

UT Martin Rodeo News

THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE AT MARTIN

March 2018



It's the 50th!

We are gearing up for the 50th Annual UT Martin Rodeo beginning April 12 - 14. Last year, UTM was chosen as the Rodeo of the Year by the Ozark Region for the twelfth year in a row (12 out of 12 years!). We have been setting attendance records the past few years during the rodeo and are working hard to keep that going. Coach Luthi remarked, "It's always a lot of fun to host our home rodeo, and especially this year with all the excitement with it being the 50th. I don't think everyone realizes how much work goes on behind the scenes to make this happen. So many people play huge roles from selling ads and tickets, putting out posters, hanging signs in the arena and the hundreds of other details it takes to set up the arena and produce the rodeo."

Garrett Yerigan is returning as the rodeo announcer. No stranger to the big stage, Garrett set a record in 2014 as the youngest announcer ever at the International Finals Rodeo, has announced the National Junior High Rodeo Finals and many other professional and college rodeos.

The new funny man this year is Dusty Myers. "I love meeting new people and traveling and I love nothing more than being able to put a smile on not only kids' faces, but their parents also. If I can make someone laugh and they forget about everything else for a while that makes my day." All his hard work and passion for his career has paid off with four 'Clown of the Year' titles under his belt and being the barrel man at the IFR five times.

Mark Johnson and Universal Rodeos of Jonesboro, Arkansas will once more be bringing the rank bucking stock for the bareback, saddle bronc and the always exciting bull riding! Coach John Luthi talks about "how exciting it is to look at the draw and see if his bareback riders had drawn 8X or 462, who got KK in the saddle bronc riding or if anyone would ride 245 in the bull riding. Mark and his crew are always easy to work with and really are a plus in us putting on a quality performance."

Back again this year is the "Name a Goat" Program. Come cheer on "Moony", "Nelson the Baaathletic Trainer", "Goatzilla", "Vincent Van Goat" and "Dually"

continued on page 2



Top: Great bucking stock from Universal Rodeo; middle: Casey Allen makes a quick run in the breakaway roping; bottom: Houston Herbert hangs tough and spurs a wild one! –Photo courtesy of UT Martin University Relations

It's the 50th!

continued from page 1

each night in the goat tying. Make sure you cheer loud for your favorite!

Last year we introduced the first UTM Rodeo Snapchat filter. It was a huge success so be on the lookout for the special 50th Rodeo edition!

Thursday night is always Bargain Night at the rodeo and all tickets are \$6.00 at the door. 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 for a chance to throw a horseshoe to win a MTD riding lawn mower. Stop by the Booster Club's t-shirt booth for your limited edition UTM 50th Rodeo shirt or souvenir.

Friday night the rodeo is sponsored by Tennessee Tractor and is "Tough Enough to Wear Pink" night for breast cancer awareness. The evening will begin at 7:10 with the Weakley County 4-H Mounted Drill Team. They put on a super 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. Remember to visit the silent auction tables to see what unique items are available for bidding that night.

The Martin Paving Company Championship Finals will begin at 7:30 on Saturday night. The opening will be performed by the UTM Rodeo women's team and is really worth getting there early to watch. The cowboys and cowgirls will be competing for the championship spurs built by Dutton Bits & Spurs for each event winner. The men and women's all-around winners will receive a gift certificate for a pair of Dan Post Boots and a YETI Cooler. Come see the "Best of the Best" compete on Saturday night!



*Hunter Styles about to rope 2 feet at the Martin Rodeo
–Photo courtesy of UT Martin University Relations*



*Left: Ryan McDaniels rides a rank one; right: The first ever snapchat filter was a big hit at last year's rodeo! –
Photo courtesy of Bruce Photography*



Robbie Van Holten rides in the grand entry before huge crowds at the UTM Rodeo –Photo courtesy of UT Martin University Relations



50th YEARS
UT MARTIN
SPRING
RODEO
April 12-14 • 7:30 PM

4-Time College Finals Qualifier
Nealey Dalton

Tickets: (731) 881-7207

NEALEY DALTON FEATURED ON BILLBOARD

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 graduate assistant Nealey Dalton.

While at UT Martin Nealey and her great horse, Miss Mango Tango, qualified 4 years for the College National Finals Rodeo. She placed in several rounds, including 2nd and 6th place finishes at last year's CNFR.

The duo combined to finish as Reserve Champions in the 2015 and 2016 Ozark Regional barrel racing standings. And in 2017 Miss Mango Tango was the Ozark Region's Horse of the Year. They also won the barrel racing average at the 46th and 49th annual UTM Rodeo.

Professionally, they recently won the 2017 IBRA National \$10,000 Guaranteed Race.

"Being on the UTM rodeo team not only allowed me an education and opportunity to rodeo but also, through Coach Luthi's leadership, taught me life lessons I'll take with me always, helped me grow as an individual in rodeo and in my faith, and turned friends into a family I'll never forget", commented Nealey.

"Nealey was a great athlete and a big asset to our team and program," said Coach Luthi. "When Miss Mango was healthy you could always count on them. Nealey's leadership outside the arena has also been instrumental to our team in countless ways".

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

50TH ANNUAL UT MARTIN RODEO

APRIL 12-13-14 • 7:30 P.M.
NED McWHERTER AGRICULTURAL COMPLEX
MARTIN, TENN.

UT MARTIN RODEO ALUMNI
DACIA HORNE
2015 OZARK REGION CHAMPION

UT MARTIN RODEO ALUMNI
TANNER PHIPPS
2017 PRCA ROOKIE OF THE YEAR



ADVANCED TICKETS: FRIDAY

- ADULTS \$8
- CHILDREN (6-12) / UTM STUDENTS w/ ID: \$6
- CHILDREN (AGES 5 AND UNDER) - FREE
- WEEKEND PASS - GOOD FOR ALL PERFORMANCES: \$20

ADVANCED TICKETS: SATURDAY

- ADULTS \$10
- CHILDREN (6-12) / UTM STUDENTS w/ ID: \$6
- CHILDREN (AGES 5 AND UNDER) - FREE

ALL THURSDAY NIGHT TICKETS: \$6 EACH

GENERAL ADMISSION TICKETS: FRIDAY

- ADULTS \$10
- CHILDREN (6-12) / UTM STUDENTS w/ ID: \$7
- CHILDREN (AGES 5 AND UNDER) - FREE
- WEEKEND PASS - GOOD FOR ALL PERFORMANCES: \$20

GENERAL ADMISSION TICKETS: SATURDAY

- ADULTS \$12
- CHILDREN (6-12) / UTM STUDENTS w/ ID: \$7
- CHILDREN (AGES 5 AND UNDER) - FREE

TICKET OFFICE
(731) 881-7207

ADVANCED TICKETS ON SALE
MARCH 16TH - APRIL 8TH ONLY

ADVANCED TICKET LOCATIONS:

DRESDEN

- A TO Z VET SUPPLY

FULTON, KY.

- VERIZON WIRELESS

GREENFIELD

- BRAWNER'S BOOTS

MARTIN

- UT MARTIN UNIVERSITY CENTER
- WEAKLEY FARMERS CO-OP

UNION CITY

- WOOD COMMUNICATION CELLULAR SOURCE



SPONSORED BY:
THURSDAY - TYSON, OBION COUNTY COMPLEX
FRIDAY - TENNESSEE TRACTOR, LLC
SATURDAY - MARTIN PAVING, CO., MEDINA, TENN.

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MARTIN

RODEO POSTER FEATURES DACIA HORNE AND TANNER PHIPPS

The 2018 UT Martin Rodeo poster proudly features former Skyhawk greats Dacia Horne and Tanner Phipps.

Dacia, along with her super horse, Zoco, won the 2015 Ozark Region barrel racing championship. They qualified twice for the College National Finals Rodeo. In 2015 they placed 2nd in the first round of the CNFR and 8th in the third round. They headed into the short go winning second in the average. They had tough luck in the short go hitting a barrel but still ended up 12th in the nation.

Said Coach Luthi, “Dacia’s senior year she was so dependable and lead our women’s team to the CNFR. She had a huge impact on our program as she strived to make a positive difference in and out of the arena.”

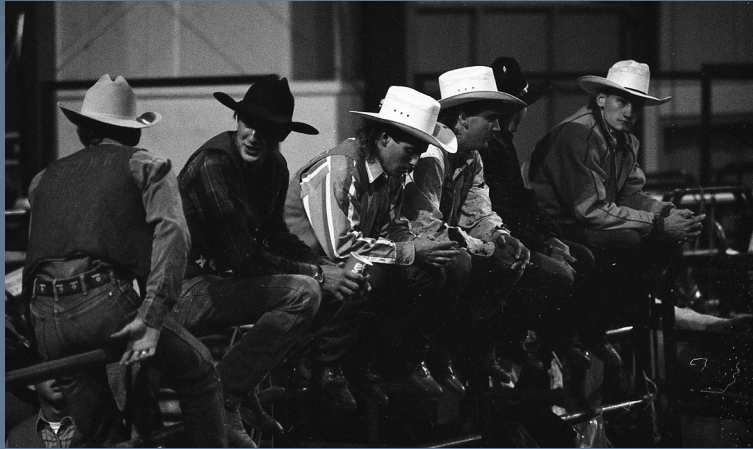
Tanner qualified for the CNFR three years in a row and was a member of the 2014 Men’s National Championship Team. That year he was 3rd in the Ozark Region’s bareback riding standings. At the College Finals he placed 5th in the second round with a fantastic 77 point ride. In 2015 and 2016 Tanner was the Ozark Regions reserve champion bareback rider. He finished 14th and 10th nationally at the CNFR. In Pro Rodeo he won the PRCA 2017 Bareback Riding Rookie of the Year Award.

According to Coach Luthi, “Tanner has worked hard to achieve the goals he has set for himself. He has a strong work ethic, a lot of talent and it is no surprise he’s been so successful.”

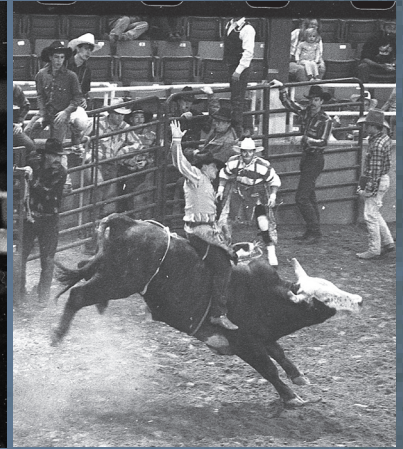
50 YEARS OF UTM RODEO



Fun for all ages at the UTM Rodeo



"Wait, no one has a cell phone in their hands?"



Back when the bulls really bucked!



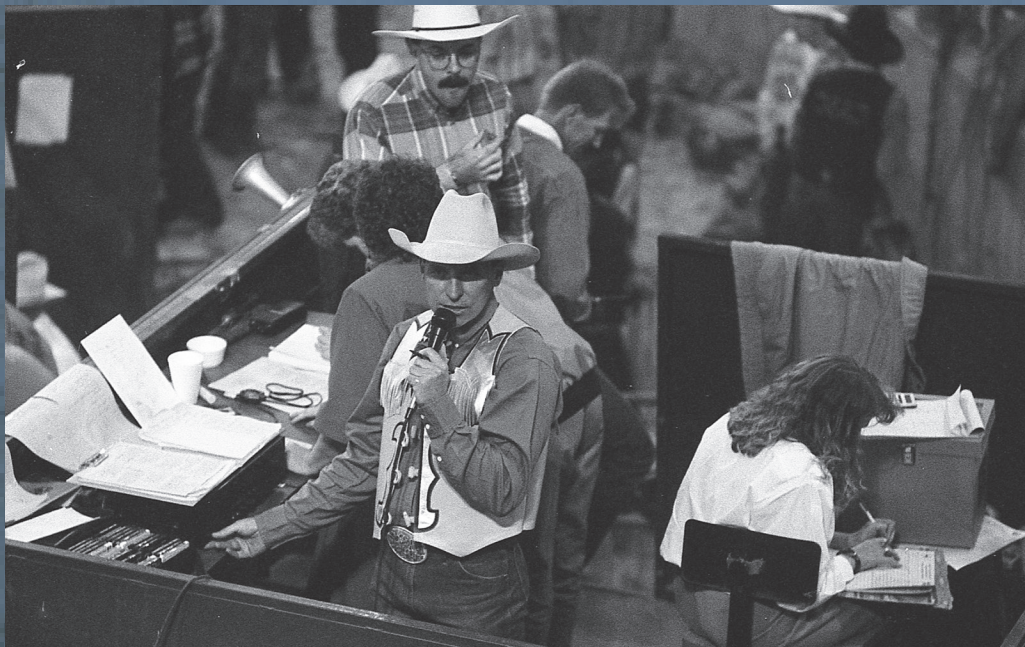
Riding a rank one



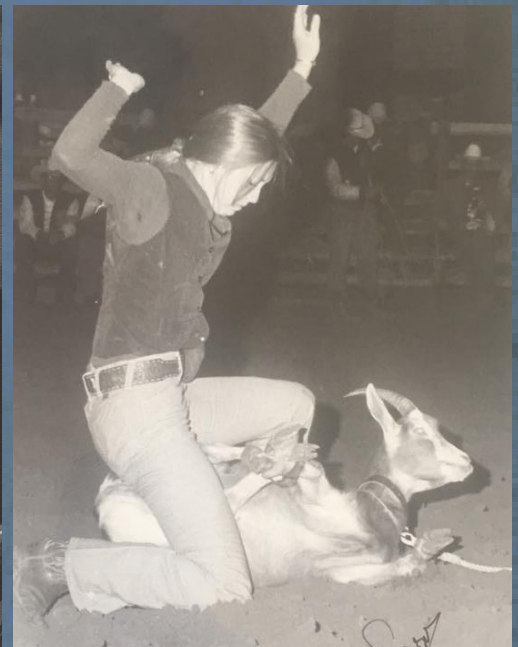
The eighties



Beginning of the scholarship auction



Cheyenne Pipkin announcing

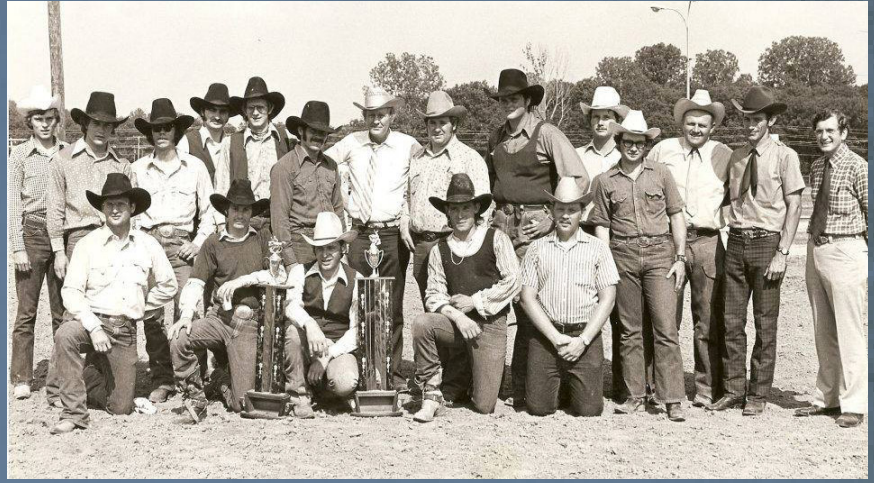


Terri Tucker Baxter at College Finals

50 YEARS OF UTM RODEO



The 1974 UTM Rodeo Men's Team



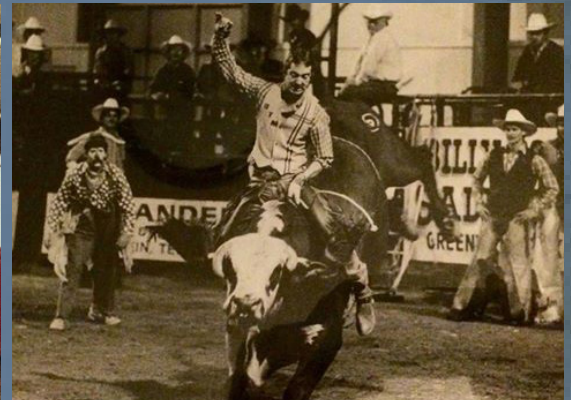
The seventies



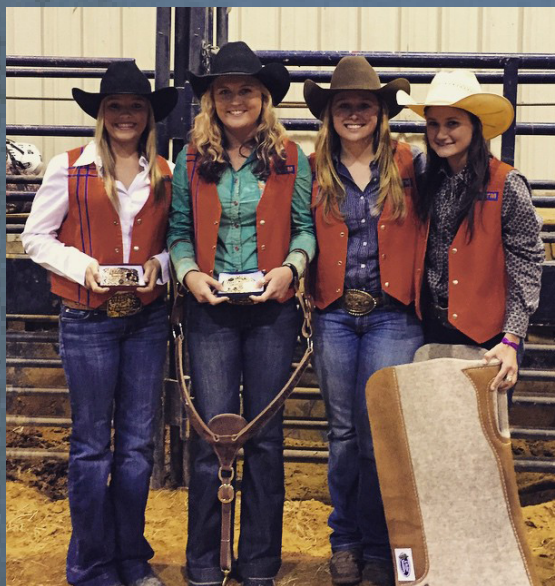
Warren Caudle, Linville Freeman and Mac Barber



Three College National All-around Champions from UTM



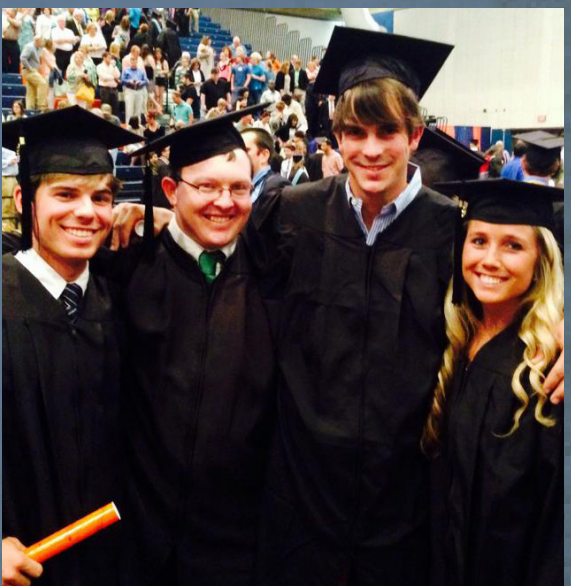
David Brewer



Women's CNFR team 2015 - Nealey Dalton, Dacia Horne, Natalie Fletcher and Ashley Brooks



National Champions! Tanner Phipps, Clark Adcock, John Alley, Colt Kitaif, Tyler Waltz and Will Lummus



Graduation: Clay Brewer, Robert Joyce, John Alley and Lucinda Fletcher

Crawfish Supper

It's crawfish time in Tennessee! The kick-off of "Rodeo Week" is the Annual Crawfish Supper hosted by the Rodeo Booster Club and is sponsored by Tennessee Department of Agriculture. So come and choose to pile your plate high with "mud bugs" or fill up on hamburgers, hotdogs, corn on the cob and new potatoes. Either way it's a tradition that is unique to the UTM Rodeo and what makes "Rodeo Week" so special. It's the 50th so you never know who might show up or what stories will get told, or how exaggerated the tall tales will become, so you better be there in person to hear it for yourself! As always, it will be held at the American Legion in Martin, the Wednesday before the rodeo, on April 11th. 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 current rodeo team, renew friendships and join the booster club. The public is welcome! The cost is \$15.00 per person. New members can join the booster club and former members can renew their memberships at this event.



Colt Kitaif piled his late high!



Micayla Gray Griffin and Savannah Warner

Crawfish Supper



George Meissner



Big Crowds

*** FOLLOW THE TEAM! ***



Utm Rodeo



UTM_Rodeo



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UTMRODEO

UTM RODEO 50th ANNIVERSARY

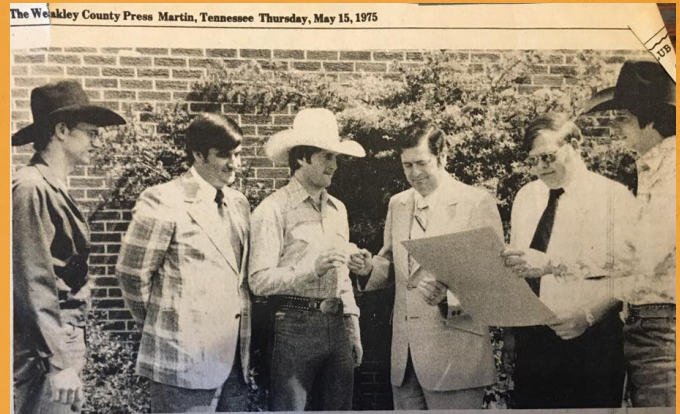
ALUMNI BREAKFAST

In honor of the 50th anniversary of the UT Martin Rodeo the University is hosting a breakfast for all former rodeo team members and their families, current team members, coaches, and rodeo booster club members. Coach Luthi and the UTM Chancellor, Keith Carver, will be there to welcome everyone. It will be a fun chance to reminisce in a relaxed atmosphere, tell stories that may or may not be entirely true and laugh a lot. Don't miss out on this special time. Please RSVP at the link below.

Where: Hardy Graham Stadium, Champion's Club

Time: 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

[Click here to RSVP.](#)



Rodeo Coming Up
Martin Mayor Tom Copeland (third from right) purchases a ticket from Ernie Roberts of the University of Tennessee at Martin Rodeo team for the rodeo scheduled this weekend at Union City. The annual event is sponsored by the Martin Jaycees. Left to right are David Vowell, Jaycee Danny Knapp, Ernie Roberts, Mayor Copeland, Jaycee Terry Finney, and Bill Hey.

1975 Weakley County Press article



Rodeo clown Brian White and some of the original rodeo team members



Booster club president, Katie White and Coach Luthi introduce Ross Lowery and his sister Jolyn Lowery King as new 2016 members of the UTM Rodeo Hall of Fame

FREE BARBECUE & LIVE AUCTION

Edward Jones Investments of Martin once again brings us the Free County-Wide Barbecue and live Scholarship Auction on Saturday, April 14th. It will again be held downtown Martin in Festival Park weather permitting. 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. It's a more relaxed atmosphere after the frenzied pace of the rodeo each night, so you get a chance to talk and visit as you enjoy your meal. This will lead up to the big event, the live scholarship auction beginning around 12:15. 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](http://www.Auctionzip.com) to see items that will be in the auction.



Tucker Kail auctioneer



Fun at the BBQ



Big crowds and big fun!

FREE BARBECUE & LIVE AUCTION



Auctioneers and Queens



*Mike Pierce, Bob Robinson, Steve Taylor
and James Davis*



*Mike Higgs, Scottie NeSmith and Kelley Jo
Miller*



Utm Rodeo



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SILENT AUCTION

Each night of the rodeo different silent auction items will be displayed on tables up top in the mezzanine. This year we are highlighting an all leather jacket with the UTM 50th Rodeo logo. Applevue River Resort and Old Mill Lodge in Sevierville have donated several nights stay in their cabins in the Smokies! Another unique donation is a chance to host an evening at the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame in the Bridgestone Arena in Nashville. If you are having a party, reunion or a gathering of up to 150 people what a special place to invite your guests. There is a golf outing available in Branson and Yeti coolers. We also have received lots of tack, saddle pads, horse blankets, knives, western clothing, horse supplements, boot gift certificates, purses, horseshoe art, items with the steer head logo, and many one of a kind items. Additionally, numerous gift certificates have been donated for our Get Away Packages to Nashville, Smoky Mountains, Branson, Memphis, Knoxville, Chattanooga, Louisville, Jackson, and St. Louis. There will be different items out each night of the rodeo.

The silent auction 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 next person then writes a higher amount and you can rewrite you name and new 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 UTM Rodeo facebook page. It will have a full description of each item and link to the donor’s webpage. If you want a quick printable list of items with clickable links check out the UTM Rodeo Athletic page, <http://www.utmsports.com/page.cfm?id=68> to see the complete list.

SILENT AUCTION



SILENT AUCTION



APRIL
12 - 14



50TH GALA

A Gala event took place in February at Buck's Celebration Center to celebrate 50 years of UT Martin Rodeo with great food, old friends and dancing. Guests were excited to honor the past founders, support the current team and help ensure a bright future for UTM Rodeo for years to come.

UT Martin Chancellor, Keith Carver, welcomed everyone and spoke of the legacy of the program. Ernie Roberts read a special poem he had penned and David Vowell spoke from a unique perspective about the history of the rodeo program from someone who has been around since the beginning days with Doc Robinson. He told the audience the rodeo team started with a dream and that we needed to keep dreaming big for future generations of Skyhawk cowboys and cowgirls.

A beautiful, one of a kind saddle built by former rodeo team member Robbie Phillips was auctioned off. After some spirited bidding the winner was Marvin Alexander. The money raised was to start the "Raise the Roof" project the rodeo booster club has initiated. They are starting a campaign to raise money to put a roof on the Equine Center practice facility within the next couple of years.



Utm Rodeo



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50TH GALA



Dancing at the 50th Gala



Dave Pruitt auctioneer and Summer Weldon "Miss Rodeo USA"



The Alexander's and Bolding's



Chancellor Keith Carver welcoming the guests



2018 rodeo team members



Former rodeo team members and coaches from the early years

“RAISE THE ROOF”

At the 50th Gala, Booster Club President Katie White, announced the launching of the “Raise the Roof” initiative to raise the money to put a roof on the Equine Center’s outdoor practice pen. This will allow the team more opportunities to practice and not be hindered by wet and muddy conditions.

The idea is that if each former rodeo team member gave \$50 in honor of the 50th Rodeo the money could be raised in the next couple of years.

Coach Luthi said, “I’m honored the Booster Club choose to take on this project. It will be a huge impact on the rodeo program for years to come.”

For more information you can email tkb234@gmail.com. If you would like to make a tax deductible donation you can mail a check to:

UTM Rodeo Booster Club – “Raise the Roof”
1138 N Germantown Parkway, suite 101-106
Cordova, TN 38016



Steve Taylor and crew doing repairs at Equine Center



Steer wrestling practice at the Equine Center



Beautiful fall day at the Equine Center



Molly Hill gets ready to rope

ORANGE TRI-FOLD'S AROUND TOWN

Be on the lookout for the orange UTM rodeo trifolds 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. They also have complete information about all the "Rodeo Week" activities!

UT MARTIN'S 50TH ANNUAL SPRING COLLEGE



April 12-14 • Ned Ray McWherter Agricultural Complex
and N.W. (Doc) Robinson Arena • Martin, Tenn.



www.utmsports.com



UTM RODEO



1968-2018

All past rodeo newsletters can be found at

www.utmsports.com/sport/rodeo

UT Martin Rodeo
NEWSLETTER



Click the graphic for past newsletters.

ADVANCED TICKETS

Advanced tickets to the UT Martin 50th Annual Rodeo go on sale March 16th and are available ONLY until April 2th. So avoid the lines and get a discounted ticket at these locations: Martin: UT Martin University Center, Weakley Farmers Co-op; Fulton, KY: Verizon Wireless Store; Dresden: A to Z Vet Supply; Union City: Wood Communication Cellular Source; Greenfield: Brawner Boots

50TH ANNUAL
UTM INTERCOLLEGIATE RODEO
MARTIN, TN
THURSDAY, APRIL 12, 2018 @ 7:30PM
**COMPLIMENTARY
ADMISSION**
VOID IF
DETACHED
0001

**THURSDAY
COMP
ADMISSION
2018**

**ENTER
THIS
COUPON!**

**WIN AN
ORCA
COOLER**

STOP BY WEAKLEY FARMERS
CO-OP AND ENTER THIS
TICKET STUB FOR A CHANCE
TO WIN A 26-QT. ORCA COOLER.
A \$250 VALUE!

NAME _____

PHONE NUMBER _____

**WEAKLEY FARMERS
CO-OP**

330 NASH STREET MARTIN, TN
(731) 587-9531

**ENTER FOR
A CHANCE
TO WIN!**



Utm Rodeo



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