



The Spring Rodeo Has Come a Long Way



Clay Mitchell in the steer wrestling at the 45th Annual College Rodeo.

Last year's UT Martin Rodeo ended the 2013 season with a bang! UTM was again chosen as the "Rodeo of the Year" by the Ozark Region for the eighth year in a row. We had an exciting finish to last season regional race with the men winning the team title and 13 cowboys and cowgirls qualifying for the College National Finals Rodeo in Casper, Wyoming. The men's team qualified for the 40th consecutive year. Coach Luthi was honored as the Ozark Region's "Coach of the Year" (and in June also received the National "Coach of the Year" award).

This year is the 46th Annual UTM College Rodeo and the dates are

April 10, 11, and 12th. The spring rodeo has come a long way in the past 46 years – from an outdoor arena with "Doc" running the show, to the fantastic Ned Ray McWherter Agricultural Complex we currently have access to. We have been setting attendance records the past few years during the rodeo and are working hard to continue that trend.

Tim Fuller returns as our announcer, as does hilarious rodeo clown Greek Ellick. Mark Johnson and Universal Rodeos will be again bringing the bucking stock for the bareback and bronc riding and the always exciting bull riding! Come see who will win this year,

the cowboys or the bulls? Last year it was definitely the bulls, as there were more buck-offs than qualified rides.

Thursday night is again Bargain Night at the rodeo and all tickets are \$6.00 each. The Weakley County 4-H Mounted Drill Team will perform the opening, so be sure to arrive early to see them in action. The evening is sponsored by Tyson, Obion County Complex, and the performance begins at 7:30 p.m. You can watch all the NIRA college contestants in each of the 9 college rodeo events. Everyone can register for a FREE drawing to win a MTD riding lawn mower.

cont. on page 2



Mary Francis Gorsuch



Heath Simpson

Spring Rodeo cont.

Friday night the rodeo is sponsored by Tennessee Tractor and is “Tough Enough to Wear Pink” night to raise money for breast cancer awareness. The performance will begin at 7:10 with the Weakley County 4-H Mounted Drill Team. They put on a good show, so be sure to arrive early to watch them perform and grab a good seat for the rodeo. If the MTD lawn mower wasn’t won on Thursday night, a second drawing will take place for a free chance to throw a “ringer” and be a winner. If still no one claims the lawnmower it will be auctioned off before the rodeo on Saturday night.

The Martin Paving Company Championship

Finals will begin at 7:30 on Saturday night. The short go will feature the top 10 contestants from each event competing for the championship spurs built and designed by Dutton Bits & Spurs. Come see the “Best of the Best” compete on Saturday night!

There will be different silent auction items each night of the rodeo. We get new items in daily so keep updated at www.utmsports.com (just click on rodeo and the auction list will be in a sidebar to the right). You can also find each item described on the UTM Rodeo Facebook page. The Rodeo Booster Club will again have their t-shirts with the UTM Rodeo steer head logo for sale in various colors up top in the mezzanine.

Annual Crawfish Supper

A highlight of “Rodeo Week” is always the Annual Crawfish Supper hosted by the Rodeo Booster Club. It officially kicks off the beginning of our rodeo activities and is always a favorite event – from those who gorge on huge platters of crawfish to those who settle for a more traditional meal of hamburgers, hotdogs, corn on the cob and new potatoes. There is always lots of laughter and stories about “back in the day...” and “remember when...” It’s a tradition that is unique to the UTM Rodeo and hard to beat. You never know who is in town and may show up to grab a plate of crawdads!

As always, it will be held at the American Legion in Martin, the Wednesday before the rodeo, on April 9th. The booster club members will begin serving up the crawfish and fixings around 5:30 p.m. Everyone is invited to enjoy a festive evening, meet the rodeo team, renew friendships and join the booster club. The public is welcome! The cost is \$10.00 per person or \$25.00 per family. New members can join the booster club and former members can renew their memberships at this event. For more information about the crawfish supper or the rodeo booster club, please contact Dave Pruitt at 615-612-9159 or Katie Brooks at 270-627-1031.



HAVE YOU SPOTTED THE BILLBOARD YET?



UT Martin Rodeo Alumni, Cliff Goodrich

UT MARTIN SPRING RODEO

April 10-12 • 7:30 PM

TICKETS: (731) 881-7207

If you are driving north on Highway 45 from Jackson to Martin, be on the lookout for this year's billboard promoting the UT Martin Annual College Rodeo. The billboard features UTM rodeo alumni Cliff Goodrich. Cliff competed on the rodeo team in the early 80's and won All-Around honors and twice was the Ozark Regions Champion Calf Roper. In 1982 he earned the Reserve National Intercollegiate Champion in calf roping. He was inducted into the UT Martin Rodeo Hall of Fame in 2002.

The following year he competed in the PRCA where he was the 1983 Southeastern Circuit Champion. He then decided to stay closer to home and start a home building business where he has also excelled. But with his love of calf roping and rodeoing he had to keep competing. He started entering in the IPRA, events which were held closer to home. He has won numerous titles and has qualified for the IFR 14 times in calf roping, and won the average two times. He also won the average in the Steer Wrestling in 1998 and earned the title of IPRA Reserve World Champion Calf Roper in 1995 and 1996. He has been the IPRA Southeastern Circuit Champion Calf Roper 12 times.

The billboard is located on the west side of the road, on the northern outskirts of Milan.

Newsletter Archives

If you are interested in reading past rodeo team newsletters, please go to www.utmsports.com and click rodeo. On the right side click on this symbol



They will all be available there.



**Join us
on Facebook**
– **UTM Rodeo**

The University of Tennessee is an EEO/AA/Title VI/Title IX/Section 504/ADA/ADEA institution in the provision of its education and employment programs and services. All qualified applicants will receive equal consideration for employment without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, pregnancy, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, physical or mental disability, or covered veteran status. In compliance with the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act (The Clery Act), UTM's annual security report includes statistics for the previous three years concerning reported crimes that occurred on or around the campus and UTM's emergency response and evacuation procedures. You can view the report at <http://www.utm.edu/departments/finadmin/publicsafety/annualreport.php> or you may obtain a paper copy of the report by contacting the Office of Public Safety, 215 Hurt Street, Martin, TN 38238 or calling (731) 881-7777. Data on intercollegiate athletics program participation rates and financial support may be found at http://www.utm.edu/webshare/consumer_docs/09-10%20DOE-EADA%20Report.pdf and printed copies may be obtained through the Office of Intercollegiate Athletics, 1022 Elam Center, Martin, TN 38238 or by calling (731) 881-7660. E05-4105-00-007-14

Rodeo Gives Scholarship Funding

Knoxville cowgirl is beneficiary of Franklin Rodeo



Natalie Fletcher, Knoxville, is the recipient of scholarship money donated to the University of Tennessee at Martin's Rodeo Booster Club. The Franklin Rodeo makes an annual donation to the booster club. Photo by Randy Fletcher.

A Knoxville youth is able to pursue her favorite sport because of help from the Franklin Rodeo.

Natalie Fletcher, is the recipient of funds donated by the Franklin Rodeo to the University of Tennessee at Martin's Rodeo Booster Club.

Each year, the rodeo gives \$1,000 to the Booster Club, which distributes it to rodeo athletes at UT Martin.

Fletcher, 19 and a sophomore at the University, has received that money. She competes in the breakaway roping, goat tying, and team roping.

The scholarship money helps, she says. "It gives me enough to pay

for academics, books, and feed" for her horses, "which is awesome." Most of her college is paid for through academic scholarships, but the rodeo scholarship has made it possible for her to devote her time exclusively to school and rodeo and not have to get a job, which would be difficult with her schedule. "I go to class from eight to four, then have thirty minutes to change clothes, and head to the arena," where rodeo is practice is held till 9:30 pm each night.

Fletcher, the younger daughter of Randy and Marti Fletcher, is majoring in animal science pre-veterinary and hopes to attend vet school at the University of Tennessee, where she interned this past summer with a vet and enjoyed it. She would like to focus

on the reproduction field for cattle and horses.

Natalie finished the 2012-2013 rodeo season in third place in the breakaway roping in the Ozark Region and went on to qualify for the College National Finals Rodeo. Her older sister, Lucinda, is also a student at UTM and on the rodeo team.

The Franklin Rodeo, hosted by the Franklin Noon Rotary Club, is a not-for-profit event and has given away thousands of dollars to local charities and organizations, including the Rodeo Booster Club. This year's rodeo is May 15-17 at the Williamson Co. Ag Expo Center. Tickets go on sale in April. For more information, visit the rodeo's website at FranklinRodeo.com or call 615-RODEO11.

article by Ruth Nicolaus



Natalie Fletcher competes in the breakaway roping at a college rodeo last year. The Knoxville, Tenn. cowgirl is the recipient of scholarship money donated to the University of Tennessee at Martin Booster Club by the Franklin Rodeo. Photo by Randy Fletcher.



Jerry Rogers, Natalie Fletcher and Courtney Bell help out at Santa's Village. (picture taken by Randy Cavin of The Weakley County Press)

Each year in December the rodeo team volunteers to help out on Thursday night of Santa's Village. They carry donated canned goods down the stairs, serve as ushers and other positions throughout the evening. It is a great time to give back to the community who return the favor in April with fantastic support during the home rodeo.

Win a Free MTD Riding Lawnmower

*At the 46th Annual UTM Rodeo
April 10, 11, and 12*



For many years now, MTD has graciously donated a riding lawnmower to the UT Martin Rodeo Team. The FREE drawing to win the lawnmower has become a rodeo tradition. On Thursday night 3 names win be drawn. The first person will attempt a 40' horseshoe toss. If they get a "ringer" they walk away with a free lawnmower. If they miss, the second person attempts a toss from 30' and if they fail to connect, a third person will get a chance from 20' to get the ringer and win the mower. If no one wins the riding lawnmower on Thursday night, the process will repeat on Friday, even adding a fourth contestant to throw a horseshoe from 10' in an attempt to successfully win the lawnmower.

If no one gets a ringer then the lawnmower will be auctioned off Saturday night before the rodeo.

Make sure you sign up for the FREE drawing when you enter the Ag Pavilion. There will be tables at each entrance for you to register to win the MTD riding lawnmower.

Orange Tri-folds

Be on the lookout for the orange UTM rodeo tri-folds around the area at restaurants, convenience stores and other places of business.

They have a **FREE** rodeo ticket for a child aged 9 and under for Thursday or Friday night.

Also has all the information about "Rodeo Week" activities!

Silent Auction Each Night of Rodeo

Each night of the rodeo different silent auction items will be displayed on tables up top in the mezzanine. You can bid on items from before the rodeo until the close of the team roping. The process is easy. Instead of shouting out your bid like in a live auction, it is a “silent” auction where you just write your name on a bid sheet with your bid amount. The highest bid at the end of the team roping “wins” that item. The proceeds will benefit the rodeo team’s scholarship program.

We get new items in daily, so check out our

auction webpage at www.utmsports.com (just click on rodeo and the auction items will be listed in a sidebar to the right). You can also find a descriptions of each donation on our UTM Rodeo facebook page. Send us a friend request and you can stay updated on auction items as well as all our rodeo team news. So far we have received many types of knives, boot gift certificates, western clothing, purses, jewelry, tack, and many unique, one of kind items. There are autographed items from professional sports

teams, Peyton Manning, WWE, western themed books, décor and artwork. We will have “Get Away” Packages to Branson, the Smoky Mountains area, Nashville, Louisville, St. Louis and Memphis that will include shows, attractions, museums, symphony’s, dining, and accommodations. Some items will feature the UTM rodeo steer head logo. Keep checking our auction sites because the list grows each day!

Here are a few pictures of what we will auction off.



Go to:
www.utmsports.com
or
www.Auctionzip.com



Barbecue & Live Auction New location!

Edward Jones Investments of Martin brings us the Free County-Wide Barbecue and live Scholarship Auction on Saturday, April 12, at a **NEW** location, downtown Martin in Festival Park (behind the Post Office). Beginning at 11:00 there will be silent auction items to bid on while eating some fantastic **FREE** barbecue, beans, slaw, chips and a drink. All leading up to the big event, the live scholarship auction beginning at 12:30.

We are thankful for the support of Todd and Jennifer Hampton for sponsoring this event. You never know what the booster club members will have collected for the annual auction, so come join us and get in on all the fun, get a great bargain, and support the rodeo team's scholarship fund.

Go to:

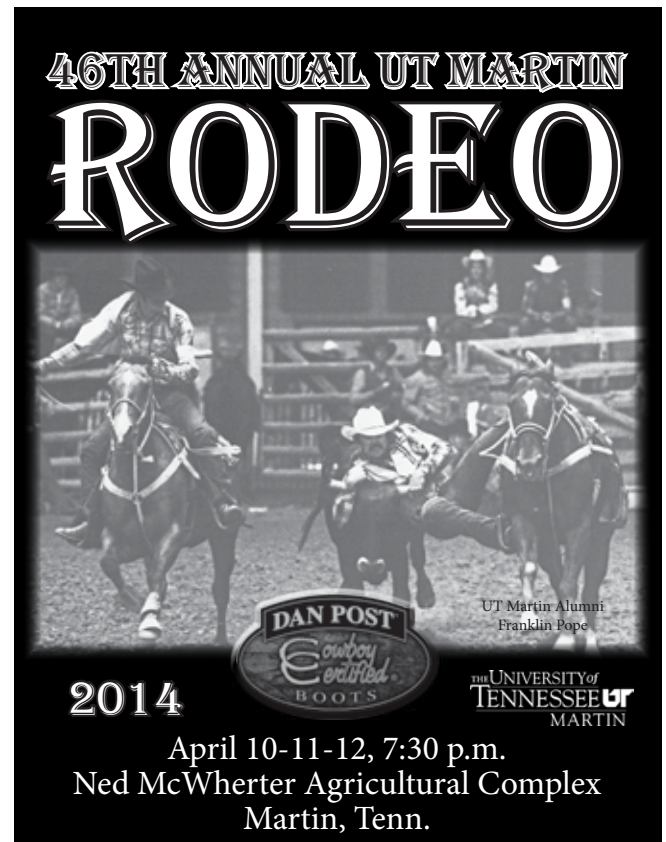
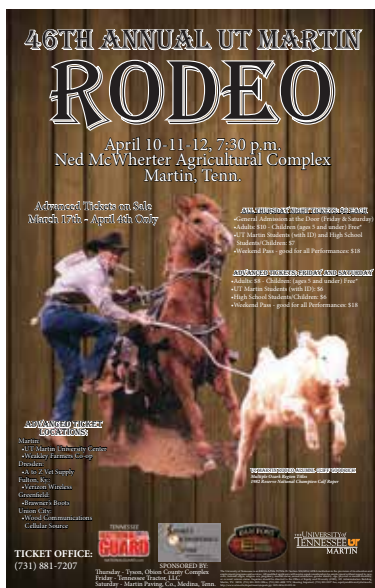
www.Auctionzip.com

to see items that will be in the auction.

Advance Ticket Reminder

Advance tickets are on sale now and
will remain on sale
ONLY UNTIL APRIL 4TH.

The poster gives ticket prices and locations.



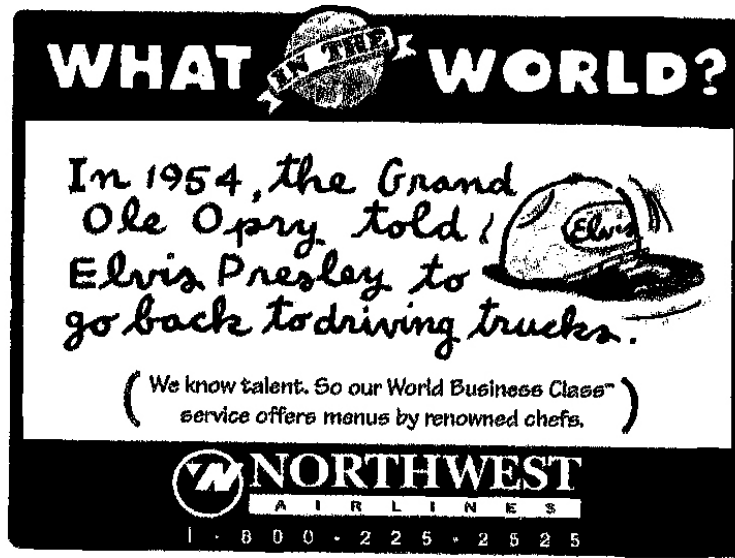
Cover of the Rodeo Program

This year the rodeo program cover proudly features former UT Martin cowboy and alumni, Franklin Pope. As a member of the rodeo team he qualified all 4 years to the College National Finals Rodeo in Bozeman, Montana and Lake Charles, Louisiana in the steer wrestling and team roping. In 1978 he was 7th in the nation in the team roping. He represented UT Martin and the Ozark Region as the Student Regional Director. Franklin was inducted into the UT Martin Rodeo Hall of Fame in 2002.

In the professional ranks he won the steer wrestling average in 1990 at the PRCA Southeastern Circuit Finals and qualified for the IFR Finals in Oklahoma City the same year.

His two sons, Justin and Ryan followed in his footsteps and both competed in the steer wrestling as members of the UTM Rodeo Team.

Remember this Handout...



Do not let someone steal your dreams.....

- Keep working _

- Believe in yourself _

- Set goals - Work your goals

Turn your dreams into Reality

God made you to be successful!