

# UT Martin Rodeo News

THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE AT MARTIN

June 2016



## Victory and Records Set!

The 48th Annual UT Martin College Rodeo came to a close and new records were set again. The Skyhawk cowboys recorded the most points at a single rodeo in Coach Luthi's 19 year tenure, on their way to claiming the championship title at their home rodeo. The UT Martin men's team romped its way to its third consecutive victory, tallying 1,245 out of a possible 2,865 points awarded to nine teams from the Ozark Region. The 1,245 points eclipsed the previous season-high of 835 points compiled at West Alabama on Oct. 8-10 and resulted in the fifth win in eight rodeos so far this season for the men's team. On the women's side, UT Martin tallied 85 points to finish in seventh place.

A new overall attendance record was again set at this year's UTM Rodeo, thanks in part to the largest Thursday night crowd on record. The enthusiastic crowd each night played a major role in the rodeo being voted Ozark Region "Rodeo of the Year" for the 11th straight time (11 out of 11 years!)

Coach Luthi points out that "We couldn't have the success we've had without so many people coming out to support the rodeo. I am so thankful for the great crowds, the nice weather and all the people who gave of their time to make sure the rodeo ran smoothly."



Above: Nealey Dalton turns the barrel in front of a packed house. Photo courtesy of UT Martin University Relations

Top: The women's team did an amazing job with the Grand Entry on Saturday night and Ashley Brooks rides with an American Flag; middle: Coy Lutz shows off his winning spur ride; bottom: Brian Superman White clowning around during the home rodeo. Photos courtesy of UT Martin University Relations.





*Top-left: Ryan McDaniel on one of Universal Rodeo's terrific bucking bulls; middle: Clay Tilley is ready to rope two feet. Photos courtesy of UT Martin University Relations; bottom: Ben Walker making his winning run at the 2016 UTM Rodeo. Photo courtesy of Bruce Photography.*

*Top-right: Celebrating Skyhawk rodeo!; middle: Barrel racing in front of a packed Friday night crowd; bottom: Tanner Phipps makes another outstanding spur ride. Photos courtesy of UT Martin University Relations.*



# Rodeo of the Year

For the 11th straight year and 11 out of 11 years, the UT Martin home rodeo was voted the “*Rodeo of the Year*” by the Ozark Region. We appreciate all the time and efforts by so many people in helping us put on a rodeo that runs so smoothly. We also are thankful for the huge, enthusiastic crowds that provide such a fun atmosphere for the fans and contestants alike.



*Shara Adcock ropes her calf to win the average. Photo courtesy of UT Martin University Relations.*





# Crawfish Supper

Each year the Rodeo Booster Club hosts the Annual Crawfish Supper at the American Legion the Wednesday before the UTM Rodeo. 2016 saw another awesome turnout and plates were stacked high with the “mud bugs”. It’s fun to see current and past Skyhawk rodeo team members, booster club members, old friends and people from the community join together for a fun evening of stories, laughter and crawfish!



*Top: Crawfish with all the fix'ins; middle: UTM cowgirl, Alexandria Hancock, about to down a plate of crawfish!; bottom: A packed American Legion Hall.*



*Top: Plenty of crawfish for everyone!; bottom: Tina Finney at the Crawfish Supper.*



# RODEO BOOSTER CLUB BBQ & AUCTION

Sponsored by Edward Jones



*Top Row (L to R): 2016 Rodeo Queens and our auctioneers; Family fun; Never know who will show up! Jerry Rogers, Tyler Waltz and Jake Vincent; Perfect day in downtown Martin.*

*Bottom Row (L to R): Great Booster Club Members, Mike Pierce, Bob Robinson, Steve Taylor and James Davis; Great food and hard-working women serving it!; Steve Taylor and Russ Finney solving all the world's problems; UTM cowboy and auctioneer, Tucker Kail. All photos courtesy of Lynette Wagster of the Weakley County Press.*

## RODEO HALL OF FAME

The Rodeo team's Hall of Fame is reserved for the individuals who were outstanding performers during their years of wearing the orange vest for the UTM rodeo team.

"What an honor to induct brother and sister, Ross Lowry and Jolyn Lowry King into our UT Martin Rodeo Hall of Fame," remarked Coach John Luthi. "They were both very successful at UTM and in professional rodeo as competitors in the arena and on the production side."

*Left: Jolyn and Ross with their 2016 Rodeo Hall of Fame plaques.*





# Rodeo Week School Visits

Each year during “Rodeo Week” different rodeo team members volunteer to speak and do demonstrations at area schools or interview on local radio stations. They talk about rodeo as a sport, the importance of goal setting and the value of an education, plus many other topics the kids bring up. It’s really a super time of interaction and fun for all involved.

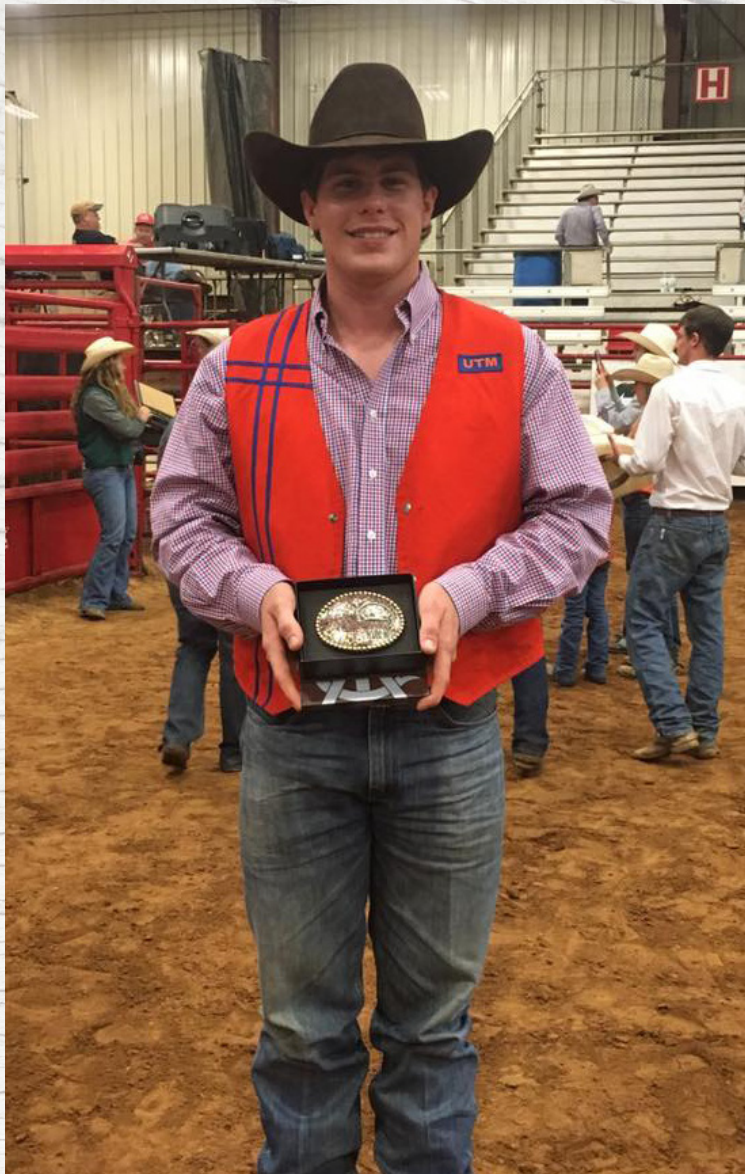
*Top-left: Teammates Natalie Fletcher, Kenzley Wilson and Robbie Van Holten having fun interacting with Gleason students; below: Miss UTM Rodeo Queen and rodeo team member, Simone Taylor, speaks to the students at Martin Elementary School.*



*Top-right: Tucker Kail doing a rope demo and speaking on the importance of goal-setting at Martin Elementary School; top right-middle: Ben Walker, Tanner Phipps and Summer Weldon getting ready to speak on the radio about the 2016 UTM Rodeo; below: Trey Lloyd surrounded by 20 of his new best friends at Dresden Elementary School.*







# SEASON RECAP

*“They worked hard and gave it their all every time they competed.”*

*Coach Luthi*

The 2016 season ended with the Skyhawk women’s team finishing in 6th place in the Ozark Regional standings. According to Coach Luthi, “Our women’s team had some really strong individual performances throughout the year by many of the women on the team. Unfortunately we weren’t as consistent with those efforts as we needed to be. I think we will learn from this and come back stronger next season.”

The men’s team was the Ozark Regions Championship Men’s team for 2016. “We had a real good year on the men’s side of things”, said Coach Luthi. “We had quite a few guys that had a lot of experience and performed at a high level on a consistent basis.”

Coach Luthi continued, “Overall we really had a great group of student-athletes this year. They worked hard and gave it their all every time they competed.”



*Top: Lane Mitchell shows off the award buckle for being the regions champion heeler; Above: 2016 Ozark Region Champion Men’s Team: Coach Luthi, Tanner Phipps, Clay Tilley, Douglas Rich, Ben Walker with plaque, Lane Mitchell, Slade Bronson and Coy Lutz.*



# OZARK REGION

## TOP 15

### Team

Men's team – 1<sup>st</sup>  
Women's team – 6<sup>th</sup>

### Men's All-around

Lane Mitchell – 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Ben Walker – 4<sup>th</sup>  
Slade Bronson – 6<sup>th</sup>

### Bareback Riding

Tanner Phipps – 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Houston Herbert – 4<sup>th</sup>  
Coy Lutz – 5<sup>th</sup>

### Bulls

Ryan McDaniel – 9<sup>th</sup>

### Tie Down Roping

Slade Bronson – 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Ben Walker – 4<sup>th</sup>  
Lane Mitchell – 6<sup>th</sup>

### Steer Wrestling

Slade Bronson – 8<sup>th</sup>  
Robbie Van Holten – 15<sup>th</sup>

### Team Roping Header

Ben Walker – 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Tucker Kail – 5<sup>th</sup>  
Slade Bronson – 11<sup>th</sup>  
Quentin Sawyer – 15<sup>th</sup>

### Team Roping Heeler

Lane Mitchell – 1<sup>st</sup>  
Douglas Rich – 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Clay Tilley – 5<sup>th</sup>  
Tanner Phipps – 10<sup>th</sup>

### Barrel Racing

Nealey Dalton – 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Kenzley Wilson – 8<sup>th</sup>  
Madison Crow – 12<sup>th</sup>  
Ashley Brooks – 13<sup>th</sup>

### Breakaway Roping

Natalie Fletcher – 5<sup>th</sup>  
Kelsey Bussell – 11<sup>th</sup>

### Goat Tying

Micayla Gray – 7<sup>th</sup>  
Kylie Brueggeman – 15<sup>th</sup>



*Bottom: Lane Mitchell leads the celebration with Tanner Phipps, Clay Tilley, Douglas Rich, Slade Bronson, Coach Luthi with plaque, Nealey Dalton, Ben Walker, Natalie Fletcher and Coy Lutz.*





# On the Road to Casper

## College National Finals

UTM won the Ozark Region Men's Team title for 2016 and so qualified for the College National Finals Rodeo in Casper, Wyoming. "We have a really good group going to the CNFR. They have all been there before and know the setting," pointed out Coach Luthi. "We will continue to focus on making the best runs and rides we can with the animals and positions we have, just like we've done all year. Hopefully we'll do our part, and good Lord willing, people will know we were there!"

He continued, "The CNFR is a fun rodeo. I am thankful to get to take such an experienced and fine group of student-athletes to the Finals."



*Top: Lane Mitchell catches two feet at the 2015 CNFR; middle: UTM cowgirl, Natalie Fletcher ropes quick at the College Finals as Coach Luthi watches intently; bottom: Tanner Phipps spurs a buck as Coach Luthi cheers him on. Photos courtesy of Hubbell Photography.*







## CNFR Qualifiers

**Nealey Dalton**

*Barrel Racing*

**Natalie Fletcher**

*Breakaway Roping*

**Ben Walker**

*Tie Down Roping and*

*Team Roping (header for Douglas Rich)*

**Douglas Rich**

*Team Roping (heeler for Ben Walker)*

**Lane Mitchell**

*Team Roping Heeler*

**Slade Bronson**

*Tie Down Roping*

**Tanner Phipps**

*Bareback Riding*



*Top: Slade Bronson in good shape steer wrestling at the UTM Rodeo; Photo courtesy of UT Martin University Relations; bottom: Ben Walker and Douglas Rich making another winning run; Photo courtesy of Bruce Photography.*





# WELCOME TO THE 2016 COLLEGE NATIONAL FINALS RODEO!

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

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

With the College Finals approaching quickly, we have several options for you to follow the team as they compete for National Championships as a team and as individuals. There will be live updates on Twitter and Instagram each day and a summary of the day's events each evening on Facebook.

 Utm Rodeo
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# AWARDS

## "Honorary Team Captain"

Each year the rodeo team members choose to honor someone with the "Honorary Team Captain" Buckle. This accolade is given to the person the team feels has gone "above and beyond" in their support for the program and is their way of saying, "Thank You!" This year was a tie between two deserving candidates and the team was unanimous in the decision to award the buckle to both Mike Pierce and Bob Robinson for constantly going "the extra mile" in helping out the team.

"Bob Robinson and Mike Pierce are both so deserving of this award," Coach Luthi said enthusiastically. "They both do a great deal for the Rodeo Booster Club and our rodeo program. We are very thankful for all their time and efforts."



*Top: Rodeo Booster Club President, Katie White, Mike Pierce, Bob Robinson and his wife, Betsy and Coach John Luthi; 2nd-top: The College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences held their awards banquet in April and 3 of our UTM cowgirls were chosen as the outstanding student in their field of study. Sarah Montgomery was the outstanding Agriculture Science student. Meredith McDonald was the Animal Science outstanding student. And Micayla Gray was chosen as the outstanding Agricultural Business student. Way to get it done in the classroom as well as the arena!;*



*Left: Micayla Gray (center, left), of Sikeston, Missouri, was voted by her classmates to receive the Kelly W. Murray Excellence in Portfolio Management Awards for the spring semester. The award, named for the late son of Dr. Sandra and William Murray, recognizes outstanding effort and dedication while managing the UT Martin Tennessee Valley Authority stock portfolio in conjunction with the TVA Investment Challenge. The challenge is a partnership between the TVA and 25 universities in its service territory to provide real-world experience in portfolio management. Gray graduated May 7 with a Bachelor of Science degree in agriculture. Micayla also excelled as a 4 year member of the UT Martin Rodeo Team in goat tying and breakaway roping. She is pictured with Dr. Timothy Perry (left), UT Martin assistant professor of finance, Ryan Stevenson, and William Murray, father of the late Kelly Murray.*



# FRANKLIN COWBOY RECEIVES FRANKLIN RODEO SCHOLARSHIP

**UT-Martin student attended rodeo as a child, now  
benefits from gift**

Franklin, Tenn. (April, 2016) A Franklin man is the recipient of the 2016 Franklin Rodeo Scholarship.

Houston Herbert, a sophomore at the University of Tennessee-Martin, has been given a \$1500 scholarship towards his schooling.

The son of a former bareback rider, Houston grew up wanting to ride bareback horses. He competed in high school rodeo and graduated from Page High School in 2014.

He is on the college rodeo team at UT-Martin, where he is studying agricultural business and plans to graduate in 2018.

While in high school, Herbert played football and was involved in 4-H. He started on the varsity team as a linebacker his senior year. Football and riding bareback horses have some commonalities, he said. <sup>3</sup>They're both really physical and aggressive, and I like both of those things.<sup>2</sup> They both involved practice as well. <sup>3</sup>They both take a lot of work to get them mastered. There's a lot of hard work involved to be good at them.<sup>2</sup>

The scholarship is appreciated, he said. <sup>3</sup>It's a tremendous help with school. The cost of school is high, so every little bit you can get to help with paying for books and tuition is good.<sup>2</sup>

Houston has attended the Franklin Rodeo with his family many times, and last



year, had the opportunity to ride at it as a Pro Rodeo Cowboys Association member. He got bucked off, but he'll be back this year.

He is the eighth generation of his family to live on the family farm, near College Grove. He has an older brother, Luke, and is the son of Joey and Judy Herbert.

The Franklin Rodeo benefits not only the rodeo team at U-T Martin, but numerous other organizations in Williamson County. It runs May 19-21 at the Williamson Co. Ag Expo Park. Tickets and more information are available online at [FranklinRodeo.com](http://FranklinRodeo.com).

Media Contact: Ruth Nicolaus, 319-321-2152



# UT MARTIN COWBOY COY LUTZ PASSES AWAY AT AGE 19

MARTIN, Tenn. – The University of Tennessee at Martin athletics department is saddened to announce that Coy Lutz, who recently completed his freshman season on the UT Martin rodeo team, passed away on Saturday evening.

Lutz, 19, was fatally injured while competing at the Cowtown Rodeo in Pilesgrove, NJ – a little over 200 miles from his hometown in Howard, Pa. He was majoring in criminal justice at UT Martin, where he registered points in seven different rodeos in 2015-16. He set career-highs across the board in bareback riding at the 48th Annual UT Martin Spring College Rodeo on April 14-16, tallying 78 points in the first round and 76 points in the short go for a 154 average. His opening round total was best in the field while his average score was tied for the top total in the event.

“Coy was just an outstanding kid who had a real bright future,” UT Martin head coach John Luthi said. “He was a good student and he came from a great family. Even though he was only here for one year, his impact will always be felt here at UT Martin. He was a super human-being who always took care of his business. It’s hard to imagine why something like this had to happen but we have faith that God is in control.”

The Cowtown Rodeo posted the following message on Sunday morning on its Facebook page: “Cowtown Rodeo and The Harris Family extend our heartfelt and sincere condolences to the Lutz Family for the tragic loss of their son, Coy. During this difficult time, our thoughts and prayers are with all who knew and loved him.”

Before attending UT Martin, Lutz graduated from Bald Eagle Senior High School in Bellefonte, Pa. Following his commencement, Lutz shared his outlook on life with the Centre Daily Times newspaper.

“I’d tell all the underclassmen to work hard and not to slack, because it’s worth it in the long run,” Lutz said. “You do all your work and you can do anything.”



*Coy with teammates behind the bucking chutes*



*Coy Lutz*



*Coy spurs on before a packed crowd at the UTM Rodeo*



*Coy making a winning ride at the UT Martin home rodeo*

*Photos courtesy of UT Martin University Relations.*

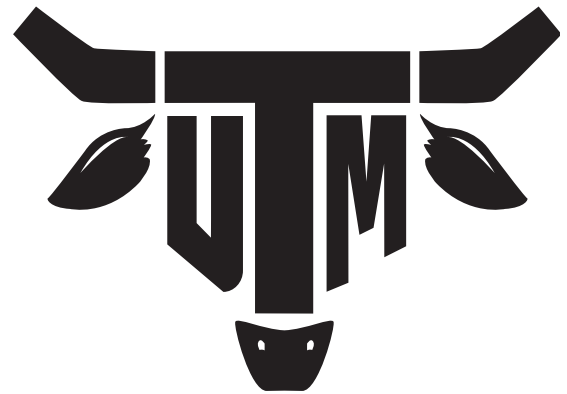
In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the UT Martin Rodeo Scholarship Fund, UT Martin Office of Development, located at 554 University St., 314 Administration Bldg., Martin, TN.



## REMEMBER THIS HANDOUT?

### Champ Behavior

- We are what we repeatedly do. *Excellence* then is not an *act* but a *habit*.
- Always do your *best*. What you plant now you will harvest *later*! You are a winner when you do your *best*.
- Each time you are honest and conduct yourself with honesty, a success force will drive you toward greater *success*. Each time you lie even with a little white lie, there are strong forces pushing you toward *failure*.
- Desire --- what you want to do.  
Motivation --- gets you to do it.  
Attitude — how well you do it.
- The windshield is a lot bigger than the rear view mirror.  
You should keep looking ahead instead of behind you.
- Learn from mistakes. Commit to never make that mistake again.
- Learn from successes. Continue to do what it takes to do your best.



**UT MARTIN**



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**UT Martin Rodeo  
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*Bottom-right: Danelle shows off her new Dan Post Boots while helping out at the UT Martin Rodeo.*