## 

June 2018

THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE AT MARTIN

## 50th UT Martin Rodeo

The excitement for the 50th anniversary of the UTM Rodeo definitely lived up to the hype. We had record breaking crowds that included former rodeo student-athletes from every decade. They saw wonderful pageantry from the 4-H Drill team on Thursday and Friday nights and a patriotic display from the Skyhawk Women's team opening Saturday night's championship round. The crowds also witnessed some terrific runs in the arena, highlighted by Kayla Lombardo winning the average in the breakaway roping and Raegan Taylor placing first in the barrel racing average.

Reflecting on the weekend Coach Luthi said, "The 50th UT Martin Rodeo was quite an event. It was great to see so many of our alumni back in town. Thank God we got through it and for the most part everything went well. Our home rodeo is always a tremendous amount of work but always fun. We are so thankful for all the help from the Rodeo Booster Club, the Athletic Department, the University, parents and volunteers. Praise God! We were blessed with great weather and fantastic crowds. We appreciate everyone coming together to make this a special event."



Above: Will McCraw







Top: Ethan Foster; middle: Raegan Taylor; bottom: Kameron Moore

-Photos courtesy of UT Martin University Relations

## 50th UT Martin Rodgo







Right: Houston Herbert

Left: Morgan Patton
Photos courtesy of UT Martin University Relations



No need to be superstitious, UT Martin was chosen as the Ozark Region's "Rodeo of the Year" for the 13th straight time. Actually 13 out of 13 times the award has been given out. Many thanks to all who pull together to make this happen!



## 2018 OZARK REGION "TOP 15"



#### MEN'S TEAMS

1. Missouri Valley College	6,463.33 points
2. The University of Tennessee at Martin	3,908.33 points
3. Southern Arkansas University	3,665 points
4. Pearl River College	3,020 points
5. East Mississippi College	2,760 points

#### **WOMEN'S TEAMS**

1. Missouri Valley College	2,805 points
2. University of Arkansas at Monticello	2,680 points
3. Southern Arkansas University	2,455 points
4. University of West Alabama	1,655 points
5. The University of Tennessee at Martin	1,560 points

#### MEN'S ALL-AROUND

9. Colton Mathews

720 points

3. Ryan McDaniel 320 points

#### BAREBACK RIDING

2. Jonny Walker 4. Houston Herbert

1,000 points

675

#### TIE DOWN ROPING

530 points 2. Chase Thrasher 220 points 9. Colton Mathews 150 points 13. Hunter Styles













# 2018 OZARK REGION "TOP 15"



#### STEER WRESTLING

4. Colton Mathews
5. Cord Barricklow
11. Robbie Van Holten
14. Ethan Foster
15. Chase Thrasher
420 points
320 points
1170 points
155 points

#### TEAM ROPING - HEELER

7. Patrick Houchins 240 points
11. Will McCraw 200 points
15. Hunter Styles 95 points

#### **BREAKAWAY ROPING**

12. Kayla Lombardo 185 points

#### TEAM ROPING - HEADER

4. Ross Mitchell
10. Clay Tilley
15. Robbie Van Holten
555 points
200 points
95 points

#### BARREL RACING

4. Ashley Brooks
5. Casey Allen
8. Raegan Taylor
10. Kenzley Wilson
14. Summer Conley
490 points
300 points
190 points
140 points

#### **COAT TYING**

8. Kayla Lombardo 260 points





The College National Finals Rodeo (CNFR) is the best of the best in college rodeo. It is where the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association crowns individual event champions in saddle bronc riding, bare back riding, bull riding, tie-down roping, steer wrestling, team roping, barrel racing, breakaway roping, and goat tying. National team championships are also awarded to both men's and women's teams. Over 400 cowboys and cowgirls from over 100 universities and colleges compete in Casper each year. Contestants compete all year in one of the NIRA's 11 regions for a chance to rope or ride at the CNFR.

The top three students-athletes in each event, and top two men's and women's teams from the NIRA's 11 regions will qualify for the CNFR.

The set up at the Finals is everyone competes in 3 go rounds. The top 12 return for the championship short go where the national champions are crowned.

According to Coach Luthi, "We are very thankful to be once again taking a team to the College Finals. I feel we have some very talented athletes going to Casper. I pray that they realize the CNFR is just like any other rodeo and that they don't have to alter their game plan. They can take it one go round at a time and strive to make the best runs and rides with what they have drawn. We do that, then in the end we can live with the results. God is in control, but we have to do our part too."

## Congratulations to the **2018 UT Martin qualifiers**.

Jonny Walker - bareback riding
Cord Barricklow - steer wrestling
Colton Matthews - steer wrestling
Chase Thrasher - tie down roping
Ross Mitchell - team roping-header
Ryan McDaniel - bull riding
Kenzley Wilson - barrel racing









Top: Ryan McDaniel at the 2017 CNFR; top-middle: Ross Mitchell at last year's College Finals short go (Photos courtesy of Hubbell Photography); bottom-left: Jonny Walker making a terrific spur ride; bottom-right: Kenzley Wilson at the 2018 UTM Rodeo.

## 50<sup>th</sup> Reunions

The weekend of the 50th UTM Rodeo was filled with reminiscing, laughter, and storytelling – some true and some almost true. A highlight was the Alumni Breakfast hosted by UT Martin's Office of Alumni Relations in the Hardy Graham Stadium's Champion's Club. Coach John Luthi, who has lead the Skyhawk Rodeo team the past 21 years, UTM's Athletic Director Kurt McGuffin and Chancellor Keith Carver addressed the attendees and spoke of the legacy of the program and 50 years of "Winning Tradition" of the rodeo team.











## **Crawfish Supper**





Top-left: Teyah, Molly, Savannah, and Miss Barbara serving crawfish; bottom-left: Sound man, Mark Evans, enjoys a plate of crawfish; top-right: Danelle Fabianich and Russ Finney; bottom-right: 2018 Crawfish Supper at the American Legion.





## Skyhawk Rodeo in the Community



Top: Jonny Walker, Houston Herbert, and Ryan McDaniel speaking at the UT Martin Daycare Center.



Rodeo clown, Dusty Myers, speaking at local schools.



Rodeo team members greeting students in the car line.

### \*\*\*FOLLOW THE TEAM!\*\*\*





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## GRADUATION





Hannah Mosley



McKenna Cox





