Miller wins high school calf roping title

Qualified for nationals in two events

Wallowa County Chieftain

Contributed Photo

Hanley "Noodle" Miller won the the tie-down calf roping title at the Oregon State High School Rodeo Finals.

ENTERPRISE — Hanley "Noodle" Miller, a 15-year-old freshman at Joseph Charter School and the son of Cory and Dena Miller of Enterprise, recently completed a successful first season of his high school rodeo career.

Partnered with his 11-year-old sorrel gelding, K2, and his 13-year-old bay gelding, Pepperoni, Miller led the state from the beginning of the season last fall. He then walked away with the tie-down calf roping title at the Oregon State High School Rodeo Finals in Prineville earlier this month. Miller tied down 16 of 17 calves through the season and placed in 15 of 16 runs. The championship earned him a saddle, sponsored by Les Schwab, and a buckle. In addition, Miller was awarded a certificate for the Columbia River Circuit PRCA permit when he turns 18.

Next on Miller's agenda is the High School Rodeo National Finals Rodeo in Gillette, Wyoming, July 17-23. He will be competing in both tie-down roping and team roping with his partner, Bayli Ladner of Klamath Falls. The two moved up to fourth place in the team roping standings at the Oregon High School Finals to earn a spot at the national event. Noodle's 19-year-old sorrel gelding, Capone and his 14-year-old bay mare, Kabang, carried him through the season as the team's heeler.

Miller is coached by pro rodeo competitor Nathan Steinberg of Klamath Falls and formerly of Southern Texas, who has mentored him and helped develop Miller's tie-down roping skills. Steinberg has been doing clinics with eight-time world champion and ProRodeo Hall of Fame inductee Joe Beaver since 2004.

"I met Noodle two years ago at a Joe Beaver clinic in Idaho," Steinberg said. "I instantly fell in love with him. He's a good kid from a good family. We do 20 clinics a year and I see a lot of kids. It's inspiring to see Noodle's work ethic and love of the game.

"When he comes here to rope, he asks 20,000 questions a day and has desire beyond his years. It's pretty cool. And to see him with the work ethic he has at 15, he'll be successful at whatever he does."

Miller also earned an invite to compete this September in one of the two Joe Beaver Roping events of the year in Texas.

In addition to the list of successes this past year, Miller has also qualified for the Vegas Tuffest in Las Vegas, Dec. 1-5, for the second straight year and for the Hooey Junior Patriot Finale in Fort Worth, Texas in February and March 2023.

In his spare time, Miller is busy managing his own herd of Corriente and Hereford cattle and exercising and training most of his family's 25-plus head of registered quarter horses. He helps his parents in the family's fencing business or putting in saddle time on horses brought to him by those from the local community and beyond. He is also a member of the Joseph FFA Chapter and competes at the Wallowa County Fair with market steers.

Dragon boats now awake; take to water today

Three paddling sessions a week planned

By BILL BRADSHAW
Wallowa County Chieftain

Bill Bradshaw/Wallowa County Chieftain

Clinton Lion installs a head on one of the Dragons on the Lake paddle club's dragon boats before its "awakening" Friday, June 24, 2022, in Joseph.

Bill Bradshaw/Wallowa County Chieftain

Awakening a dragon boat, Trudy Turner, a member of the Dragons on the Lake Paddle Club, paints an eye on the head of a dragon boat Friday, June 24, 2022, in Joseph, to officially wake it up for the season.

JOSEPH — The dragon boats will take to the water at the boat launch dock at the Wallowa Lake Marina for the first time in a couple of years today, Wednesday, June 29, from 6-7 p.m., according to Trudy Turner of the Dragons on the Lake Paddle Club.

"It will be an open paddle," Turner said in an email. "We want to fill the boat — make a reservation to secure a seat or just come down to the dock 15 minutes early."

She recommended wearing "light clothing that's OK to get wet and bring water, eyewear, sunscreen and a sunny disposition."

She said the boats will be available for three sessions of paddling a week — one at 6-7 p.m. Wednesdays and two sessions on Saturdays. The first session on Saturday is 8-9 a.m. and is open to anyone by donation. Reservations and additional information are available at dragonsonthelakepaddleclub@gmail.com.

The second Saturday paddle, from 9:30-11 a.m., is for those members who want to do race practice. That session is a much more intense workout and timing and active participation are essential, as it is strenuous exercise rather than recreational paddling, Turner said.

Newcomers to the sport would first have to paddle the earlier session so that they can learn the basics before paddling the second, race-practice session.

She said the club currently has 12 personal floatation devices available, so bringing one will be very helpful. The club can only seat as many people as they have safety equipment for.

"The donations will help with buying more and upgrade paddles and other equipment, so the number of PFD's will change as the season progresses," she said.

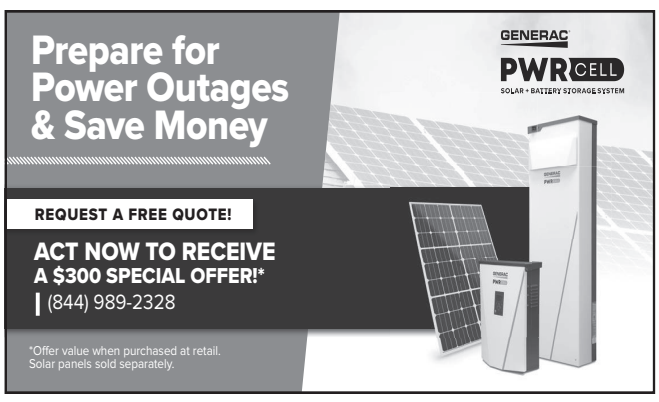
Membership is expected after three paddle sessions for locals, though as a new club it is flexible.

Cost for this short, July-September season is $65. There are work hours taking care of the boats and equipment that can be done to cover dues.

The only age limit is set it at at least 18 and All ability levels are welcomed.

"But we will assess physical concerns on a personal basis for safety reasons," Turner said.

Turner said the Wallowa Lake Lodge is having a fundraising dinner for the club on Aug. 14 with music and fire dancing on the lawn after dinner and a predinner cocktail hour. Additional details will be available later.



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