



The University of Tennessee at Martin's rodeo team headed west to Casper, Wyoming this past June for the 65th annual College National Finals Rodeo (CNFR). Head coach John Luthi, assistant coach and trainer Nelson Davis, along with a dozen UT Martin cowboys and cowgirls departed Martin to make the 1,300 mile drive to the "Cowboy State". The UTM men's team qualified by winning the Ozark Region Championship and was ranked No. 2 in the nation going into the Finals (7,465 points). They made their 40th straight appearance to the CNFR. Two UTM cowgirls qualified for the college finals by being in the top 3 of their event at the end of the season. Over 400 cowboys and cowgirls from more than 100 universities and colleges qualified to participate in Casper this year to contend for national championship buckles.

Representing UT Martin on the men's side were Clark Adcock (team roping), Ben Walker (team roping, tie down roping), Jordan Thrasher (tie down roping, steer wrestling), Ty Hughston (saddle bronc), Clay Mitchell (team roping), John Alley (team roping, steer wrestling), Tyler Waltz (bareback riding), Lane Mitchell (team roping), Robert Joyce (steer wrestling) and Will Lummus (steer wrestling).

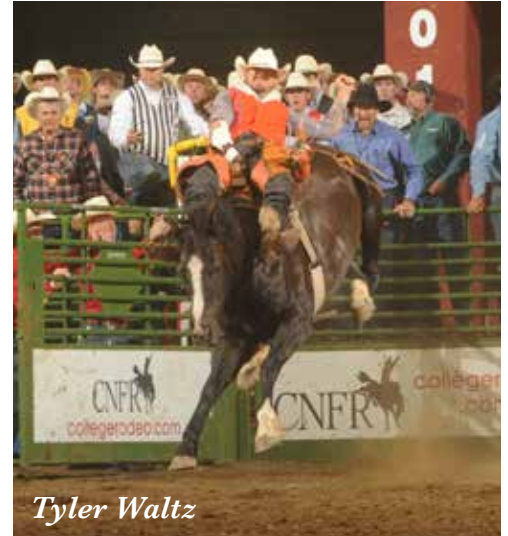
CNFR Recap

Alley (header) and Adcock (heeler) were ranked as the nation's top duo in team roping, while Waltz (seventh in bareback riding) and Alley (eighth in men's all-around) all were ranked amongst the nation's top 10 in their respective events heading into the CNFR.

Competing for the UT Martin women's team were Natalie Fletcher (breakaway roping) and Mary Francis Gorsuch (barrel racing).

The Finals began Sunday with "Broncs & Breakaway". Tyler Waltz scored a 69 on his first bareback horse. Ty Hughston tallied a 71 and split 5th in the round on his sable bronc.

Monday began the completion of the first round. Jordan Thrasher



Tyler Waltz

Hubbell Photo

was 9.1 in the calf roping and he finished 7th. He came back in the steer wrestling with a time of 5.4 and split 8th in the round. Ben Walker and his team roping partner were 7.0 and placed 8th. Natalie Fletcher garnered points for the women's team with a quick time of 2.9 in the breakaway roping, splitting fourth in the round. Robert Joyce made a super run in the steer wrestling, but

cont. on page 2



Natalie Fletcher

Hubbell Photo

CNFR recap cont.

broke the barrier to place deep in the round.

The second round began with a lot of promise for the UTM team. Waltz split 7th in the round with a score of 72 points that had him sitting 10th in the bareback riding average. Will Lummus had a fast time of 4.9 in the steer wrestling. That put him splitting 6th in the go round and most importantly, 3rd in the average. With a blazing 5.2 run in the team roping that was good for second place, John Alley and Clark Adcock confirmed why they were the #1 team ropers coming into the CNFR.

Natalie Fletcher had another good catch in the breakaway with a time of 3.6 for the round and a solid 6th place standing in the average. Mary Francis Gorsuch was 14.27 in the barrel race putting her in at 10th in the average.

Wednesday night during the opening of the

performance, Coach Luthi was honored as National Coach of the Year and was presented with a buckle and proclamation that it was "Coach John Luthi Day" in Casper. There was also a special tribute from his team members. *(Read more about this in the full article, National Coach of the Year, located on page 4 in this newsletter).*

There was an exciting start to the third go round as Waltz scored a 78 to finish 3rd in the bareback riding. Fletcher and Lummus had some tough luck and received no times in their events and unfortunately fell out of the average. Ty Hughston drew the great bronc Mighty Mouse and also received a no score after a great effort. After Mary Francis barrel run she slipped out of the top 12 in the average. John and Clark came back strong with a 7.1 to place 7th in the round and 3rd in the average.



Mary Francis Gorsuch

Hubbell Photo



Robert Joyce

Hubbell Photo

The championship short go round was set for Saturday night. After 3 go rounds, the top 12 in the average in each event advanced. Five UTM cowboys qualified to compete in the final round and a chance for a national title. Tyler Waltz entered Saturday night sitting 8th in the bareback riding average. In the team roping, John Alley and Clark Adcock qualified in 4th position and Clay and Lane Mitchell were sitting 7th in the average.

Waltz got UTM started in the championship short go round, and the Jersey Shore native did not disappoint. He drew the outstanding bareback bucking horse Wind Walker from the contractor Mo Betta, and spurred it to a 75.5 point ride and 3rd place finish in the round. He landed in 6th place in the national bareback riding standings.

With 2 teams in the

team roping it was a big event for the UT Martin program. Both teams had some unexpected tough luck, but still came out with respectable finishes. John and Clark placed 7th in the nation while Clay and Lane Mitchell ended up 10th nationally.

When all the points were tallied, the men's team enjoyed a 10th placed national ranking. This was the 5th time since 2005 that UT Martin has completed the season ranked in the top 10 in the nation under Coach Luthi. The women's team finished the CNFR in 26th place.

According to Coach Luthi, "We had a good Finals. Everyone we took to Casper competed well. I am very thankful to be able to coach such a great group." Luthi also mentioned he was excited that, "All but 2 of the 12 student- athletes we took to the CNFR are back competing this year for UT Martin".

OZARK REGION RODEO SCHEDULE

2013-2014

Missouri Valley College (Marshall, Missouri)	September 26, 27, 28 Thursday, Friday, Saturday
Murray State University (Murray, Kentucky)	October 3, 4, 5 Thursday, Friday, Saturday
University of West Alabama (Livingston, Alabama)	October 17, 18, 19 Thursday, Friday, Saturday
Troy University (Troy, Alabama)	November 21, 22, 23 Thursday, Friday, Saturday
Cossatot Community College (Texarkana, Arkansas)	February 20, 21, 22 Thursday, Friday, Saturday
Southern Arkansas University (Magnolia, Arkansas)	March TBA Thursday, Friday, Saturday
University of Arkansas- Monticello (Monticello, Arkansas)	March TBA Thursday, Friday, Saturday
East Mississippi Community College (West Point, Mississippi)	April TBA Thursday, Friday, Saturday
Northwest Mississippi Comm. College (Senatobia, Mississippi)	April 3, 4, 5 Thursday, Friday, Saturday
University of Tennessee at Martin (Martin, Tennessee)	April 10, 11, 12 Thursday, Friday, Saturday

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

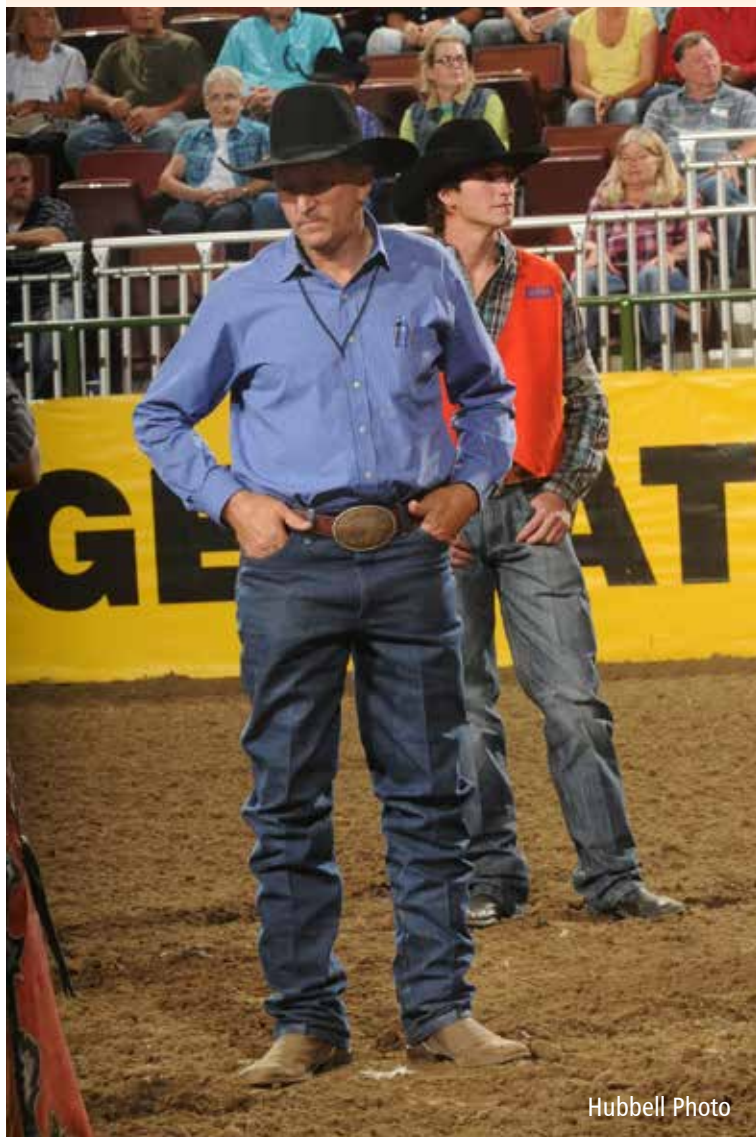


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Coach Luthi named "National Coach of the Year"



The University of Tennessee at Martin rodeo coach John Luthi was named National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association National Coach of the Year at the 65th annual College National Finals Rodeo in Casper, Wyoming. The award, which was officially presented on Wednesday, June 12, was voted upon by the NIRA Board of Directors, made up of the regional and student directors.

During the opening ceremony of the rodeo performance, Luthi stood in the spotlight in the middle of the arena with his team circled around him. One by one, each gave a testimony of what Coach Luthi meant to them personally and to the team. Then the NIRA commissioner presented him with the National Coach of the Year buckle. He also read a proclamation from the city certifying that

it was officially "John Luthi Day" in Casper, Wyoming.

"I felt very blessed to be named Ozark Region Coach of the Year", commented Coach Luthi. "Then to be named National Coach of the Year was just amazing! I just praise God for this honor. God has blessed me so much; besides having a great group of young men and women on our team, I am thankful for all the help from my assistant coach Nelson Davis, assistance from former team member Chelsie McDade, and support from my wife, Diane, who just does so much for the team behind the scenes. It is said that behind every good man is a great woman, and it is for sure that my wife is a great woman. On top of that we have an outstanding Rodeo Booster Club that is second to none. Also, our athletic department staff is a huge help in so many ways too". He goes on to say, "Like I said before, I truly am blessed and thankful for this honor, but there is no way I could achieve this without all of the help".

It was certainly a banner year for Luthi in 2013.

The UT Martin men's team accumulated 7,465 points in 10 rodeos entering the CNFR. The men's team won the Ozark Region by a commanding 3,185 points and qualified for its 40th straight CNFR appearance in 2013. It was the program's 12th Ozark Region championship under the guidance of Luthi and 28th Ozark title since 1976.

Luthi brought home regional Coach of the Year honors, one of seven championship awards that UT Martin received from the Ozark Region. He also presided over the 45th annual Spring College Rodeo at UT Martin, which was named the Ozark Region "Rodeo of the Year" for the eighth straight season. Several UT Martin cowboys earned top-10 national rankings throughout the season thanks to the tutelage of Luthi, who took over as head coach of UT Martin in 1997.

The UT Martin men's team finished 10th in the nation at the CNFR, the fifth time since 2005 that the team has closed out the year in the top-10.

Alumni Spotlight

Carla Rogers Deere



Carla and Justin Deere and their two children, Blaize, 10 years old and Ridge, 2 years old.

After rodeoing for Hill Junior College in Hillsboro, Texas I was hesitant about coming back to Tennessee. I finally made the decision to come home and rodeo for UT Martin. That was the best decision I could have ever made. I got the opportunity to compete from 1998-2000.

My first year at UTM, I was Reserve All-Around Cowgirl, Breakaway Roper, and Goat Tyer. I also got the opportunity to compete in Casper, Wyoming at the College National Finals. Our Women's team was very strong that year and I was honored to rodeo with such great girls.

Rodeoing for Coach Luthi was totally different from what I was use to. Out of all the positive thinking and goal setting, what stands out in my mind was how dedicated he was to his job and how he truly cared about each rodeo team member. I can remember having bible study on Tuesdays.

I didn't go every week (even though I needed it) but looking back I see that Coach Luthi was looking at a bigger picture. We had great practices and he pushed us to give 100% each time. I can remember my crazy rope horse running completely over him. He got up, shook it off, and came back in the roping box like nothing happened. Being a part of the UTM rodeo team was kind of like having another family. Each member was looking to help the other and wanted everyone to do their very best. One of the infamous handouts was "there is no I in TEAM" and everyone truly took that to heart. My years at UTM were some of the best. I will forever cherish those memories and lifelong friendships.

I am married to Justin Deere and we have two children Blaize 10 and Ridge 2. We are currently in the process of moving to Brownsville, TN where Justin manages the Farm Bureau. With my degree in Criminal Justice, I have been working for

cont. on page 6



During a college rodeo at Murray State, Carla Rogers Deere turns in a blazing fast time in the breakaway roping while competing for UT Martin.

Community Corrections for 12 years as a probation officer. I still compete often in the Breakaway Roping but have taken a backseat to my daughter Blaize. She has been competing in Junior Rodeo for a couple of years now. I love watching her compete, especially in

Jackpot Schedule

BARREL RACING DATES

All the barrel races will be IBRA sanctioned

October 25 – 26

November 1 – 2

January 10 – 11

TEAM ROPING JACKPOT

February 14 - 15

the Goat Tying. Hopefully Coach Luthi won't retire anytime soon.

Coach Luthi remembers some of his team members telling him about a talented girl named Carla Rogers who went out of state to rodeo for a junior college in Texas. They encouraged him to talk to her about coming back and rodeoing at Martin. "That was a great decision", says Coach Luthi, "to recruit her. Carla was not only a winner and leader in the arena, but outside the arena too. I was thrilled she came back and finished up school at Martin".



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FOUR NEW RUNS AT THE EQUINE CENTER



The news runs were built by **Seth McDaniel Fencing Company** (former UT Martin rodeo team member). They are located directly behind the 4 runs added last year. **Red Brand** wire was used on all of the runs. (Red Brand out of Peoria, Illinois, carries premium lines of agricultural fencing products and reigns as the most

recognized brand of farm fence in the United States. Since 1889 Red Brand has been standing guard with top quality, American-made fence products for a wide variety of applications). Red Brand donated the wire to the team for the first set of runs. They also sponsor former UT Martin rodeo team member Ty Atchison as he competes at

professional rodeos. You can see videos of Ty at www.RedBrand.com.

The donated fence wire, combined with money raised by team members from contribution letters in the last two years, has allowed the building of a total of eight new runs located just south of the stall barn and west of the calf pen.

Remember this Handout...



The Mental Edge

by Bill Meyer and Dan Zadra



How Much "Potential" Do You Have?

When Billie Jean King was a little girl, she was 60 pounds overweight and she wore glasses as thick as coke bottles. Her friends thought she would be the last person in the world to succeed at tennis, but just look where Billie Jean King is today.

When Peggy Fleming was 13 years old, she was so skinny that she sometimes hated to go out on the ice in front of people. Six years later she won an Olympic Gold Medal for America.

When Mark Spitz was 15 years old, his swimming coach described him as "very average in height and build, and not particularly strong." But in 1972, Mark Spitz astonished the world by winning seven Olympic Gold Medals in a row.

A very average eight-year-old boy named Johnny wrote a promise to himself on a piece of paper: "Some day, I'll be the greatest catcher in the National League." Even in high school his friends called him a dreamer, but today Johnny Bench is busy fulfilling his promise.

When we hear about people like Billie Jean King, Peggy Fleming, Mark Spitz or Johnny Bench, it's sometimes hard to imagine that they once started out as "average" or "below-average" athletes just like everyone else. The truth is, every person starts out at birth with an almost unlimited amount of potential. Even Helen Keller, who started her life deaf, blind and mute, eventually became a tremendous force and inspiration in the world. It's how we choose to develop our potential that makes the difference.

POTENTIAL IS LIKE AN ICEBERG

Scientists tell us that 90 percent of an iceberg is hidden from sight under water. Only the tip (or 10 percent) is visible to the naked eye. Like an iceberg, only a small percentage of your own potential is floating on the surface for everyone to see. The other 90 percent is hiding from view, inside you. Your friends and family may not be able to see it, and sometimes even you might doubt that it's there. But it is.

HOW MUCH POTENTIAL IN A STALE PIECE OF CHEESE?

Sometimes our greatest potential is lying in plain sight just waiting to be discovered. For instance, years ago two scientists named Alexander Fleming and Howard Florey started to experiment with a little piece of green mold... the same kind of mold that you would expect to see on a stale piece of cheese. They noticed that something in the mold killed bacteria. Probably no one else saw much "potential" in their experiments, but before long Fleming and Florey had developed that common

green mold into the wonderful medicine we now call penicillin. Millions of lives have been saved with penicillin, and all because two dedicated men saw the incredible potential in something as small and common as a piece of mold.

HOW DO YOU GET GOLD OUT OF ROCK?

Sometimes we have to dig deep and hard to find our true potential. For example, in 1901 two young brothers named Anderson walked out of the Canadian Wilderness with four tired horses laden with bulging sacks of gold nuggets. The story they told was fantastic! For 21 back breaking months, the miners had picked away at a rocky Canadian hillside, with never a sign of gold. At the beginning of the 22nd month, they finally decided to quit their labors, give up the claim and go home. The night before they were scheduled to leave, the youngest Anderson talked his brother into "one last week of digging." The very next day, the brothers broke through to a small, rich pocket of pure-grade gold. Their hard work and persistence had finally paid off.

HOW MUCH ARE YOU WORTH?

An ordinary piece of iron is worth \$5.50.

The same iron, forged into horseshoes, is worth \$10.50.

Processed into needles, the value of the iron increases to \$4,285.00.

Transformed into beautiful Swiss watch parts, the same \$5.00 piece of iron is worth a quarter of a million dollars!

The same idea applies to our own "potential." The basic materials and resources are given to all of us at birth. It's how we choose to develop them that makes the difference in the end.

HOW MUCH POTENTIAL DO YOU HAVE?

Human potential—your potential—is far greater than any of us can ever imagine. Not just in athletics, but in every area of life.

Like an iceberg, 90 percent of your true potential is probably hidden from view. *Don't give up!*

Like the mold on a common bit of cheese, your potential is waiting for you to discover it. *It's there! Can't see it!*

Like the gold in a rocky Canadian hillside, it may take months of back breaking work to bring it out. *Don't give up!*

And like an average lump of iron ore, you can turn your potential into anything you choose. It can be horseshoes, needles, or beautiful Swiss watch parts. *Prove performance.*

Billie Jean King made a choice. So did Peggy Fleming, Mark Spitz and Johnny Bench.

You can too.

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Don't let a negative attitude transfer into what Christ wants you to be.

