

UT Martin Rodeo News

THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE AT MARTIN

March, 2015



2015 Rodeo

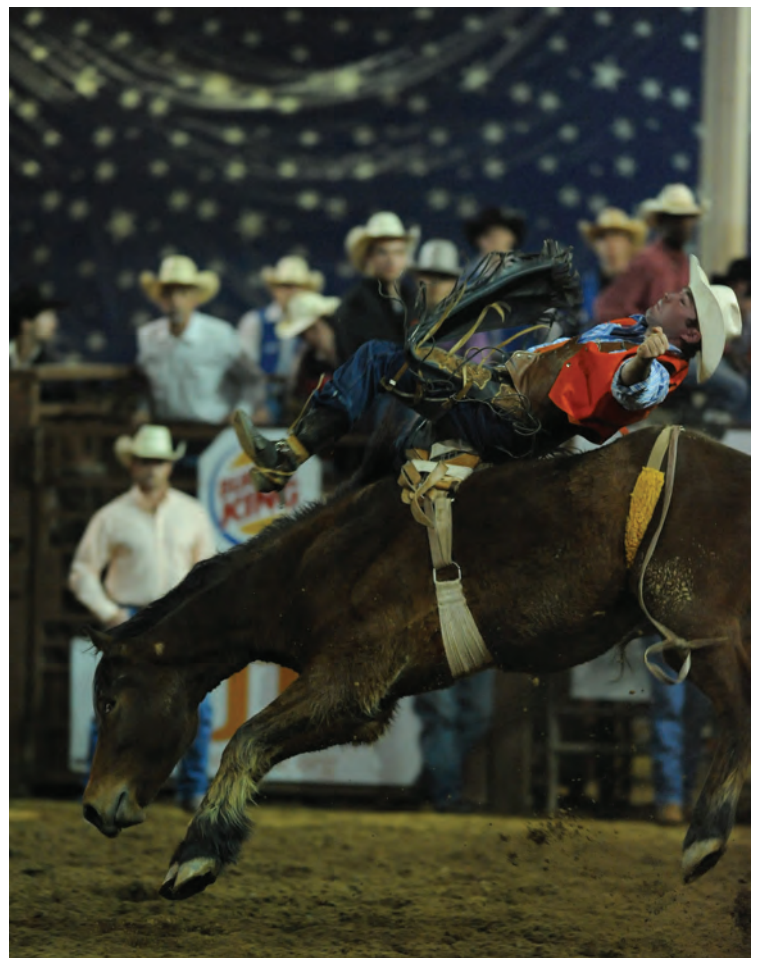
We are looking forward to the 47th Annual UTM Rodeo, April 9 – 11, as much as any we have hosted. Last year will be tough to top but with the excitement and momentum coming from the men's team winning the National Championship we are hoping to have our best rodeo ever! In 2014, UTM was chosen as the Rodeo of the Year by the Ozark Region for the ninth year in a row and last August, our rodeo was featured on ESPN's broadcast of the CNFR. We have been setting attendance records the past few years during the rodeo and are working hard to continue that trend. Coach Luthi says it is always a lot of fun to host our home rodeo, but it is also a lot of work. We really appreciate all the support and hard work from so many people".

Tim Fuller is again our announcer, with Garrett Yerigan as the sound man. Brian White returns as the unpredictable clown/funny man after a few years away. Mark Johnson and Universal Rodeos will once more be bringing the rank bucking stock for the bareback, saddle bronc and the always exciting bull riding! Come see who will win this year, the cowboys or the bulls? The past couple of years it was definitely the bulls, with more buck-offs than qualified rides. New this year is the "Name a Goat" Program. Come cheer on "Moony", "Highways" and their friends during the goat tying each night.

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.

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 evening

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Top: Micayla Gray flanks her goat during the UTM home rodeo; bottom: Colt Kitaif makes an awesome spur ride during the 2014 UTM Rodeo. Photos courtesy of Christie's Photography.



Top: Heath Simpson starts a wild bull ride at the UTM Rodeo; bottom: During the barrel race at the UTM Rodeo, Nealy Dalton shows the form that helped her qualify for the 2014 CNFR. Photos courtesy of Christie's Photography.

2015 Rodeo

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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. We will be honoring the National Champion Men's Team before the rodeo, so let's all arrive early and celebrate this accomplishment together! The short go will feature the top 10 contestants and stock from each event. The men will be competing for the championship spurs built Dutton Bits & Spurs. Slover Buckles will design buckles for the women champions. 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 have their t-shirts with the UTM Rodeo steer head logo for sale in various colors up top on the mezzanine.

HAVE YOU SPOTTED THE RODEO BILLBOARD YET?

**UT MARTIN
SPRING
RODEO**
April 9-11 • 7:30 PM
TICKETS: (731) 881-7207
National Champion Team Member
Tyler Waltz

If you are driving north on Highway 45 from Jackson to Martin, be on the lookout for this year's billboard promoting the 47th UT Martin Annual College Rodeo. The billboard features UTM rodeo alumni, Tyler Waltz, winning the first round of the bareback riding at the CNFR last summer on "Wrangler Valley" propelling the men's team to their first ever National Team Championship.

LOCATED ON THE WEST SIDE OF THE ROAD, ON THE NORTHERN OUTSKIRTS OF MILAN.

SCHOLARSHIP AUCTION



DAN POST BOOTS



TRENDITIONS PURSE



NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP SPURS



CUSTOM KNIFE



WEAVER BREAST COLLAR AND HALTER



JEREMIAH WATT SNAFFLE BITS



NFR VEST

Each night of the rodeo different silent auction items will be displayed on tables up top in the mezzanine. This year we are highlighting a one time opportunity to bid on a pair of National Championship Spurs made by Dutton Bits and Spurs. These are the same spurs the men's team received and Saturday night is the one and only chance to bid on this special item!

The process is simple. 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. 100% of 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 detailed 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 custom knives, boot gift certificates, western clothing, purses, jewelry, tack, and many unique, one of kind items. There are autographed items from professional sports teams, WWE, western themed books, décor and artwork. We will have "Get Away" Packages to Branson, the Smoky Mountains area, Nashville, Louisville, St. Louis, Jackson 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! Above are a few pictures of what we will auction off.

BARBECUE AND LIVE AUCTION

Edward Jones Investments of Martin brings us the Free County-Wide Barbecue and live Scholarship Auction on Saturday, April 11. Last year the BBQ was held at a NEW location, downtown Martin in Festival Park. That was a big hit with everyone, and barring inclement weather, will be the location again this year. 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. This will lead 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. You can also find pictures on the Utm Rodeo Boosters Facebook page.



*Photo courtesy of Nathan Morgan,
UT Martin university photographer*

ATHLETIC ACADEMIC NIGHT

In January during SkyHawk basketball games was Athlete Academic Night. This was for all student-athletes who achieved a 3.25 GPA for last year's academic semesters 2013 - 2014. The rodeo team was represented by Madison Crow, Megan Crow, Nealey Dalton, Natalie Fletcher, Kaytlyn Franklin, Micayla Gray, Robert Joyce, Tucker Kail, Jessie McMahon, Sarah Montgomery, Tanner Phipps, Tammi Jo Swearingen and Jacy Thrasher.

This past semester the rodeo team had 17 student-athletes qualify for the Dean's List and 7 with a perfect 4.0 GPA. Congratulations to these true student-athletes!

"I tell them all the time this is college-rodeo, not rodeo-college", says Coach Luthi. "I'm really proud of how so many of our kids have balanced their academics, practice, traveling to rodeos and taking care of their livestock."



Coach Luthi, Danelle Fabianich, Nelson and Lynn Davis at the Athletic Department's Christmas Party



CRAWFISH, ANYONE?

A highlight of "Rodeo Week" is 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 pile high a platter of crawfish to those who settle for a more conventional meal of hamburgers, hotdogs, corn on the cob and new potatoes. Reminiscing with friends happens frequently and there are lots of stories that begin "back when I was in school..." and "remember when..." or "can you believe we lived through..." It's a tradition that is unique to the UTM Rodeo and what makes "Rodeo Week" so special. You never know who might show up or what tale will get told, so it's best to be there in person or the stories may end up being about you!

As always, it will be held at the American Legion in Martin, the Wednesday before the rodeo, on April 8th. 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 White at 270-627-1031.

NELSON DAVIS NAMED TENNESSEE ATHLETIC TRAINERS' SOCIETY COLLEGE TRAINER OF THE YEAR

Nelson Davis, who has served as an assistant athletic trainer at the University of Tennessee at Martin since 2007, was awarded the Eugene Smith/Mickey O'Brien College Athletic Trainer of the Year award as part of the 2015 Tennessee Athletic Trainers' Society annual meetings in Nashville.

Davis was selected after nominations from his colleagues and peers in the sports medicine and athletic training profession. The College Athletic Trainer of the Year award, annually given out since 1990, is named for former head athletic trainers Eugene Smith of then Memphis State University and Mickey O'Brien, who served at the University of Tennessee. Davis is only the second UT Martin athletic trainer to earn this prestigious award, following Linda Barker in 2000.

An Illinois native, Davis earned his athletic training license from the state of Tennessee in 1998. He also became a certified athletic trainer through the National Athletic Trainers Association Board of Certification during that same year.

In addition to his athletic trainer duties, Davis also serves as an assistant coach with the UT Martin rodeo team. He helped guide the men's team to the 2014 College National Finals Rodeo championship last spring, marking the first time a team from the east of the Mississippi River captured the nation's top rodeo honors.

Davis was inducted to the UT Martin Rodeo Hall of Fame in 2007 after he was named an honorary rodeo team member in 1997. He was recognized with a service award by the Ozark Region of the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association and also earned sports medicine service awards from the Tennessee High

School Rodeo Association in 1998 and from the National High School Rodeo Association in 2013.

Davis graduated cum laude from UT Martin in 1997 with a bachelor's degree in physical education and health, with a minor in sports medicine. He is married to the former Lynn Houston of Martin and has three children from a previous marriage (Taiga, Jordan, Dusty).



NATIONAL CHAMPION SHIRTS AND CAPS



Get ready for the 47th Annual UTM Rodeo and purchase your limited edition National Championship shirts and caps. They will be perfect to wear Saturday night to support the men's team as they are honored before the rodeo. It's a fantastic shirt and great cap, so get yours while they last.

This design of the National Championship shirt and cap is limited edition and is available only through the rodeo office or the UTM Bookstore. (They will not be sold at the rodeo. The rodeo booster club will be selling their shirts each night)

To order call the rodeo office at 731-881-7426 or email dluthi@utm.edu to place your order. Shipping is \$5.00 on orders up to 3 items and \$10.00 for 4 - 6 items. We accept credit cards, checks, and cash.

National Championship caps are one size fits all and cost \$15.00. The t-shirts are in adult sizes S - 3X and cost \$15.00. Order your National Championship caps, t-shirts, and calendars for an awesome one-of-a-kind gift!

Rodeo Calendars with the National Championship picture on the front cover cost \$10.00. It also includes pictures of each team member and the 2014 CNFR qualifiers.



Clark Adcock makes another 8 second run at the College Finals.

RODEO BENEFITS COLLEGE STUDENTS

Franklin Rodeo donates to University of Tennessee at Martin rodeo program; Smithville college student is one of beneficiaries.

The Franklin Rodeo draws fans from central Tennessee and benefits charities in the area.

But its tentacles reach much farther.

Every year, the rodeo makes a donation to the University of Tennessee-Martin's rodeo program, to benefit rodeo athletes at the university.

Clark Adcock is one of those college students who has benefitted from the Franklin Rodeo.

The 22 year old senior, who grew up in Smithville, Tenn., is a tie-down roper, team roper and steer wrestler with the U-T Martin program.

He competed in high school rodeo before graduating from Dekalb Co. High School in Smithville in 2011. He grew up on a cattle and horse farm, with a father who also competed in rodeo.

A rodeo and state lottery scholarship have made it possible for him to attend U-T Martin and graduate with no college debt at all, in part made possible by the Franklin Rodeo's gift. "It's been great," he said, of rodeo scholarship funds. "It's saved me a lot of money in tuition, and has let me be able to rodeo at the college level."

Clark has qualified for the College National Finals Rodeo in Casper, Wyo. five times: twice in the tie-down roping and three times in the team roping.

He won third in the team roping as a heeler his freshman year, and was reserve tie-down roping champion last year. The U-T Martin men's team won the national championship last year as well.

Rodeo competition with John Luthi, his rodeo coach, has enriched his life.

"Coach has taught me a lot about being a better person, with a good mental attitude." Coach Luthi values Clark as part of his team. "Oh, man, he's an excellent student and athlete.

He knows how to win. He takes care of business, and you don't have to worry about him. He's not just a good athlete, he also takes care of business in the classroom and community."

When he graduates this May, he will return to the family farm, the place that's been in the family for the last 100 years. He and his dad frequent Valley Seed & Feed in McMinnville for their agricultural needs.

Clark has a younger sister, Shara, who is a senior in high school and also competes in rodeo. He is the son of Joe and Chandra Adcock.

The Franklin Rodeo benefits not only the rodeo team at U-T Martin, but numerous other organizations in Williamson County. It runs May 14-16 at the Williamson Co. Ag Expo Park. Tickets and more information are available online at FranklinRodeo.com. Call 615-RODEO-11 for information.

Article by Ruth Nicolaus. Photo courtesy of Hubbell Photography.



DISCOVERY PARK OF AMERICA HAS SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

(Located just 10 minutes from Martin, TN, you might want to make plans to visit this nation's newest attraction while attending the UTM Rodeo this year!)

Sitting in a cornfield in the middle of rural northwest Tennessee is the nation's newest attraction, Discovery Park of America. The 50-acre complex boasts an entertaining 'grounds-and-garden' experience, as well as an iconic 100,000 square foot Discovery Center featuring ten learning galleries. "Discovery Park is unique...there's no place like it anywhere," CEO Jim Rippey said.

Inside Discovery Center there are ten unique galleries. Natural History features dinosaurs, geodes, rocks and minerals. Regional History boasts a 22,000 gallery aquarium, an oral history exhibit and an earthquake simulator. The Native American Gallery has a unique deer diorama and thousands of Indian artifacts. Children love to climb in the Vietnam War era helicopter in the Military Gallery, while gazing at the PT-17 Stearman hanging from the gallery's ceiling. There's a beautiful display of antique automobiles in the Transportation Gallery, and a suit of armor located in Enlightenment. For a little more hands-on fun, younger guests head to the First State Bank Children's Exploration Gallery where they can climb, play, build and slide down the leg of the iconic giant human slide. The Space Science Technology Gallery allows visitors to blast off in the Star Ship Theater, taking a unique adventure through outer space. The Energy Gallery helps guests get their exercise as they create enough energy to see a Jacob's ladder shoot from the top of the energy tower. And, beginning later this year, the ATA Traveling Exhibit Hall will house temporary exhibits on a regular basis.

Outside, over one and a-half miles of sidewalk wind through The Settlement, The Barn, Mill Ridge, The European Garden, The Maze, The Japanese Garden,

Freedom Square, The Train Depot, The Chapel, The American Garden and The Covered Bridge.

In addition to the 50-acre venue itself, the park hosts a wide array of events each year. The event line-up can be found on their website. And the Education Department has begun to offer classes on a regular basis at Discovery Park. "We are hoping to have a wide variety of educational classes in our classroom at Discovery Park," said educational assistant Chris Gunlefinger. From drawing to pottery, tours to lectures...a list of classes and learning opportunities offered can be found on the park's website. "We will continue to grow and expand in this area," Gunlefinger said.

It is a big story for a small town in rural west Tennessee, located at least two hours from a major metropolitan area. "Memphis is two hours south, and Nashville is about 2 ½ hours southeast of Union City," Rippey said. "We have something that will catch the eye of the nation here, maybe even the world."

From the entrepreneur spirit of its founder, Robert Kirkland, to the unique design and experience of the park itself, Discovery Park of America is a unique human interest story and a delightful place to visit. It captures the heart of America, combining the essence of our historical past with the interactive and technological visions of the future. It's history and technology on display, it's educational and fun. For more information about Discovery Park of America, visit the website at www.discoveryparkofamerica.com.



ORANGE TRI-FOLD'S AROUND TOWN

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 complete information about all the "Rodeo Week" activities!

47TH ANNUAL UT MARTIN RODEO

April 9-10-11, 7:30 p.m.
Ned McWherter Agricultural Complex
Martin, Tenn.

Advanced Tickets on Sale
March 16th - April 4th Only

UT MARTIN RODEO ALUMNI,
TYLER WALTZ
2013-14 Men's Rodeo National
Championship Team Member

ALL THURSDAY NIGHT TICKETS: \$6 EACH

GENERAL ADMISSION TICKETS: FRIDAY

- General Admission at the Door (Friday)
- Adults \$10 - Children (6-12): \$7
- Children (ages 5 and under) Free*
- Weekend Pass - good for all Performances: \$20

GENERAL ADMISSION TICKETS: SATURDAY

- General Admission at the Door (Friday)
- Adults \$12 - Children (6-12): \$7
- Children (ages 5 and under) Free*
- Weekend Pass - good for all Performances: \$20

ADVANCED TICKETS: FRIDAY

- Adults: \$8 - Children (6-12): \$6
- Children: (ages 5 and under) Free*

ADVANCED TICKETS: SATURDAY

- Adults: \$10 - Children (6-12): \$6
- Children: (ages 5 and under) Free*
- Weekend Pass - good for all Performances: \$20

**ADVANCED TICKET
LOCATIONS:**

- Martin:
- UT Martin University Center
 - Weakley Farmers Co-op
- Dresden:
- A to Z Vet Supply
- Fulton, Ky.:
- Verizon Wireless
- Greenfield:
- Brawler's Boots
- Union City:
- Wood Communication
- Cellular Source

TICKET OFFICE
(731) 881-7207



SPONSORED BY:
Thursday - Tyson, Obion County Complex
Friday - Tennessee Tractor, LLC
Saturday - Martin Paving, Co., Medina, Tenn.

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RODEO ADVANCED TICKETS

Advanced tickets for
the rodeo will
only be on sale
March 16 – April 4th.

This year's poster features
Jersey Shore, Pennsylvania
native, Tyler Waltz spurring
the great bucking horse
"Wrangler Valley" to a first
place win in the bareback
riding at the CNFR,
propelling the UTM men
to their first ever National
Team Championship.



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UTM Rodeo

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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.

THE UNIVERSITY of
TENNESSEE **UT**
MARTIN

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Remember this Handout...

Together

Everyone

Achieves

More

Follow the rodeo team at

www.utmsports.com