



Hood River mother and daughter 'having a blast' in the Fort Dalles Days Pro Rodeo



Photos by Mike Weber

CRYSTAL BEAM, left, rides her horse, Shortcut, after competing in the barrel racing event of the the Fort Dalles Days Pro Rodeo Wednesday night. At right, Beam's daughter, Josee, poses for a photo Wednesday night. Josee, who starts her freshman year at Hood River Valley High School this fall, was selected as the Fort Dalles Riders Association Queen.

By MIKE WEBER
For the News

Celebrating its 50th anniversary, the Fort Dalles Days Pro Rodeo kicked off with the opening round of events that included Hood River cowgirls Crystal Beam and her daughter, Josee, on Wednesday at Milt Tumilson Arena in The Dalles.

Beam competed in barrel racing while riding her nine-year-old quarterhorse Shortcut around the three-barrel course while clocking a pretty quick time of 18.87 seconds.

"We've been traveling together to many events this year, which has been a great experience for Josee, since it gives her something to do at the rodeo," said Beam, 35, who also enters Jackpot Rodeo events around the Northwest. "We're on the road nearly every weekend traveling to rodeos with my husband, Chad, and our six-year-old daughter, Charlie. We're having so much fun and Charlie enjoys riding her pony all over the rodeo facility while we're here. I have my own cheerleading section here tonight too with lots of family and friends attending, so that's really nice."

Wednesday marked the 11th rodeo Beam has competed in this year. She recorded a season best time of 17.90 at a rodeo earlier this year in Scappoose.

"It's really tough sometimes to

make money, because we pay a \$121 entrant fee and only the top six riders in barrel racing get paid (usually \$1,000 or more)," said Beam. "We're racing hard and trying our best. If you don't finish in the top six though, you get nothing. We're fortunate to have a rodeo close to home though, because it costs money to tow a big horse trailer like this to other rodeos around the Northwest."

Chad did steer wrestling for one season, but he's no longer competing. The Beams operate their own business, Beam Excavating in Hood River. Chad didn't continue competing in rodeo because of the high risk of injury involved in the sport and he didn't want to jeopardize his career and get hurt, which would make it difficult for him to work.

Josee, who was selected as the Fort Dalles Riders Association Queen, participates in all four days of the rodeo, which concludes

with Saturday's final round of events at 7:30 p.m. Josee, 14, rides her 21-year-old white gelding quarterhorse Casper in the introductions at the beginning of the program. Josee and Fort Dalles Pro Rodeo Queen Carsen Cordell of The Dalles also herd the calves and steers out of the arena after the

do. It's been one of the best rodeo seasons I've ever had and it's lots of fun. I was very excited to earn my selection as a Rodeo Queen too."

Josee suffered a head injury at age six when she fell off her horse and she was somewhat reluctant and a little afraid to continue riding at that point. Josee recovered from the injury though and then took riding lessons to improve her horsemanship ability. Josee enjoys rodeo tremendously now, while expertly riding around The Dalles arena. She'll continue her rodeo career while competing in the

Oregon High School Equestrian Team meets throughout the year. Crystal competed in the Northwest Professional Rodeo Association (NPRA) event, which is the 15th of 31 rodeos on the Oregon/Washington circuit. The next event on the NPRA schedule is July 23-25 at Longview, Wash. The

top 12 entrants in the standings qualify for the NPRA Finals Sept. 25-26 in Prineville. Beam says her goal is to make it to the finals this year. Beam will enter her next rodeo Aug. 14 in Tygh Valley.

The rodeo atmosphere is certainly a unique and fun outdoor summer activity that family members and friends attend to watch the action from the grandstands while cheering for their favorite cowboys and cowgirls. Crystal's parents, Howard and Connie Anderson of The Dalles, watched her compete along with other family members as well.

Crystal grew up in The Dalles and always attended the rodeo with her family. She began horseback riding at age 10 while being encouraged to participate in rodeo by her parents and they bought the first horse for Crystal when she was 15. The Beams own a total of seven horses now.

Hood River cowgirl Carli Achziger was also one of the 40 registered barrel racing entrants Wednesday, but she was unable to compete, while recovering from injuries she sustained last weekend. Achziger was bucked off her horse while riding in a stable in Hood River and then was hospitalized in Portland while getting treatment for the injuries.



Photo by Mike Weber

timed roping events.

"I'm having a blast, because this is a really good experience for me," said Josee, an incoming Hood River Valley High School freshman. "Someday, I'm hoping to travel to rodeos when I'm an adult and I'm learning a lot, so I'll know exactly what I can expect to

Oregon High School Equestrian Team meets throughout the year.

Crystal competed in the Northwest Professional Rodeo Association (NPRA) event, which is the 15th of 31 rodeos on the Oregon/Washington circuit. The next event on the NPRA schedule is July 23-25 at Longview, Wash. The

SPORTS BRIEFS

Swim team racks up personal bests at 12U champs

Five girls from the Hood River Valley Swim Team competed in the Speedo Oregon Swimming 12U Swimming Championships this past weekend in Albany. Sarah Arpag, age 11, was the high point for the team, scoring 26 points and finishing second in the 400-meter freestyle (5 minutes, 8.6 seconds), second in the 200m freestyle (2:23.25), second in the 50m freestyle (30.75), third in the 50m backstroke (36.13), third in the 100 freestyle (1:06.33), as well as fourth in the 100 backstroke (1:19.10) for the Osprey. Marina Castaneda, 9, also placed in the top 8 with a second-place finish in the 50m breaststroke (47.33), third place in the 100m breaststroke (1:46.87) and 15th place in the 50m freestyle (39.94). Skyla Hollowell, 9, placed 13th in her first state meet in the 50m butterfly (46.29). Shea Kasenga, 11, finished 18th in the 100m breaststroke (1:40.36) and 19th in the 50m breaststroke (47.09). Thea Smith, 10, swam to



12th in the 100m freestyle (1:21.38) and a 14th-place finish in the 200m freestyle (3:03.26). All except one swim were a personal best time for these girls. Next up for the HRVST is Senior Sectionals at Mt. Hood Community College this weekend. Pictured in the photo from left to right: Skyla Hollowell, Marina Cataneda, Shea Kasenga, Sarah Arpag, Thea Smith.

Pickleball team grabs medals at Oregon Games



Hood River pickleball players traveled to Beaverton last weekend to play in the Oregon Games Pickleball Tournament and all six players were able to come home with medals. Pictured from left to right are Therese Franger, Nancy Clement, Chris Smith, Elizabeth Whelan, Robin Panzer, and Mitch Panzer. For those who don't know the game, pickleball can roughly be explained as a cross between ping pong and tennis. The sport is seeing increasing popularity in Hood River, where pickleball courts opened last month near Providence Hood River Memorial Hospital.

Babe Ruth 13U All Stars win state, head to regionals

The Dalles Babe Ruth 13U All Stars have had quite the season, winning the district championships and most recently the state championships after defeating West Linn, 10-9, in extra innings. The team, of which four members are from the Hood River 13U team, is now heading to Meridian, Idaho for the regional tournament, but need some funds to help get them there. For those who wish to make a donation, checks can be sent to 3550 Cedar Drive, Hood River, OR 97031, with checks made out to Luis Jimenez, team manager. Those interested can also go to Pacific NW Credit Union at 1004 Pacific Avenue on the Heights and make a donation to the account for Luis Jimenez, titled Babe Ruth. If the team is able to win regionals, the boys will have the opportunity to play at the Babe Ruth World Series in Jamestown, N.Y. The team's roster consists of Nolan Ryan, Jaunluis Jimenez, Dominic Smith, Sam Thalhofer, Ben Nelson, Josh Johnson, Caden Mathiesen, Dallas Seufalamua, Connor Baughn, Colton Baughn, Zack Anderson, Aidan Hicks, Caden Cummings, Jose Ruis, coaches James Baughn and Dane Nelson, and Manager Luis Jimenez.

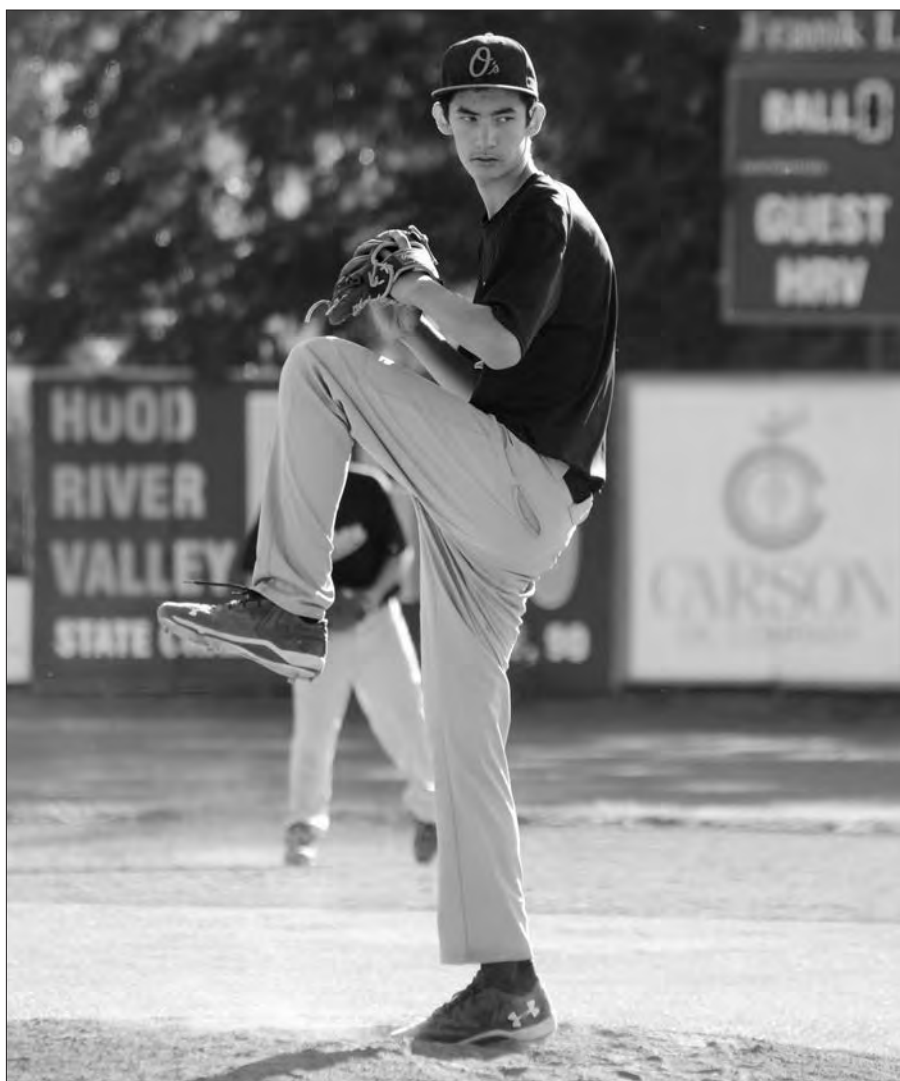


Photo by Ben Mitchell

SEASON FINALE

The Carson Oilers had their last game of the season on Monday, a doubleheader against Scappoose in Hood River. After dropping the first game 11-1, the Oilers nearly came away with what would have been their first win of the season after jumping out to a 3-0 lead in the early innings of the second game. Unfortunately, Scappoose would eventually tie the game and then rally big in the final inning to win 10-3. Coach Terry Bryant said his team played some great innings of baseball this season, noting the squad faced off against much older teams throughout the summer. Above, Oilers pitcher Dakota Kurahara winds up on the mound during Game Two of the doubleheader.