



Ozark Region Top 15

With the completion of 5 rodeos this fall, the UTM college rodeo season is half way finished. Listed below are the UTM student-athletes in the top 15 of the regional standings. The top 2 teams in each of the 11 regions plus the top 3 in each event qualify for the CNFR in Casper, Wyoming next June to compete for National Championships.

- Men's Team is 1st and Women's Team is 7th
- Lane Mitchell is 2nd in the Men's All-Around
- Bareback Riding: Tanner Phipps is 2nd, Houston Herbert - 4th and Coy Lutz - 6th
- Tie Down Roping: Lane Mitchell - 2nd, Slade Bronson - 4th, Ben Walker - 9th, and Trey Lloyd - 11th.
- Steer Wrestling: Slade Bronson - 8th and Trey Lloyd - 13th
- Team Roping Header: Tucker Kail - 2nd, Ben Walker 3rd, Trey Lloyd - 9th, Shara Adcock - 10th and Quentin Sawyer - 11th.
- Team Roping Heeler: Lane Mitchell - 1st, Clay Tilley - 2nd, Douglas Rich - 3rd, and Robbie Van Holten - 10th
- Barrel Racing: Kenzley Wilson - 4th, Ashley Brooks - 10th, Nealey Dalton - 11th, Kayla Edmondson - 12th, Megan Crow - 13th and Madison Crow - 14th
- Breakaway Roping: Natalie Fletcher - 3rd and Savannah Warner 7th.
- Goat Tying: Micayla Gray 6th and Kylie Brueggeman - 14th.



Top: Coach Luthi holds the trophy for the UT Martin men's team winning the Murray College Rodeo in November.

According to Coach Luthi, "We have had a number of people on both teams compete well this fall, and like any year some have not started as fast as they would have liked."

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"We are at the halfway point of our season, having competed at 5 of our 10 regional rodeos. Right now is the time for our student-athletes to concentrate on school and taking finals."

Our men's team has competed pretty well and is currently winning the Ozark Region. The women's team has also had a good first semester. They have not been as consistent as we need and it makes it difficult to determine which ones to put on the points team each week." (In college rodeo the coach must turn in the names of 6 men and 4 women, before the draw, to determine that rodeos point team). The women's team is sitting 7th in the region.

Continued Coach Luthi, "I feel both teams definitely have little things we can work on to make us even better. I am looking forward to the spring season. We need to keep working to improve our mental approach and fundamentals. We have plenty of work to do but I feel we are capable of having an outstanding finish to the season!"

OZARK REGION RODEO SCHEDULE 2016

MARCH 31, APRIL 1, 2

East Mississippi Community College
Thursday, Friday, Saturday

APRIL 7, 8, 9

University of Arkansas-Monticello
Thursday, Friday, Saturday

APRIL 14, 15, 16

University of Tennessee at Martin
Thursday, Friday, Saturday

APRIL 21, 22, 23

Northwest Mississippi Comm. College
Thursday, Friday, Saturday

APRIL 28, 29, 30

Cossatot Community College
Thursday, Friday, Saturday

**Keep up with UT Martin
Rodeo results on:
www.utmsports.com**

**Rep. Andy Holt honored the UT
Martin Men's National Championship
team at the Ag Pavilion with a framed
Proclamation from the State of Tennessee
House of Representatives.**



Top: County Mayor Jake Bynum, Coach Luthi, Natalie Fletcher, Ben Walker, Tanner Phipps, Nealey Dalton, Ashley Brooks, Coach Davis, Rep. Andy Holt, and interim chancellor Dr. Bob Smith.

Middle: Tanner Phipps, Ben Walker, Natalie Fletcher, Ms. Audrey Roberts, Nealey Dalton, Ashley Brooks, and UT Martin Rodeo Booster club president Katie White.

Bottom: Rodeo booster and Ag Pavilion manager, Mike Pierce Jr.

****MISSOURI VALLEY COLLEGE****
1ST RODEO OF THE NEW SEASON!



*Top: Brandi Pittman runs home in the barrel racing;
middle: Micayla Gray is ready to compete at MVC;
bottom: A new season begins!*

COMPETING AT
UNIVERSITY OF WEST ALABAMA



*Top: Ashley Brooks; middle: Cody Inman;
bottom: Hannah Mosley*

Working Hard in the Practice Pen!



Top: Houston Herbert; bottom left: Riley Bibbe; bottom right: Kenzley Wilson



*Top left: Natalie Fletcher; bottom left: Shara Adcock
Bottom: Nicole Laverde*

Top right: Micayla Gray; bottom right: Brandi Pittman



ANNUAL CHECKING OUT THE **ORANGE** VESTS!



Top left: Megan Crow, Madison Crow, and Raegan Taylor; top right: Hannah Mosley looks good in orange! bottom left: Coy Lutz styl'n in his new orange vest; middle: Houston Herbert checking his vest number; bottom right: Shara Adcock, Kelsey Bussell, and Alexandria Hancock.

GOING FOR A RIDE

David Pruitt

There seems to be electricity in the air. You can hear and almost feel the crash of the slide gates as the chutes are loaded up. You hear the yells of the Stock Contractor and the hands working the chutes as the stock is being crowded up, preparing them to go into the spotlight. You look around to see 8 to 12 other guys, some nervous, others totally focused, some even joking, but all preparing in their own way for the explosions to come.

You hear a shout; "Ought 33 is loaded, get your rope on". You know that's your ticket, it said so on the day sheets posted just inside the contestant area where you paid your fees. You've got to be careful when you're walking, the shanks on your spurs are a little longer than horse riding spurs and even more unforgiving. Woe is the cowboy that gets tangled up in his spurs, his buddies will wear him out.

The feel of the poly rope in your hand is good. The glycerin and the pine rosin that you applied earlier is good and sticky, ready to ride. The weight of the bell(s) on the rope assist you in dropping your rope down under your ride so your buddy can grab it and pull it up with a chute hook. The big bovine stands pretty easy, hopefully he'll stay that way, some sure don't. You step over into the chute, careful to keep your feet firmly on the slats and not letting your hooks get into him as your setting your rope to fit this particular beast. Tie that rope on good, don't want it to fall off while you're waiting. Not too tight, don't want him to chute soak too much, this might be a good buckner. They say his trip is two and to the right with a lot of down, this will be away from my hand. Gonna have to really cowboy up to get by this one. Not too bad of a hooker, just be sure you don't come off in front of him. He'll get with you if you do. Those horns aren't just there for show, he knows how to use them and you can be sure he knows exactly where the tips of them are. Those horns have been "tipped" or trimmed down. The point isn't there anymore, the tip is now about the size of a quarter, but still when backed with just under a ton of beef, they can penetrate places you don't want them to. Two things you need to know about bulls, they stink and they'll hurt you. Somehow you grow to love that smell though, well, tolerate it anyway. The "hurt you" part is another thing entirely.

Chap-up, stick your glove in your belt and now loosen up. The excitement increases as the announcer asks the crowd in a thunderous voice; "Are you ready for the Bull Riding!!?!?" More of a statement than a question. Of course, the old saying goes; "a bull rider is never ready, it's just his turn".

5 Time NFR Bull Riding Qualifier, Joe Wimberly from Cool, TX once gave an interview where he told what his mental preparation for this event was. Joe simply stated; "Loosen up, just relax and have fun; make your ride and get your money and go home" (or to the bar or down the road would be more accurate). Those words were echoing through my brain as I tried to emulate Joe's attitude. Ummm, this can be fun after all; just wish I'd worn my brown pants instead of these blue jeans. (You'll have to refer to Blue Collar Comedy Tour if you don't get that one.)

Loosen up and have fun; that's the ticket. Get the glove on. It's tight, teeth are required to get it on snugly. The taste of the rosin and leather is still on your teeth, don't taste all that bad, but you'll never find it on a menu anywhere I hope. Pull your hat down tight, pat some



more rosin in your gloved hand which is now tied to your wrist and you're up on the back of the chute. Careful with the gloved hand as you ease over in the chute. Get your feet where they need to be, ease your knees down on him where he'll know you're there, but also know you're not trying to hurt him, maybe he'll stand. Sure hope he'll stand, all this metal around you isn't really meant for human flesh and bones to be crushed against. You sling the excess of your chaps back over your legs, get it out of the way so you can work your rope. One of your buddies can be heard talking, he's not really talking to you, but never the less, he's talking. "A bull rider is in control, the power is in his hands and between his knees, he is the man".

You pull the tail on the rope which was holding it in place and hand it to the guy that's pulling for you. Your glove hand runs up and down the tail of the rope, heating up the rosin so it'll give you a good grip on the rope. You call for slack, tension on the rope is released, you get your hand into the rope and get it positioned so your hand is just on the side of his back bone and just behind the break in his shoulders. Glance over your shoulder into the arena as the Contractor points at you. The chute is unlatched after they put the twist rope into position and have the pull rope attached. Reach down with your free hand to grab the rope on his side; "pull" is what you hear yourself saying as the rope goes taught on your riding hand. "A little more" as you grab the tail from your buddy and run it through your gloved riding hand. The bull steps around in the chute, he knows the tension on the rope only means one thing and he's ready. As the rope is laid across your hand, you clamp down on it, then grab an inch or two and let it off, just for luck if for nothing else. Make the final wrap, glance back to see that the gate man is paying attention and slide up, putting your weight on the bull and trying to find a seat as you nod your face to "release the beast". The creak of the gate, the shout of the announcer and the roar of the crowd are oblivious to you, the power that is released commands your attention. The adrenaline that was coursing through your veins has now become a freight train and is highballing through your system. Your focus is on one thing, "ride". Keep your feet moving to the front, pull and push on your rope. Ride him jump for jump, that's the ticket, that's the ride. When it starts to feel good, loosen that outside spur and let him know you're there. You hear the horn signaling the end of the 8 seconds. You're tapped off good and want it to keep going, but you've made your ride so step off. If you don't land on your feet, then "Get Up Cowboy, Save your life"! Head to the nearest structure and pray that you didn't offend the bull fighters in a previous life. The roar of the crowd can now be heard in your head as the Announcer encourages their approval. At this moment, you've never felt more alive! That's it, that's why you do it, God this is awesome!



UT MARTIN RODEO TEAM 2015



Shara Adcock
Smithville, TN
Freshman



Riley Bibee
Adairville, KY
Junior



Slade Bronson
Jennings, FL
Senior



Ashley Brooks
South Fulton, TN
Sophomore



Kylie Brueggeman
Plainview, IL
Freshman



Kelsey Bussell
Cookeville, TN
Senior



Mckenna Cox
Mckenzie, TN
Sophomore



Cheyenne Crouch
Thompsons Station,
TN, Senior



Madison Crow
Kingston Springs, TN
Junior



Megan Crow
Kingston Springs, TN
Junior



Nealey Dalton
Adamsville, TN
Senior



Brooke Davis
Mechanicsville, VA
Freshman



Ben Doyle
Holton, KS
Sophomore



Sydney Dressler
Dodgeville, WI
Junior



Kayla Edmondson
Nolensville, TN
Sophomore



Vann Figgeroa
Lynchburg, TN
Sophomore



Natalie Fletcher
Knoxville, TN
Senior



Ethan Foster
Williamsport, TN
Freshman



Micayla Gray
Sikeston, MO
Senior



Alexandria Hancock
Morganfield, KY
Junior



Makayla Harrison
Damascus, VA
Senior



Houston Herbert
College Grove, TN
Sophomore



Caleb Hogan
Chapel Hill, TN
Freshman



Kurt Ingraham
Franklin, TN
Sophomore



Cody Inman
Prospect, TN
Senior



Tucker Kail
Gleason, TN
Junior



Nichole Laverde
Ellijay, GA
Freshman



Natalie Lindsey
Humboldt, TN
Freshman



Trey Lloyd
Olin, NC
Sophomore



Coy Lutz
Howard, PA
Freshman



UT MARTIN RODEO TEAM 2015



Ryan McDaniel
Yuma, TN
Freshman



Meredith McDonnell
Hermitage, TN
Senior



Rachel Metzger
Winfield, PA
Freshman



Lane Mitchell
Bolivar, TN
Senior



Sarah Montgomery
Petersburg, OH
Senior



Ellie Moore
Dubuque, IA
Freshman



Hannah Mosley
Cedar Hill, TN
Junior



Tanner Phipps
Dalton, GA
Grad Student



Brandi Pittman
Bogalusa, LA
Sophomore



Macy Randolph
Jefferson City, MO
Freshman



Douglas Rich
Herrick, IL
Junior



Quentin Sawyer
Whitewater, MO
Freshman



Hannah Stepp
Pontotoc, MS
Sophomore



Raegan Taylor
Camden, TN
Freshman



Simone Taylor
Lexington, TN
Freshman



Clay Tilley
Tuscumbia, AL
Freshman



Robbie Van Holten
Chesapeake, VA
Freshman



Ben Walker
Sparta, TN
Grad Student



Savannah Warner
Lenoir City, TN
Junior



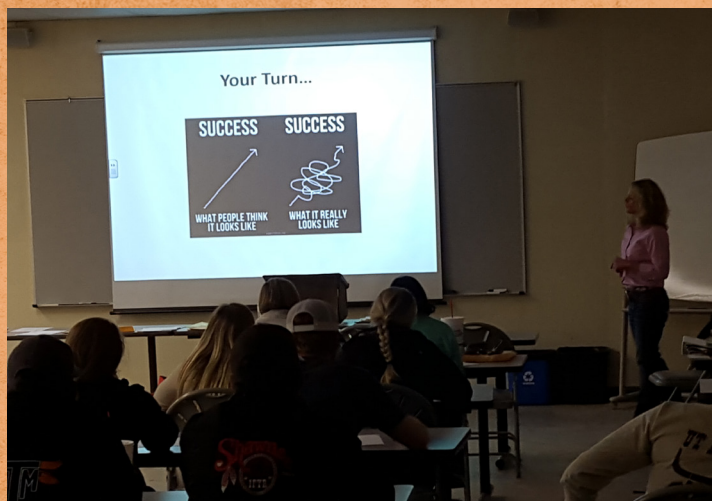
Kenzley Wilson
Black Oak, AR
Sophomore



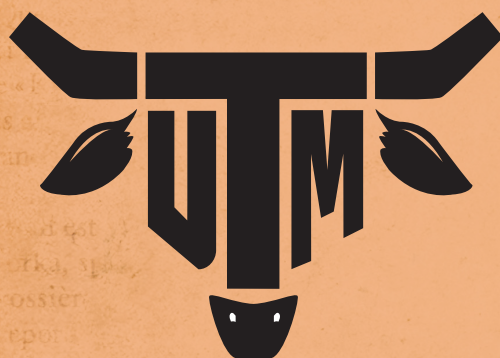
Save the Date!

2016
UTM RODEO

April 14, 15,
& 16!



Top: Dr. Nora Hunt-Lee Coach and Sports Consultant spoke to the team about goal setting and the true definition of Success. They learned a lot about the mental aspect of winning and how to consistently perform at a championship level. She reemphasized concepts the team had been going over all semester as well as presenting some new ideas and ways to look at things.



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Scotty NeSmith

I attended UTM from 2001-2005. I was raised in a rodeo family. My Dad, Wayne NeSmith had competed in every event in rodeo and later became a stock contractor, which he had done ever since I was born. My mom was the secretary at the rodeos that my dad put on. So rodeo was sort of a family affair when I was growing up. I high school rodeoed in TENNESSEE which is where I was introduced to Coach Luthi during my Junior year. Early in my senior year, Coach offered me a scholarship. With him believing in me so early in my career and my best friend growing up, Kelley Miller, planning on going to Martin, I chose to attend UTM.

At Martin I competed in Bareback, Steer Wrestling, Calf Roping and Team Roping (Heeler). My freshman year I won 3rd in the Bareback in the Ozark Region and qualified for my first CNFR. Later that summer I started traveling with Josh Shackelford. I remember a conversation Josh and I had while on the road. He was saying how much better I had been riding compared to a year ago and he was wondering why the sudden change. I told him I go to UTM for Coach Luthi and he has taught me so much.

At the start of my sophomore year I was sitting in the Vanderbilt Sports Medicine office. Nelson Davis told me "You won 3rd last year and this is going to be your year." I thought he was crazy up until that day I didn't think I was good enough, but after that I started asking myself, "someone's got to win, why not me." With the belief Nelson and Coach had in me, My confidence started to rise and by the end of the year, Nelson was right. I won the Bareback championship in the Ozark Region and my 2nd trip to the CNFR.

My Junior year we had such a great team. Josh and I battled back and forth all year with the championship coming down to the last ride at our home rodeo. We both drew great horses. Josh rode right before me. He



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

had Caption Buck of Mark Johnson's, one of my favorite horses of all time. Josh made one of the best rides I have ever seen to this day. He was 87 points and in my opinion could have been 92. I had J1 of Mark's one of the buckiest horses I have ever been on. I had been on him 5 or 6 times already and had only rode him good once, but that night I made a great ride for 85. Josh won the region, I won 2nd and Matt Bright won 3rd. UTM went 1, 2, 3 in the Bareback riding and the Men's team won the region with ease.

At the start of my Senior year, I set my goals high. I wanted to win the All-Around, so I worked hard on my roping and Steer Wrestling and all the hard work paid off. I had a great year, I won the All-Around, Bareback, 2nd in the Steer Wrestling and 4th in the calf roping in the region and qualified to my 4th CNFR.

After college I have continued to ride Bareback horses in the PRCA. Where I'm a 12 time circuit finals qualifier and Southeastern Circuit Bareback Champion. I also went to school to become an Equine Dental Technician. I'm now living in Waller Tx right outside of Houston. Where I'm using my Ag Business degree, as I'm a Landscape and Irrigation Superintendent for Cannon Companies. It's a Commercial Landscaping and Irrigation company and one of the owners is also a PRCA Bareback Rider so I get to Rodeo as much as I want. This April I married my beautiful wife Sara NeSmith. Our wedding was back home in East Tennessee and It was the best day of my life.

I came to UTM to become a better cowboy and I got so much more. I got a town that fully supports the rodeo team. A booster club that took me in and treated me like family. I also made a ton of lifelong friends. Coach Luthi did make me a better cowboy but he taught me so much more about life. Like how to be a better Man, a leader, a better Christian and so much more. I owe Coach so much for shaping me into the man I am today. Thank You Coach.

My advice to anyone who to thinking about attending UTM or anyone who is already on the Team. Martin is a great place full of wonderful, caring and loving people. Pay attention to Coach, he will make you a better cowboy/ cowgirl , but more than that he will teach you to be a better person.

2 time Ozark Region Bareback Champion
1 time Ozark Region All-Around Champion
4 time Qualifier to the CNFR
12 time PRCA Circuit Finals Qualifier
(Southeast and Prairie Circuit)
PRCA Southeast Circuit Bareback Champion

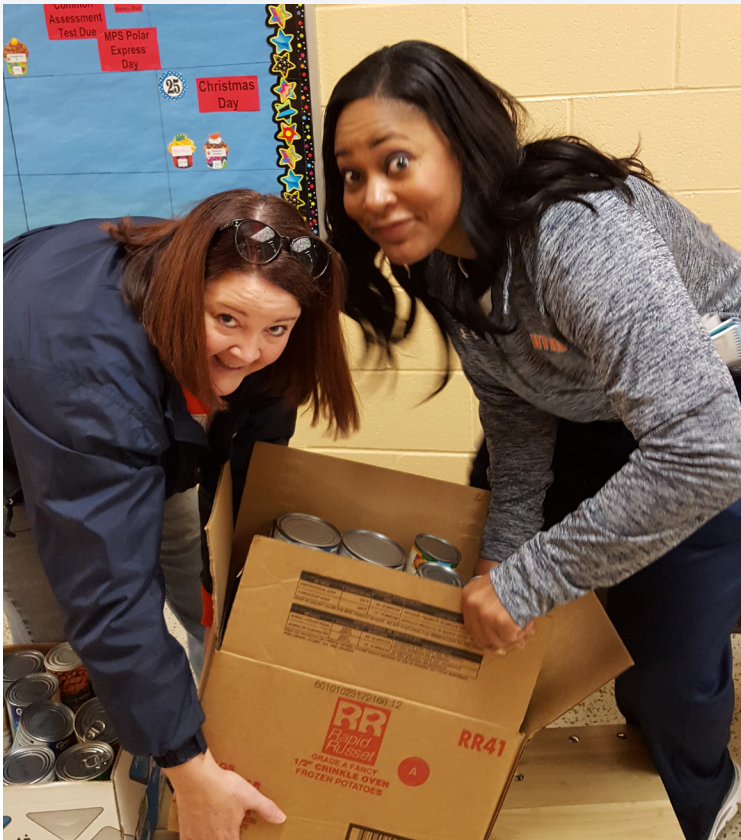
COACH LUTHI REMEMBERS...

“Scotty was very talented but worked hard to continue to improve. That same drive he had in college has helped him to continue to be successful in his career.

I am really glad to have Scotty featured. He has continued to be an asset to UT Martin and UT Martin Rodeo even after he graduated.”

CAN CARAVAN

Each Christmas season, the UT Martin Athletic Department hosts the Annual Can Caravan. The rodeo team helped pitch in with other members of the UT Martin Athletic staff to collect cans at Weakley County schools and deliver them to We Care. The class that brings in the most cans receives a pizza party. So far through athletics and the Caravan, we have delivered 10,768 food items to We Care.



Top left: UT Martin Athletic staff with Zan Wortham's winning class at Martin Primary; top right: UT Martin staff with Lindsey Combs winning class at Martin Elementary School.

Bottom left: Danielle Fabianich and Stacie Evans; bottom right: Coach Luthi and Micayla Gray help unload cans.

SANTA'S VILLAGE

Each year, the Ag Pavilion is transformed into Santa's Village and each year, the rodeo team volunteers to help out on opening night. Besides bright lights, snow and reindeer, Santa's Village collects thousands of canned goods for needy families in the area.

Right: Sarah Montgomery, Brandi Pittman, Micayla Gray, Coach Davis (Athletic Trainer, ATC/LAT), Tammi Swearingen, Kelsey Bussell, and Ashley Brooks.



REMEMBER THIS HANDOUT?

"It doesn't matter whether you think you can or you think you can't, you are always right!"

HENRY FORD

20 OF 46

RODEO TEAM MEMBERS

MADE THE DEAN'S LIST THIS SEMESTER!

UT THE UNIVERSITY OF
TENNESSEE

MARTIN