

## The Life of a Rodeo Roper

*After a lifetime of rodeo competitions Dale Pedersen gets a chance at a national event in Las Vegas*

By Scott Laird

Dale Pedersen has spent his entire life around horses. He's dabbled in rodeo events, both amateur and professionally. This past December he was able to compete against some of the best rodeo cowboys and cowgirls in the country.

Pedersen grew up on an 800 acre horse ranch in Glendive, Montana, a small town on the Yellowstone River on the eastern border near North Dakota. "My dad used to run some cattle there, but eventually we sold all the cattle and just raised quarter horses," explains Pedersen. "I've always been around horses and we would always help other area ranchers moving cattle or during brandings."

Pedersen explains that quarter horses are an American breed of horse known for their athleticism; they excel at quick starts and sprinting short distances, and are often used as rodeo horses. "They're not as tall as thoroughbreds, and have a shorter stride and are quicker. They can stop and get going in a hurry."

Pedersen's father was a professional rodeo rider who traveled the rodeo circuit as a saddle bronc rider, steer wrestler, calf roper, and team roper. As a young man, Pedersen competed in rodeos in team roping and other events, often with his younger brother, and earned a rodeo scholarship to Dawson Community College in Glendive where he continued to compete.

Pedersen says after college he started working and got away from hors-

es for a few years. In the late 1980s he moved with a friend to Oregon, met his wife Susan, and got married in 1990. "I would travel back to the ranch every year and realized I really missed the horses,"



Dale Pedersen competing at the World Series of Team Roping in Las Vegas in December.

says Pedersen. He and Susan bought a horse and trailer from his dad, brought it back to Oregon, and he started competing again in rodeo. In 1992 Dale and Susan, homeowners in Cornelius, were looking for a place with space for a horse. "We saw an ad for a place in Vernonia with a couple acres up on Noakes Road," explains Pedersen. "We didn't even really know where Vernonia was, but we took a drive up and saw this cute little place, and by golly, that was the place that was for sale! So we bought it, and after that we just started accumulating horses and I got really passionate about team roping."

Pedersen explains that team roping, a timed event, requires two partners, one rider to rope the front of the steer by either the horns, neck or the nose, known as the "header," and then the second rider, known as the "heeler" attempts to rope both hind legs. Penalties are assessed if the heeler does not rope both legs, and teams gets no score if either roper misses completely. The fastest teams can complete the event in under 10 seconds. Team roping is the only rodeo sport where men and women compete equally in professional events, and mixed gender teams are

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## St. Patrick's Day Parade! Sunday, March 17 at 2:00 pm



Everyone is welcome  
Starts at  
Pat & Darlene Knight's house  
Bridge Street & State Avenue

## Student's Exchange Year Abroad Teaches the Value of Other Cultures

*VHS senior Savannah Norman spent her junior year in Germany*

By Scott Laird

When Vernonia High School student Savannah Norman figured out she wanted to see more of the world than just Oregon, she decided to do something about it. She researched exchange student programs and spent her junior year in Germany as part of the Congress Bundestag Youth Exchange (CBYX) program. Norman, now a senior getting ready to graduate from VHS, recently sat down to talk about her year abroad, with the hope of encouraging other local students to consider it for themselves.

"The summer before my sophomore year, I had the idea of foreign exchange planted in my head, so I started thinking about it and researching it," explains Norman. "I really did want to go out and see the world and get to know a new place and gain some new perspectives. We're a melting pot in the United States, but we're really comfortable in our own culture and not very accepting of many aspects of other cultures."

Norman says there wasn't one big thing that got her started thinking about a year abroad, but she says exposure to foreign exchange students spending a year in Vernonia certainly played a role in her deciding to explore the pos-



sibilities. "Andrea Castaño was an exchange student here from Spain my freshman year, and she talked to me about what it was like," says Norman. "She really encouraged me."

VHS has an expansive and successful foreign exchange student program, coordinated by Cathy Ward through ASSE, bringing exchange students from around the world every year to live with host families and attend school here. Vernonia has hosted as many as 18 foreign students in

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## Lady Loggers Finish 6<sup>th</sup> at State Tournament

The Vernonia Lady Loggers basketball team entered the State Playoffs as the #15 seed out of 16 teams, but ended up as one of the pleasant surprises, defeating the #2 and #3 seeds and finishing in 6<sup>th</sup> place.

The Lady Loggers beat #2 Monroe in their opening playoff game 48-46 to earn a trip to the final 8 in Pendleton. Vernonia won one game over #3 Oakland and lost two at Pendleton.

Freshman Brooklynn Walters led the Lady Loggers and was named to the Second Team All Tournament. Walters led the three game tournament in Pendleton in field goal percentage, hitting 19 of 35 (54%), and in 3-point shot percentage, hitting 7 of 15 shots (47%), and finished 4<sup>th</sup> in scoring, averaging



17 points per game.

As a team the Lady Loggers led the tournament in both field goal percentage (37.5%) and 3-point percentage (38.7%), assists (29), blocked shots (9), and finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in rebounding per game (30.3). Senior captain Joyce Everett led the tournament in minutes played, playing all 32 minutes for the Lady Loggers.

gers' sophomore Jayden Hartman took a great cross court pass from Brooklynn Walters and calmly sunk a 12 foot jumper with just 0.4 seconds left to give Vernonia the upset win.

Brooklyn Walters led the Lady Loggers in scoring with 23 points, including four 3-point baskets, while Hartman added 10 points and point

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