

ROPERS SPORTS NEWS



JUNE 2009

VOL. 41, No. 7

\$2.50

24060 N. Ray Rd., Lodi, CA 95242 • 209-333-2924 • www.roperssportsnews.com • ropers@inreach.com

Mackin & Benbow Win Saddles At 2009 Gold Country Classic

Rancho Murieta, CA

Mackin & Benbow teamed up to each win:

- Trophy Martin Saddle
- \$1,562 Cash
- Trophy Saddle Pad
- (2) National Finals Shoot Outs
- \$9,000 In Flex Earnings

By Ben Clements

Special To Ropers Sports News

The USTRC staff headed to the beautiful Murieta Equestrian Center in Rancho Murieta, California for the Gold Country Classic May 8-10, 2009. The event provided ropers with classic USTRC style team roping and was certainly a team roping that you didn't want to miss.

To one team roper from Martinez, California this was the event of a lifetime. Forty-seven-year-old Kellie Mackin headed to the Gold Country Classic to rope in the #8 Pick/Draw. She arrived and was there early to enter, however while she was at the window turning in her entry a heeler came running up and was going to have to draw out of the #9 Division because both his partners didn't show up. USTRC Secretary Vicky Mouryo told Mackin she should enter with the gentleman since she was already there and just going to be waiting on the #8 to start. She politely declined the offer. Through some coercion from Mouryo and Mackin's fiancé Frank Nunez, she decided to head for Brandon Benbow of Oakdale, California.

The partnership proved to be a match made in heaven. The team roped three steers in 34.44 seconds to win the incentive average of the #9 Division. They earned trophy saddle pads along with a USTRC National Finals Shoot Out worth \$6,000 in USTRC Flex Earnings.

"I couldn't believe we won the incentive," said Mackin. "We were third high team back and after we roped our short round steer we were winning the average."

The team then caught their short round steer in 14.45 seconds to bring their average total to 48.89 seconds on four steers. That total was good enough to secure first place in the main average for the team.

"Red St. Clair was second high team and lost his rope and then the high team missed," said Mackin. "I just could not believe that we ended up winning the roping."

They earned trophy Martin saddles, \$3,124, and another USTRC National Finals Shoot Out worth \$3,000 each in USTRC Flex Earnings.

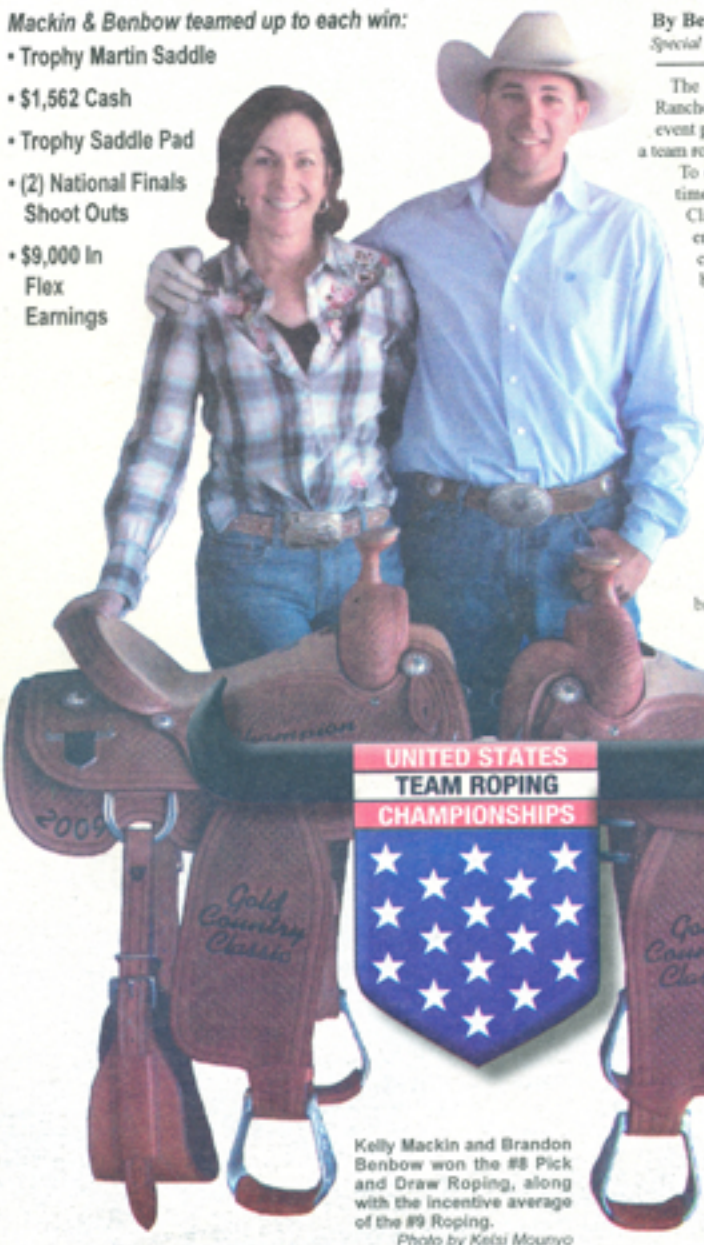
This was Mackin's first saddle ever.

"It has been a goal of mine to win a USTRC saddle," said Mackin. "I didn't even know they were giving saddles away to the average winners. It was pretty exciting. I have been going to every saddle roping they have and I finally got it done."

Mackin has leukemia and recently had a bone marrow transplant. She has to see how she feels daily before planning on doing anything at all. It is quite a feat for her to even be able to compete in team roping competitions. Some days it is a challenge for her to just get out of bed.

"I started roping in 2003. I had ridden for

See MACKIN & BENBOW
WIN SADDLES On Page 68



Kelly Mackin and Brandon Benbow won the #8 Pick and Draw Roping, along with the incentive average of the #9 Roping.

Photo by Kelsi Mouryo

Larry Curtsinger, winner of the #2.5 & Under saddle at Three Rivers.

Photo by E. Annette Rose



Another Successful ROPING!

Three Rivers, CA

By Mike Sweeney

Special To Ropers Sports News

The Three Rivers Lions hosted another fun filled four days with something for everyone. Thursday, April 23, 2009 kicked off with the Open Roping that featured the best in the business. Twenty-two NFR qualifiers showed up to lay claim to the 2009 Open title. To the open ropers' delight, the Three Rivers Lions, along with Jim Waggoner and Don Gatz, put up \$1,000 to the winning team. Jake Stanley and Justin Davis won the opening round with a 5.16 and put \$453 in each one of their pockets. When the dust settled it was Travis Tryan and Cesar de la Cruz who posted the winning time of 34.23 on five head. They picked up \$1,479 each for the average and another \$500 apiece in added money. Not bad for a \$100 entry fee. Many of the Open ropers were very appreciative of the 89% pay back in this roping.

The next roping was the One Over 40 Handicap, a lot of the top guns hung around for this one and pretty well dominated the go rounds. The team of B.J. Campbell and Joe Day won the first round with a blistering 5.01 for \$170 each. In the average

See THREE RIVERS On Page 68

Spring Run Classic Results In Four-Way Tie For Youth Saddles

Ceres, CA

By Noel Cosca

Special To Ropers Sports News

There was no disappointment as to who would win the Sherri Cervi West Coast Youth Championship saddle after a four-way tie for first resulted Saturday evening.

Shane Parson, owner of the Diamond Bar Arena in Ceres, Calif., decided at the spur of the moment that all four winners would get a saddle.

"He has a big heart, but most of us already knew that," said Stacey Freitas, who put on the event. Michaela Chioino, Lake Mehalic, Erin Clendenen and Hailey Pearle all tied for the Youth Championship 12 and under saddles. Kaitlyn Wiggins won the Youth saddle for the 17 and under Sherri Cervi West Coast Youth Championship.

Parson would like to thank several people who chipped in Saturday evening to help him pay for the three extra saddles: Nathan Ornellas, owner of Nathan's Diesel Service; Will and Bill of PACWest; Lance and Lyndee Stairs; Dana Luther; Sherry Cervi; Potter Ranch; and Cactus Saddlery; all of whom didn't even think twice about helping out.

There were 530 entries in the Spring Run Classic held April 17-19 at the beautiful Diamond Bar Arena in Ceres, Calif. The Spring Run Classic paid out \$68,622 not including awards. Congratulations NFR Qualifier Layna Kight, riding MANY, who won the 1D Open Saddle with the fastest time of 17.262 over the three-day event and netting her \$2,220 for her efforts. Shane Parson and family have worked tirelessly to produce this fine event which will benefit many local charities.



There was a four-way tie for the first place saddle in the first annual Sherry Cervi West Coast Championships 12 & Under. All of the girls are getting saddles — from left to right: Lake Mehalic, Hailey Pearle, Sherry Cervi presenting, Erin Clendenin, and Michaela Chioino.

Motes & Ray Win Spring Classic

Ceres, CA

The Diamond Bar Arena in Ceres, Calif., produced an Open Team Roping on Monday, April 20. Hoping to entice the open ropers who were making the run from Red Bluff to the Clovis Rodeo, they sweetened the pot with \$5,000 added and Cactus saddles to the winners, the open ropers responded.

David Motes and Boogie Ray took the average win and \$5,240 each. David also won second with Justin Copp.

Results are as follows (payoffs are per roper):

Average: 1st. David Motes and Boogie Ray, 32.71, \$5,240. 2nd. David Motes and Justin Copp, 36.32, \$3,930. 3rd. Daniel Green and Todd Hampton, 36.35, \$2,620. 4th. Derrick Begay and Rich Skelton, 36.75, \$1,310.

The 2D saddle went to Stacey Freitas who helped to run the event this year. Freitas, riding her nice bay horse named LENAS SWEET JALAPEÑA took home \$2,857. Freitas hurt her back after her ride on Sunday, yet fought through the pain to

get the payout and results done. Freitas said she was excited to win the 2D saddle and appreciated everyone who helped with the event.

The 3D saddle was won by 25-year-old Shana Carter riding CHECKERS with an 18.263, win-

ning her \$1,488 and a new saddle. Shanna said, "It is my first time here and I like the ground, and I would like to thank my trainer Jerri Mann." Carter was happy to win the saddle and this was a big weekend for her.

Ashley Davis, riding BOGIES RANDI RAE, stopped the clock with a 19.265 to win the 4D and a check for \$1,294 and a beautiful new saddle.

The Sidewinder Futurity had \$7500 added both Saturday and Sunday. This futurity was sponsored by Wawona Frozen Foods, Jud Little Ranch, and Thoro'Bred horse shoes. Lyndee Stairs snagged a fistful of checks for her weekend runs, totaling \$6,757. Stairs was a double threat in the Sidewinder Futurity winning the average on FIRE WATER SLIDIN and running the fastest go round time on JETTIN BYE. Stairs is proud of her homegrown FIRE WATER SLIDIN. Stairs' colt is out of her mare SIPPIN FIREWATER and by her stud OTRO FRANCASO whose bloodlines go back to FIRST DOWN DASH. Stairs said she was excited to run the fastest time on a four-year-old filly owned by Jud Little. JETTIN BYE ran a 17.638 and Stairs would like to thank Little, one of the sponsors of the futurity. JETTIN BYE also placed sixth in the 1D Beth Cooper/Spring Run Futurity combination.

Stairs would like to thank Shane for putting the futurity race on and Jeff and Stacy Freitas for their hard work. All the horses Stairs competed on were shod with Thoro'Bred SideWinder horseshoes, and she was very thankful that SideWinder, Jud Little and Wawonna Foods helped to sponsor the futurity.



Kaitlyn Wiggins, 17 & Under saddle winner with Sherry Cervi, right, presenting.

Pam Ross won the 2D Futurity average, riding TROY'S DANCER, winning a check for \$1,295 in the futurity.

The SideWinder Futurity has teamed up with the Beth Cooper Memorial race and provided buckles to the 1D and 2D combined average winners after you enter both futurities. The winner of the 1D buckle was Jodi Edwards riding BLUEGRASS KIN and the 2D winner was Dolli Lautaret riding DOWN HOME DAI.

The race was webcast live and also filmed for a clip used by local TV station "Good Day Sacramento." Everyone was all fired up after the awards ceremony when someone noticed there was smoke coming from a rig in the parking lot. Shane's crew, mostly his sons, after putting in a long weekend, came to the rescue and doused the smoldering hay which had caught fire, using the arena's water truck. Great job boys!

The photographer for the event was Katie Tomasegovich and prints may be ordered by e-mailing her at hoofandpicphoto@live.com The dog races on Saturday were won by a two-year-old Queensland/Australian shepherd mix medium division dog named ROXIE.

This race was co-sactioned by the WPRA, NSBRA, ACBRA & PacWest.

A special thank you for this event goes to these fine sponsors: Alldrin Bros. Almonds, Bar Ale Feed, Bar F Products, Barindelli Nut, Bonander Truck & Trailer, Bruce and Sally Ocken, Cactus Ropes, Cactus Saddlery, Cal Grown Nut Co, Choice of Champions, Cowgirl Tuff, Elk Grove Milling Stable Mix, EZ-All, Forklift Mobile, Gillum Livestock, Grohl Ranch, Hardesty Sand & Gravel, Heather Coombs, Hughson Nut Co, Jerri Mann, Jud Little Ranch, Kiwanis of Greater Ceres, Les Schwab Tires, Mike Assali, Monschein Industries, Inc., Orchard Valley Harvest, Pacific Coast Commodities, Potter Ranch, Premier Nut Company, Quality Nut Co, Renee Ryckebosch, Resistol, Robert Falke Horseshoeing, S & S Tack, Sensiern, Sherry Cervi, Stairs Ranch, Synergy, Thorobred Horseshoes, V-V Enterprises, Wawona Frozen Foods, Western Valley Insurance, Dana Luther, Nathan's Diesel Service and Will and Bill at the PACWest.

For complete race results go to www.diamondbararena.com

The Futurity average winner was Lyndee Stairs riding FIRE WATER SLIDIN owned by Jud Little. Left to right: FIRE WATER SLIDIN, Lance Stairs, Lyndee Stairs, and Jud Little.

