the greatest joys of being "his person."

"He has a giant personality. At the breeding farm, Jeff will put me on speakerphone, and if he hears me, he'll throw his head up and nicker. My son, Bravid, shoes him, and he makes me leave because he says he's better when I'm gone," she laughed.

THE ROAD AND THE RODEOS

While the rodeo road can be grueling, Wafer's intelligence has kept him safe and healthy through thousands of miles and countless runs.

"He's very smart, he takes care of himself. He'll lay down and sleep. He eats and drinks. If you stop on the side of the road, he'll drink three or four little buckets. He likes to be scratched. I hear people all the time say that the great ones have some quirk and he just doesn't. He's never really had one. He's so personable and kind. He loves people. He loves to have his picture taken. He understands when people are taking pictures, he puts his ears up."

As Duke and Vanilla Wafer enjoy their final season on the rodeo trail together, it is a bittersweet time. Although she is focused on doing what is best for his future as a breeding stallion, it is difficult to close their chapter of competing together.

"He is so young and healthy and truly loves his job. I pull up with a trailer and he nickers. I have to make a decision on what I think is best for him. At this point, he's not like a horse, he's an extension of me. I thought I knew horses that I had competed on previously, but when you rodeo on one for two or three years and leave for three-plus months at a time, you truly learn everything about them."

After running at many of the biggest rodeos in the U.S., the team has learned where they shine and will focus on their favorites during this farewell journey.

"I'm really excited about Calgary. I've never had the opportunity to go, but it's definitely a bucket-list rodeo and not an easy one to qualify for. I love all the Northwest rodeos, and my horse loves the big outside pens with no fences. That's where he seems to excel. He's a once-in-a-lifetime type of horse, so I try not to think about the fact that the end is nearing."

CARRYING THE LEGACY

Looking ahead, Duke will be spending more time developing Wafer's offspring, just as she once did for the great stallion and his dam. Having ridden multiple generations of his pedigree, she knows the bloodline inside and out. In the mid-2010s, she lit up leaderboards riding HappyToRunEm. "Kylie" and Vanilla Wafer's sire, FireWaterOnTheRocks, left an impact on Duke, inspiring her to further their legacy.

"There's a couple two-year-olds that guys are riding for me now, and I'm so excited. They're soft in the face, real feely in the ribs. They have a lot of bend, and they're strong off their hock. People have been sending me videos, and everybody's really happy. They are very similar to him in their body movement and the way they carry themselves."

As the duo earns wins across the country, we are reminded that these rare horses are not just winners, they are partners, teammates, and friends. Vanilla Wafer has been all of that and more for Duke and we wish them the best of luck in the next chapter.



*BRAVID, LATRICIA, AND VANILLA WAFER AT THE 2024 NFR.
PHOTO CREDIT: KENNETH SPRINGER, PHOTO COURTESY OF LATRICIA DUKE.*

Casey Tibbs Match of Champions Xtreme Broncs

FORT PIERRE, S.D., JUNE 7

SADDLE BRONC RIDING: FIRST ROUND:

1. RYDER SANFORD, 86 POINTS ON KORKOW RODEOS' KAMAKAZIE WINO, \$5,719;
2. SAGE NEWMAN, 84.5, \$4,385; 3. JAMES PERRIN, 82, \$3,241;
4. BRODY CRESS, 81.5, \$2,097;
5. (TIE) DAMIAN BRENNAN, SHORTY GARRETT, BAILEY SMALL AND BRODY WELLS, 81, \$906 EACH.

FINALS:

1. BRODY CRESS, 88.5 POINTS ON KORKOW RODEOS' JOKER POKER, \$5,084;
2. (TIE) SAGE NEWMAN AND BRODY WELLS, 87.5, \$3,177 EACH;
4. (TIE) DAMIAN BRENNAN AND SHORTY GARRETT, 85, \$635 EACH.

Total payoff: \$31,772.

Darby Xtreme Bareback

DARBY, MONT., JUNE 8

FIRST SECTION:

1. GARRETT SHADBOLT, 90.5 POINTS ON PICKETT PRO RODEO CO'S NETWORK GAZER, \$2,000;
2. MASON STULLER, 88.5, \$1,500; 3. SETH HARDWICK, 87, \$1,000; 4. COOPER COOKE, 86.5, \$500.

SECOND SECTION:

1. TAYLOR BROUSSARD, 88 POINTS ON PICKETT PRO RODEO COMPANY'S SO FANCY, \$2,000;
2. MASON CLEMENTS, 86.5, \$1,500; 3. (TIE) JACOB LEES AND NICK PELKE, 86, \$750 EACH.

THIRD SECTION:

1. CLAY JORGENSEN, 88.5 POINTS ON J BAR J'S HELL ON HOOVES, \$2,000;
2. (TIE) COLT ECK AND JESS POPE, 87, \$1,250 EACH; 4. DEAN THOMPSON, 86.5, \$500.

FINALS:

1. JESS POPE, 91.5 POINTS ON PICKETT PRO RODEO CO'S UNCAPPED, \$12,111;
2. NICK PELKE, 90.5, \$9,175; 3. MASON CLEMENTS, 90, \$6,606;
4. (TIE) CLAY JORGENSEN AND MASON STULLER, 88.5, \$3,487 EACH; 6. JACOB LEES, 88, \$1,835.

Total payoff: \$68,725.

Music City Rodeo

NASHVILLE, TENN., MAY 29-31

ALL-AROUND COWBOY: STETSON WRIGHT, \$6,378, SADDLE BRONC RIDING AND BULL RIDING.

BAREBACK RIDING: 1. SAM PETERSEN, 88 POINTS ON BROOKMAN RODEO'S LUNATIC HEAVEN, \$8,284;

2. TILDEN HOOPER, 87.5, \$6,351; 3. ROCKER STEINER, 87, \$4,694;

4. (TIE) WAYLON BOURGEOIS AND COLE FRANKS, 86.5, \$2,485 EACH;

6. MASON STULLER, 86, \$1,381; 7. (TIE) RICHMOND CHAMPION, GARRETT SHADBOLT AND KADE SONNIER, 85.5, \$644 EACH.

STEER WRESTLING: 1. ROWDY PARROTT, 3.7 SECONDS, \$5,217;

2. (TIE) STETSON JORGENSEN, DARCY KERSH AND TALON ROSELAND, 3.8, \$4,058 EACH;

5. (TIE) JESSE BROWN, CLAYTON CULLIGAN AND WILL LUMMUS, 4.0, \$2,782 EACH;

8. (TIE) ELI LORD AND COLE WALKER, 4.1, \$1,913 EACH;

10. (TIE) JAKE HOLMES AND MIKE MCGINN, 4.2, \$1,304 EACH;

12. (TIE) GARY GILBERT AND HOLDEN MYERS, 4.3, \$870 EACH;

14. CHANCE HOWARD, 4.4, \$522; 15. RILEY DUVALL, 4.5, \$348

TEAM ROPING: 1. CODY SNOW/HUNTER KOCH, 3.8 SECONDS, \$6,588 EACH;

2. (TIE) COLEMAN PROCTOR/LOGAN MEDLIN AND TANNER TOMLINSON/TRAVIS GRAVES, 3.9, \$5,490 EACH;

4. (TIE) BRENTEN HALL/KADEN PROFILI AND NELSON WYATT/JONATHAN TORRES, 4.0, \$4,173 EACH;

6. (TIE) JEFF FLENNIKEN/BUDDY HAWKINS II AND COY RAHLMANN/COLE CURRY, 4.1, \$3,294 EACH;

8. SLADE WOOD/CASHTON WEIDENBENER, 4.3, \$2,635;

9. (TIE) LIGHTNING AGUILERA/WYATT COX, DAWSON GRAHAM/DILLON GRAHAM AND KOLBY KRIEGER/MICHAEL FORTENBERRY, 4.4, \$1,830 EACH;

12. JAMES ARVISO/LOGAN MOORE, 4.5, \$1,318;

13. (TIE) JR. DEES/COLEBY PAYNE AND JAKE SMITH/DOUGLAS RICH, 4.6, \$769 EACH; 1

5. KOBY SANCHEZ/COREY REID, 4.7, \$439.

SADDLE BRONC RIDING: 1. SAGE NEWMAN, 87 POINTS ON PENTHOUSE PRO RODEO'S BAD HABITS, \$8,347;

2. (TIE) CHASE BROOKS, JAKE FINLAY AND STATLER WRIGHT, 86.5, \$4,730 EACH;

5. (TIE) BRODY CRESS, BRODY WELLS AND RYDER WRIGHT, 85.5, \$1,484 EACH;

8. (TIE) DARCY RADEL, RIGGIN SMITH AND ZEKE THURSTON, 85, \$278 EACH.

TIE-DOWN ROPING: 1. TUF COOPER, 7.2 SECONDS, \$6,345; 2. JOEL HARRIS, 7.4, \$5,499; 3. ANDREW BURKS, 7.6, \$5,076;

4. (TIE) JOHN DOUCH, KINCADE HENRY, ROY LEE, LANE LIVINGSTON AND CORY SOLOMON, 7.7, \$3,384 EACH;

9. HAVEN MEGED, 7.8, \$2,115; 10. RILEY ISTRE, 8.0, \$1,692; 11. PECOS TATUM, 8.3, \$1,481; 12. LUCAS POTTER, 8.9, \$1,269;

13. CASH ENDERLI, 9.1, \$846; 14. BRUSHTON MINTON, 9.2, \$635; 15. CHANCE OFTEDAHL, 9.4, \$423.

BARREL RACING: 1. MAKENZIE MAYES, 12.94 SECONDS, \$8,016;

2. MARGO CROWTHER, 13.09, \$6,413; 3. SHARIN HALL, 13.12, \$5,211; 4. JULIE PLOURDE, 13.17, \$4,008; 5. JORDAN DRIVER, 13.26, \$3,207;

6. TAYCIE MATTHEWS, 13.29, \$2,405; 7. EMILY BEISEL, 13.32, \$2,004; 8. TASHA WELSH, 13.36, \$1,804;

9. SISSY WINN, 13.38, \$1,603; 10. HEATHER CLEMONS, 13.42, \$1,403; 11. (TIE) BAILEY BELOW AND CHLOE GRAY, 13.44, \$1,102 EACH;

13. WENDA JOHNSON, 13.46, \$802; 14. PAIGE JONES, 13.49, \$601; 15. KATIE HALBERT, 13.51, \$401.

BULL RIDING: 1. WACEY SCHALLA, 88 POINTS ON KORKOW RODEOS' WASTED NIGHTS, \$8,319;

2. STETSON DELL WRIGHT, 87, \$6,378; 3. TRACE SCARLAVAI, 86.5, \$4,714;

4. (TIE) DUSTIN BOQUET, BRAYDAN KILCREASE AND MAVERICK SMITH, 86, \$2,126 EACH;

7. BRYCE JENSEN, 84.5, \$1,109; 8. AVERY MULLINS, 84, \$832.

Total payoff: \$292,671.

‘BE TRUE TO YOURSELF’: CNFR CHAMPION COOPER FILIPEK ON WINNING, WISDOM, AND WHAT’S NEXT

By Teal Stoll

COOPER FILIPEK, 2025 NIRA WORLD CHAMPION BAREBACK RIDERS. ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF KBULLARD.MEDIA.



WE CAUGHT UP WITH RECENTLY CROWNED BAREBACK RIDING CHAMPION, COOPER FILIPEK, ABOUT WHERE THE ROAD LEADS FROM HERE.

2025 GILLETTE COLLEGE graduate Cooper Filipek can add another line to his impressive résumé: College National Champion. With an 82.5-point ride earning him the win in Round 1 and another 82.5 topping Round 2, Filipek’s 83.5 in the Short Go was the icing on the cake and earned him the win in the Average.

What makes this young cowboy so unique is not his talent inside the arena, but the person he is outside the arena. Filipek is true to himself and has strong beliefs about who he wants to be in life. With his trademark yellow hat and friendly demeanor, Filipek has quickly built a huge fan base.

The Rapid City, South Dakota, cowboy



grew up immersed in the culture of rodeo and quickly developed an interest in rodeo. He tried a few events, but in high school, his talent for bareback riding began to shine. After qualifying for the National High School Finals Rodeo three consecutive years, Filipek attended his first year of college at Mesalands Community College in Tucumcari, New Mexico.

Although the experience was valuable, ultimately, he made his way back to South

Dakota for surgery to repair an old injury. Filipek knew Marvin Garrett was the rough stock coach at Gillette College — which also happened to be a bit closer to home than Tucumcari. After reaching out to Garrett, Filipek found a new home on the Gillette College Rodeo Team.

For the next two years, he qualified for the CNFR. In the fall of 2024, he was unable to compete, leaving him just the spring rodeos to qualify for one final CNFR. After winning four of the five rodeos in spring 2025, Filipek clinched his qualification in just one semester's worth of rodeos.

All of that grit paid off and Filipek got to make the victory lap on the final night in Casper, Wyoming, where he was crowned the CNFR Bareback Riding Champion. What does Filipek have to say about this major milestone?

"It feels pretty good. My phone hasn't quit blowing up since! I definitely put a lot of time and effort into it. I feel pretty blessed to have the situation go the way it did and have the opportunities I've had. The title itself is just a title, but the accomplishment was pretty big."

Although it was not his first time competing on that big of a stage, the moment felt surreal to the South Dakota cowboy.

"The whole crowd was blowing up and I was a little out of breath. I had a lot of emotions running, but was just smiling."

Coming into the CNFR, Filipek had his focus set on the end goal, but was taking it one ride at a time.

"I wasn't riding the best before I came or maybe I wasn't drawing the best and felt like I wasn't riding that well. I had a few days off before the CNFR and I came home and got ready. All I was thinking about was riding every horse, picking them up, not skipping a gear, and building my ride. Taking care of business was the main thing."

As for the future, Filipek is going to see where 2025 takes him. With certificates in lucrative trade industries, he has set himself up for long-term success. As of June 24, with a little over \$5,000 won towards the

PRCA World Standings, Filipek is currently "unranked." That means very little in the big picture, with so many lucrative summer and fall rodeos right around the corner. Like many cowboys, Filipek's sights are set on the biggest event in the sport: the National Finals Rodeo in Las Vegas.

"I'm done with school. I'll probably hit the road and see where it takes me. Summer hasn't even really started yet, so we're going to see what we can do and make the best of it. Making the NFR feels a little far-fetched with how the winter went, but we'll see what we can make of the summer and fall and see where we end up by October 1."



Filipek has battled through injuries and recoveries, but has never stopped looking towards the future. Rodeo is all about strategy and if one door closes, he knows another will open.

"Since my winter didn't start out too well and I was injured, I was just going to see how much money I can get saved up and maybe we'll hit it hard in the next couple weeks and see where I end up. If I can win some money and jump in the standings, I'll probably try to keep hitting it as hard as I can. I definitely want to be set up good enough this year to try to make the NFR next year if I don't this year."

Filipek wanted to extend a special thank you to Marvin Garrett, his dad, Matt Hughes, and the countless other people who have helped along his journey.

In typical Filipek fashion, he left us with some powerful words of wisdom for a 22-year-old:

"If you believe in it and you try your hardest at it, you do whatever you can to be honest to yourself, things will work out in life. Not just rodeo, but in life in general. Be true to yourself and everything will work out the way you need it to."



CNFR

CASPER, WYOMING

2025 FINALS RESULTS

WOMENS ALL-AROUND NATIONAL CHAMPION

HAIDEN THOMPSON, GILLETTE COLLEGE, 250.0 POINTS

MENS ALL-AROUND NATIONAL CHAMPION

BRAD MORENO, NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY, 255.0 POINTS

SADDLE BRONC NATIONAL CHAMPION

JAMES PERRIN, CASPER COLLEGE, 324.5 POINTS

BAREBACK NATIONAL CHAMPION

COOPER FILIPEK, GILLETTE COLLEGE, 325.0 POINTS

BULL RIDING NATIONAL CHAMPION

TRACE SCARLAVAI, MIDPLAINS COLLEGE, 242.5 POINTS

TIE DOWN ROPING NATIONAL CHAMPION

TYLER CALHOUN, SOUTHWEST TEXAS COLLEGE, 38.7

CNFR

CASPER, WYOMING

2025 FINALS RESULTS

STEER WRESTLING NATIONAL CHAMPION

CAMERON HAUMEA, SUL ROSS UNIVERSITY, 20.6

TEAM ROPING NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

**CASON RICHEY, TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY, & CASHTON WEIDENBENER,
WEATHERFORD COLLEGE, 26.2**

BARREL RACING NATIONAL CHAMPION

ACEY PINKSTON, SOUTHWEST TEXAS COLLEGE, 56.23

BREAKAWAY NATIONAL CHAMPION

KATE EILAND, PEARL COLLEGE, 10.0 & RYLEE GEORGE, TEXAS A&M COMMERCE, 10.0

GOAT TYING NATIONAL CHAMPION

TORI BROWER, TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY, 24.5

FULL RESULTS AT WWW.COLLEGERODEO.COM

WYOMING NATIVE EARNS COLLEGE CHAMPIONSHIP & SETS HER SIGHTS ON PRO CAREER: “JUST GOING TO DO MY JOB”

WE CAUGHT UP WITH WYOMING NATIVE, HAIDEN THOMPSON, AS SHE HEADED INTO HER FINAL COLLEGE NATIONAL FINALS RODEO (CNFR) AND AGAIN AFTER SHE CAPPED OFF HER COLLEGE CAREER WITH ANOTHER ALL-AROUND CHAMPIONSHIP.

By Teal Stoll



HAIDEN THOMPSON & “FOXY” WERE A 1.7 ON SATURDAY, JUNE 21ST IN THE SHORT GO. ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF KB.MEDIA.

CNFR BOUND

THOMPSON competed for Gillette College in the Central Rocky Mountain Region, where the Women’s Team once again reigned as year-end champions. Finishing in the top 10 in the region in barrel racing and team roping, the multi-event cowgirl competed in the breakaway roping and goat tying at the CNFR. She earned the All-Around Championship, winning the region by nearly 700 points.

As she entered the arena for her final rodeo as a college athlete, we talked about memories, goals, and what will come next for this cowgirl.

“My freshman year, I had a great finals. I ended up winning the All Around that year, so that was a pretty special year for me,” Thompson explained.

She claimed several titles at her first CNFR, including Breakaway Roping Rookie, Goat Tying Rookie, Rookie of the Year, and Women’s All Around. A dominant competitor in junior

and high school rodeo, Thompson's success at the college level was no surprise.

In rodeo, however, things do not always go as planned. Thompson has experienced the highs and lows of the sport, but her mental game has been key to long-term success. Staying grounded has helped the talented cowgirl ride those waves.

"Last year (at the CNFR) didn't go the way I wanted it to. I ended up third in the goats, so it was still a good year. This year I'm going into the finals competing in the goats and the breakaway. I'm just going to keep it simple. My plan is to do my job and do the best I can do and let the chips fall where they may."

With her mindset for 2025 built on simplicity and intention, Thompson felt mentally prepared to take on the pinnacle of college rodeo.

"It's just another rodeo and my horses have all been working great, so I'm just going to go out there and do my job and hopefully it all works out. This will be my last college finals. I'm planning on going pro and hopefully I can make a living out there doing that," she explained.

TIME FOR A CHANGE

Thompson took the time to carefully consider the decision to cut her college career short. With breakaway roping opportunities growing exponentially over the past several years, she is ready to chase bigger goals.

"I know you're only in college for so long, but being at the college finals this year, I don't get to go to Sisters, Oregon or Nampa, Idaho. All those big ones out there in the West, I'm kind of missing out on and those are all bucket list rodeos. So I think it will be

cool to go and experience that."

Competing at select professional events last year on her permit, Thompson has purchased her WPRA card and designated 2025 as her Rookie Year. She found plenty of success last year, earning the coveted Women's Professional Rodeo Association World Finals All-Around Championship, but wants to focus on learning the ropes at the next level.

"I didn't go to a ton of rodeos this spring, just enough to where I can get into the big ones this summer. I'm actually going to go with Martha Angelone a bit this summer. I'm excited because she's been there, done that and she can kind of show me the tips and tricks along the way."



Balancing a collegiate career and professional rodeo has proved challenging and Thompson is eager to put her full attention on developing the next phase of her rodeo career.

"Last year, I just went to a handful of rodeos and filled my permit, so this is my rookie year. It has been a lot trying to do both. Last fall, I was flying up north to make it to the college rodeos and had to really rely on siblings and my family to help me out. They took horses to the rodeos and let me ride some of my sisters and brothers horses. It was a lot trying to be at both places at the same time. It wasn't fair to my horses, trying to make them drive 12 hours to college rodeo and then back. I decided that next year it would just be best if I stuck to one or the other."

WHAT ELSE WILL THE FUTURE HOLD?

Adding to her already full schedule, Thompson has also found success in the aged events. With new doors opening in the breakaway roping futurities, she plans to

continue attending those in the future.

"I still go to as many futurities as I can. I personally don't have any futurity horses right now. I kind of had a rough last year with horses, either getting hurt or just odds and ends that didn't really work out like they were supposed to. I would like to get some more futurity horses of my own going because there's just so much money and the futurities are so much fun. It definitely is hard to keep those horses going while you're out here rodeoing, but it's something I like doing. I ride a lot of other people's horses, which makes it fun," she told us.

GOING OUT WITH A BANG

Chatting again after her big week in Casper, Wyoming, at the CNFR, Thompson told us about the runs that led to her final college championship. She started the week off tying for third-place in the first round of the breakaway roping. Things went amiss in the first round of the goat tying and the second round of the breakaway roping, but Thompson rallied back on Wednesday. After finishing second in the second and third rounds of the goat tying, a tie for fifth in the breakaway capped off the week.

Thompson went into the short round in the last hole of the breakaway roping and barely missed making the short round in the goat tying. With an electric 1.7-second run in the short round, she sealed the Women's All-Around Championship.

"It was cool to go out with a bang. It definitely wasn't ideal (with some runs going awry early in the week), but I knew I had nothing to lose and I was just going to make the best runs I could and go for the rounds. It was pretty special to do it twice, especially in my last year."

Thompson wanted to extend a special thanks to her family, who supported her throughout the week, her brother for giving her a mount at circuit rodeos during the CNFR, and her coaches and team members.



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NEWS BITES

ROCKER STEINER AND THE COWBOY CHANNEL MAKE EXCITING ANNOUNCEMENT.

By Teal Stoll



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE COWBOY CHANNEL'S WEBSITE.

FOR THOSE FULLY IMMERSED in the rodeo lifestyle, the jarring reality of spending most of the year on the road is considered normal. Beyond our tight-knit community, it seems almost unfathomable. Each year, the best in the world rack up thousands of miles of travel to compete in the grueling sport.

Many professional rodeo cowboys and cowgirls leave home for months at a time, crisscrossing the U.S. and Canada. Not only is the extensive travel exhausting, what happens inside the arena is not for the faint of heart.

While the cameras flash for the action inside the arena, what happens behind the scenes is something very few get an intimate glimpse of. During a recent interview on The Cowboy Channel, bareback rider Rocker Steiner announced a sensational collaboration with the network.

Hell On Wheels will premiere this fall, giving viewers a documentary-style look at the road to the Wrangler National Finals Rodeo. Steiner explained the inspiration for the series: the idea of traveling with his friends in a bus, while a camera crew followed their journey. Beginning at the Cheyenne Frontier Days, the adventures of Steiner, Waylon Bourgeois, and Cole Franks will be documented by The Cowboy Channel.

Steiner felt the title perfectly captured the group's dynamic. The 21-year-old cowboy is known for his electric style in the arena. Already nearing \$1 million in career earnings, he came within striking distance of his first World Championship in 2024. Gaining momentum in early 2025, Steiner is on a roll and chasing that goal once again.

NEWS BITES

LEGENDARY SADDLE BRONC RIDER BILL SMITH PASSES AWAY.

By Teal Stoll

PRORODEO HALL OF FAME cowboy and three-time World Champion Saddle Bronc Rider, Bill “Cody” Smith, passed away on Sunday, June 1, 2025, in Thermopolis, Wyoming. Born in Bearcreek, Montana, on June 28, 1941, Smith lived a legendary life.

A 13-time Wrangler National Finals Rodeo qualifier, Smith had an incredible career at the most elite level. He was later inducted into the Montana Pro Rodeo Hall of Fame, the Wyoming Cowboy Hall of Fame, and more. Retiring from riding bucking horses in 1978, Smith was not yet ready to retire from rodeo fully.

In his early retirement, in North Platte, Nebraska, he produced a nightly PRCA rodeo. Running seven days a week from Memorial Day to Labor Day, Smith was able to foster another generation of rodeo through the production.

The final chapter of his life was in Thermopolis, Wyoming, pouring everything into the horses of the Wyoming Quarter Horse Ranch. Bill and his wife, Carole, sold their best through a semi-annual horse sale for nearly 40 years.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Glen H. and Edna M. Smith; father-in-law Jim O'Rourke; mother-in-law Phyllis O'Rourke; sister Eileen Smith; brothers-in-law Russell Reid and Jim Fike; nephew Tom Wipplinger; and niece Lori Coy.

He is survived by his wife, Carole Smith; his siblings, Barbara Reid of Cody, Wyoming, Chuck Smith of Billings, Montana, Diane Fike of Lander, Wyoming, Jim Smith of Sheridan, Wyoming, and Rick (Lynn) Smith of Douglas, Arizona; and by his brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law, Kathy (Clyde) Funk of Livingston, Montana, Craig (Barbara) O'Rourke of Worland, Wyoming, and John (Laurel) O'Rourke of Sheridan, Montana. Additionally, he is survived by Bill and Carole's devoted nephew, Reid (Jenn) O'Rourke of Thermopolis, Wyoming, along with a large extended family of nieces, nephews, great-nieces and nephews, and great-great-nieces and nephews.

A celebration of life will be held in conjunction with the Cody Bill Classic Bronc Match on July 28, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. in Cody, Wyoming, at the Cody Stampede Rodeo Grounds.

Our entire Rodeo Report team sends sincere condolences to Bill's family and loved ones during this difficult time.



*BILL SMITH AND HIS INFAMOUS GOLD SEAL HAMLEY.
PHOTO COURTESY OF THE SMITH FAMILY.*

Teal Stoll

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TETON RIDGE ANNOUNCES HISTORIC ABSOLUTE DISPERSAL OF LEGENDARY WESTERN PERFORMANCE HORSES

LANDMARK SALE TO TAKE PLACE SEPTEMBER 29, 2025, AT TR9 RANCH IN WEATHERFORD, TEXAS.

Press release via Western Bloodstock

WEATHERFORD, TEXAS (JUNE 25, 2025) – Teton Ridge, a leading Western sports and entertainment company, will host an absolute dispersal of its performance horse bloodlines on September 29, 2025, at TR9 Ranch in Weatherford, Texas, with horse viewing available the day prior on September 28. This one-day sale will feature a lineup of championship-caliber horses from one of the most respected programs in the Western performance world.

This exclusive dispersal represents a planned conclusion of Teton Ridge's active breeding and sales program, as the company refocuses its efforts on expanding its footprint across Western sports, media, and live events. From the recent acquisition of The Cowboy Channel, giving Teton Ridge the largest portfolio of exclusive PRCA media rights, to the pages of Cowboys & Indians magazine and leadership in Pro Fantasy Rodeo, to the production of flagship events such as The American Rodeo and upcoming The American Performance Horseman, Teton Ridge has become a cultural and entertainment powerhouse in the Western world.

Since its inception, Teton Ridge has made an undeniable impact on Western sports through the strategic acquisition and development of some of the most influential horses ever to enter the arena. Teton Ridge's breeding program has redefined the genetic future of Western performance horses, producing championship bloodlines that will endure for generations.

"Our performance horse program has been foundational to Teton Ridge's growth and identity," said Deirdre Lester, CEO of Teton Ridge. "This next step allows us to honor that legacy while evolving with intention, expanding our focus across Western sports, media, and live experiences, and continuing to support the equine athletes and communities that are core to the culture we're helping shape."

At the center of that success is TR9 Ranch, a premier facility that has been home to industry-defining athletes, including:

- Smooth Talkin Style ("Talker"), ranked among the Top 10 Leading Sires with offspring earnings of more than \$9 million in cutting and reined cow horse competition
- Third Edge, 2022 NCHA Open Horse of the Year, 2022 NCHA Open Derby Champion, and 2023 inductee into the NCHA Open Hall of Fame.

Beyond the show pen, Teton Ridge has consistently set new standards in elite sales. At the 2024 Western Bloodstock NCHA Futurity Preferred Breeders Sale, yearling Spice Tag, daughter of the legendary All Spice captivated the industry, selling for \$335,000 as the event's high seller. Year after year, Teton Ridge horses continue to dominate the market and reinforce the power, prestige, and consistency of the program.

"We are proud of what we've built and the horses that have become synonymous with our program," said John Sanislow, general manager of TR9 Ranch. "Now, we are honored to open the gates and share that opportunity with others."

For more information and updates on the Teton Ridge Absolute Dispersal, please visit <https://www.westernbloodstock.com>.

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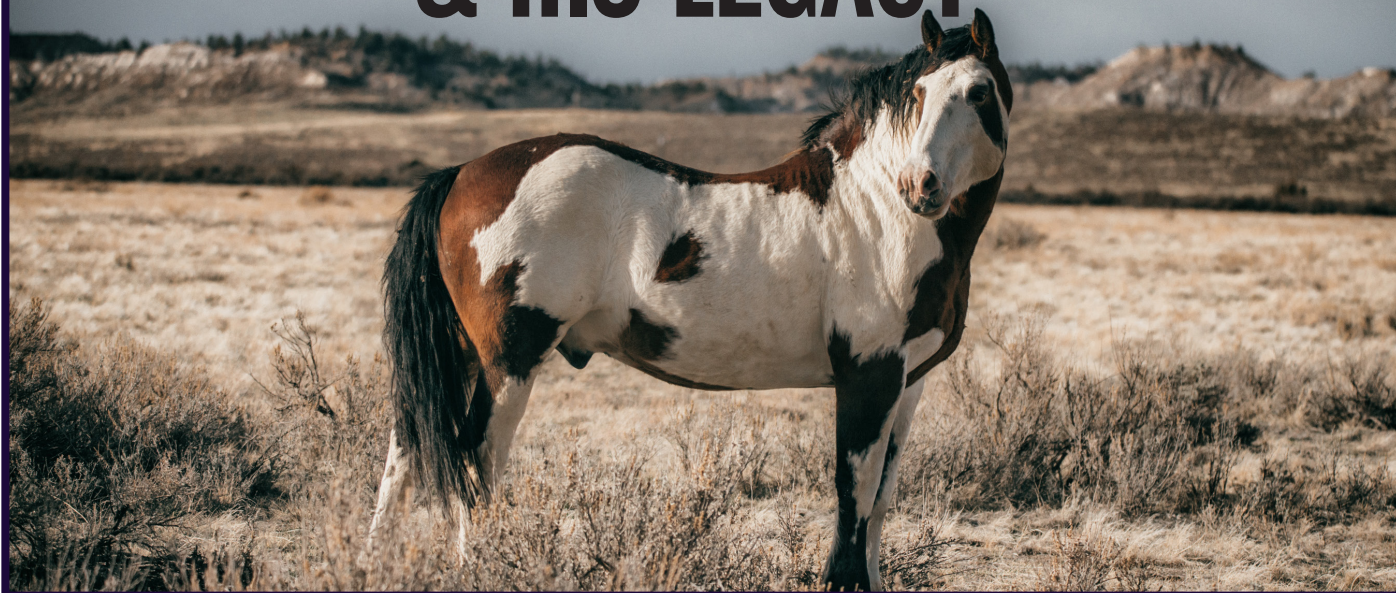
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LUNATIC FRINGE & HIS LEGACY



By Teal Stoll

LUNATIC FRINGE (2002-2025). PHOTO CREDIT: CHRIS DOUGLAS. ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF BURCH RODEO CO.

AFTER THE PASSING OF SUPERSTAR BUCKING HORSE LUNATIC FRINGE, WE CAUGHT UP WITH ANNA BURCH OF BURCH RODEO COMPANY TO DISCUSS WHAT THE FUTURE LOOKS LIKE FOR THE WYOMING ROUGHSTOCK CONTRACTORS.

IN EVERY INDUSTRY, THERE ARE "GREATS",

and while some may get the full focus of the spotlight, others can be easily overlooked. The bucking horses in the rough stock events of rodeo are one of the most misunderstood characters of any sport. Bred to buck, but with all the intelligence of a saddle horse, bucking stock are unique in every way. Although they buck fiercely in the arena, many are gentle and kind in disposition. Like any other equine athlete, they simply love their job and do it with fervor. The contractors who breed and raise these horses give them the best lives one could imagine, with impeccable care.

As the generations pass, rodeo fans and athletes alike revere certain animals who set themselves apart from the rest. One of those special horses was Lunatic Fringe (2002-2025). The standout paint stallion was flashy in looks, massive in stature, and legendary in the arena. Not only did he alter the lives of everyone in the Burch Rodeo Company, he changed the



lives of countless cowboys by taking them to the winner's circle repeatedly. Not only did athletes know they could pull a check if they drew Lunatic Fringe, his offspring quickly followed in his footsteps.

Lunatic Fringe was born and raised on the Burch Ranch in Rozet, Wyoming. Wearing the brand "299," the tri-colored paint was initially that year's second-string stallion pick

for the Burchs. One of life's many plot twists led to him taking the number one position as a stallion. Some of his most notable offspring, including Lunatic From Hell, proved his ability as a producer. Siring two World Champion bucking horses and multiple NFR qualifiers, his legacy is remarkable.

Lunatic Fringe went to his first National Finals Rodeo as a four-year-old. That year, and the following year, he competed as a bareback horse. At age six, he transitioned to saddle bronc riding. After he officially retired



from competition at the Buck 'n Ball in Gillette, Wyoming, in 2014, the stallion spent his final years at home on the ranch. In May 2025, he passed away at age 23.

Anna Burch of Burch Rodeo Company gave the Rodeo Report some extra insight on what it was like to own the larger than life paint stallion who left his mark on the industry.

WHAT SET LUNATIC FRINGE APART FROM OTHER BUCKING HORSES?

"Luni was human-like. He understood what was going on. There are so many examples. When we retired him, he took an extra lap around the arena looking behind the bucking chutes and nodding his head. I think he would have winked if he knew how! Burch Rodeo was awarded a plaque in his honor, so we took him to Deadwood just for the crowd. The bronc riders stayed next to the trailer before we let him out and Luni went into the arena, stopped, rolled, got up, shook, and walked back out. He was very kind, smart, and good looking. He was our quarterback."

WHAT IMPACT DID LUNATIC FRINGE HAVE ON YOUR PROGRAM?

"Burch Rodeo was known as Outa Line Equine with horses like the 2008 Saddle Bronc of the Year Blood Brother. When Lunatic Fringe went to a rodeo, you knew that you had the horse to win it. His offspring proved it too, like his son Lunatic From Hell, who was the 2018 Saddle Bronc of the Year. There are countless horses that have been selected to the National Finals Rodeo and won PRCA and Canadian Horse of the Year titles. Now his daughters are having another generation (of his bloodline). It would be interesting to total all of the money bronc

riders have won on him and his offspring."

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE MEMORY OR PERFORMANCE THAT ENCAPSULATES HIS LEGACY?

"My favorite memory would be when they won two go-rounds at the National Finals Rodeo in one year."

IN WHAT WAYS IS YOUR PROGRAM PIVOTING SINCE HIS PASSING? WHAT ARE YOUR NEXT STEPS?

"Years ago we took him to Timber Creek Veterinary Hospital where Dr. Gregg Veneklasen collected his semen and froze it for future generations to come. We also have a lot of daughters to breed to and cross with different outstanding bucking lines beyond the 'Fringe' bloodlines. We are excited every year to raise, buck, and hope to get one as good as he was. I am not holding my breath because he was one of a kind and we were so lucky to have him."

While horses like Lunatic Fringe do not come along every day, we are eager to see what his descendants will accomplish inside the arena. Rest in peace, Lunatic Fringe, your legacy will live on in your bloodline.





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OUR FIRST ISSUE WITH ASSOC. INDEX

The Rodeo Report, LLC is a new media source covering all things related to rodeo - at all levels. What does that mean? We are covering everything from association news of organizations all across the country, to pro-rodeos, to futurities, and everything in-between. We capture stories from both ends of the arena.

We have new associations joining everyday!



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The Rodeo Report can serve as a central location for all things related to your association. Our website will offer a content source for your association: news, membership info, results, you name it! We can host it. Content will be updated bi-weekly. A link to association news within every email blast will help grow recognition for your association, attract new members, and keep your current members in the know on all things happening within your association! Once a year, an association highlight will be placed in an issue also!

STAY TUNED!**STAY TUNED!****STAY TUNED!**