

# Spilyay Tymoo

# SPORTS



Sammy Allen, center, was first runner up of the 10th Annual Pi-Ume-Sha rodeo. Eliza Green, left, was first runner up and Andrea Smith was second runner up. Buffy Hurtado placed fourth. The rodeo will start Saturday at 1 p.m. and conclude with Sunday's 1 p.m. action.

## Pi-Ume-Sha Rodeo June 22-23

The tenth annual Pi-Ume-Sha rodeo will be held at the new Warm Springs Rodeo Association rodeo grounds, located in the Industrial Park, (on Hwy 3) June 22 and 23. Signs will be posted directing contestants and spectators to the new arena.

Eleven events will be featured at the two-day show. The events are: saddle bronc, bareback, bull riding, calf roping, team roping, steer wrestling, barrel racing, wild cow milking, wild horse race, junior barrels and calf riding. Entry fee for events is \$40 with the exception of team roping which is \$40 per man, wild horse which is \$75 per team, junior barrels and calf riding which is \$12. Added purses will be \$300 for all events with the exception of junior barrels and calf riding with added purses of \$50. Bull riding will be limited to the first 24 signed up. The wild horse race is limited to the first eight teams signed up. In calf riding, the limit will be to the first 16 signed up. In team roping it will be two loops, enter twice. The events will be one go with the exception of wild horse race with two goes.

A contestant fee of \$7 per event will be charged with the exceptions being an added \$1 fee in barrels for the electric eye

fee and for junior events of barrels and calf riding only \$2.

A Matt Wewa Memorial Buckle will be given to the winner of the Saddle Bronc event. The buckle has been donated by Wewa's Family. Wewa was a well known roper and bronc rider in Northwest. His father Jazzy Wewa stated they selected saddle bronc because it was a favorite event of Matt's.

For the "top roper" of the two rodeos, saddles will be awarded. The Byron Patt Memorial saddle will go to the high money winner in the roping events. Patt was a member of the Warm Springs Rodeo Association, Western States

Indian Rodeo Association and well known in rodeo circles in the Northwest.

The new rodeo arena will be dedicated on Saturday, June 21 at 1 p.m. Governor Vic Atiyeh and Ken Smith will participate in the ceremonies.

A western dance will be held at the Kah-Nee-Ta Lodge on Saturday, June 22 with music provided by El Coochise and the Country Express from 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.

For the "early-bird," a buckaroo breakfast will start at 6 a.m. on Sunday, June 23 at the Agency Longhouse until 10:30 a.m. Cost for the breakfast will be \$3 a plate.

## Girls close out good season

The Warm Springs girls Major League softball team are right in there crowding for the league title. The girls had just one more game with Culver on their home field to close out a pretty successful season. The results were not available at press time.

The team lost one game to Madras I team but have since evened the series beating them in seven innings by the score 7-6, on their home field, other than that no other team has been any kind of threat. This has been a pretty good year for the local girls however the weather was not very cooperative this year as during the beginning of the season there was a lot of

rain which is very unusual around central Oregon.

Selection for the Jefferson County All-Star team will take place soon and practice will begin immediately. There were only four teams in the league this year with Madras I, Culver, Madras II and Warm Springs. The competition was not that great so the JC All-Stars will have their work cutout for them in preparation for the district tournament which is scheduled for July 10, in Culver.

Local girls nominated for the All-Star team are Danni Katchia, Laura Miller, Rachelle Beetles, Jocelyn Moses, Shirley Allen, Danielle Gabriel and Toby Smith. Playing for district will be a complete new ball game for the girls, a new experience for them to meet the best in their division or age group. When they enter the district tournament they will know they will be in for a tough ball game and each run scored will really have to be earned. But if the girls show some determination and hustle and no goofing around they could do just as good as any other team in the tournament.

## Papooses play well in league

The Warm Springs Papooses are on the rampage once again in the Jefferson County Major League baseball. The trigger sprung after they dropped their opener to Insurance Mart of Madras in a close 7-6 loss. Coach "Snuffy" Smith said, "It was just one of those days when things just didn't go right for us and we practically gave them the game."

Once on the winning track

they came back strong to over power all the opponents the rest of the way and they even got revenge on the Insurance Mart beating them 15-5 on their home field. The league is fast coming to a close with the title within grasp for the Papooses once again. This year was supposed to be a building year as there were only one or two returnees from last years squad.

At the beginning of the sea-

son there were times when the team looked pretty ragged, but that's where practice comes in. The boys worked very hard to correct their mistakes and improve their weak spots to where it wasn't so bad in actual game situations.

The Jefferson County All-Stars will be selected soon and practice will begin immediately. The coaches have not been named for the All-Star team.

## Classes to be held

Water exercise classes will be held from 6-7:00 p.m. each Wednesday beginning June 26 at Kah-Nee-Ta Village Pool.

Conducted by Warm Springs Wellness Program coordinator Eva Montee the class is open to swimmers and non-swimmers alike. Exercises will not be conducted in deep water.

Water exercises is particularly

for those who wish to exercise but have had joint injuries. The water removes pressure from joints and applies minimal strength building movements.

A pool fee of \$1.00 will be charged, but there is no cost for the class. To qualify for the pool discount price please pre-register for the class by calling the Wellness office at 553-1161, ext. 205.

# Heath in comeback at Grants Pass Downs

by Greg Hanberg  
of the Courier Staff  
Printed with permission

He's won the biggest horse race in Michigan, ridden against jockey legends Willie Shoemaker and Bill Hartack, and nearly rode in the Kentucky Derby. Now Martinez Heath is back trying his luck at Grants Pass Downs.

The nomadic life of a jockey has taken Heath, 40, everywhere from Spokane to Tijuana, from Fresno to Miami. But for now Heath is racing in Grants Pass, where he was recently ranked No. 2 to Jim Glenn in the GP Downs jockey standings.

There seems no questioning his talent and ability. Heath has ridden with the best on some of the greatest tracks in America.

"Martinez was one of the top riders in the country and he's still a heck of a good rider," said Southern Oregon Horse Racing Association President John Freeman. "He knows what to do on that track. If I had a horse out there, he'd be the one I'd want on it."

Heath, a full-blooded Warm Springs Indian, has returned to GP downs for the first time since 1961 when he won the featured race on a three-day race program. He's making a comeback of sorts after suffering a serious injury riding in Pleasanton, California, in 1979.

He didn't pick up racing again until 1982 and has stayed exclusively on the West Coast getting back into track shape. He and his agent, R.W. "Jigger" Dale, decided that Grants Pass would be the best place to be for now, and Heath hopes to be in California later this summer.

Heath, who's had his share of breaks in his long career, hurt

his knee and ankle two weeks ago at Grants Pass and hasn't been as active in the saddle. But he still has ridden seven winners this season, nine seconds and eight thirds despite the lack of action or preferred mounts.

"His success here sure hasn't surprised us," Dale said. "His ability to position the horse is superior and he just stands out when he's racing on the track."

Ever since he rode his first colt at age 5—he was subsequently thrown—on his parents' ranch in Warm Springs, Heath has been into horses and horse racing.

Heath is one of eight children that grew up in Warm Springs. His father, now deceased, used to be the chief of the tribe. Now his brother is.

His first race came at age 13 in Madras. On a mount named Easy Ridin', Heath won the very first race he ever rode. The purse was \$100.

"Once I got started racing, no one could stop me," Heath said.

And winning, Heath has ridden horses at practically every track on the West Coast. It was Johnny London, a famous jockey in his time, who took Heath from Portland to the big tracks in California, including Bay Meadows in San Francisco and Santa Anita. At the ripe age of 18 Heath once rode seven winners in one day, October 12, 1963, at Fresno.

Although he won a fair share of races, it wasn't until he booked with agent Neal Orrick that he began to branch out. Orrick took him to famed Arlington Park in Chicago, and it is there he made a name for himself with the horse racing elite.

He got his first start riding in Chicago in 1965. Riding against

the best was good experience, but it didn't bring much immediate success, either.

"I was just about ready to leave when I got lucky and won a race so I stuck around," he said. "Then I won another one and decided to stay."

A few people began to notice this jockey from small-town Oregon.

"Shoemaker was known as the 'Shoe' and I was called the 'Moccasin,'" Heath laughed.

By this time Heath was spending his summers in hot and muggy Chicago and his winters racing in New Orleans. He hit the peak of his jockeying days in 1968 when he rode No Double to victory in the famed Michigan Mile in Detroit.

Soon, he was being primed to ride in the Kentucky Derby, the country's most famous horse race. In the Derby trials Heath was riding Port Digger and was finishing fast when the horse suffered a leg injury. The horse took second in the trials but had to scratch from the Derby.

"I think I could have won the Derby," Heath said. "The horse I had was a good one and a very strong finisher."

"I was disappointed I didn't get to run in the Kentucky Derby, but then I couldn't find a motel room in Louisville, either."

The year was hardly a washout. Heath says he earned about \$125,000 that year.

Heath continued to win races after that, but nothing matched 1968. He wanted to race closer to home and raced mostly on the West Coast again in the early 1970s. He was the leading jockey in the California fair circuit in 1972 until he broke his ankle—forcing doctors to insert a screw to make it heal properly—ending his season.

He came back strong; the highlight of his 1973 season came when he rode Laughing Gull to six consecutive wins, includes a rich stakes race, at Golden Gate Park.

But there were some down times also. He took some time off after getting divorced in 1975, a traumatic experience that affected his personal health. He admitted that he started to lose interest in the sport that had become his life.

But he never strayed too far. He continued his racing in California until he broke his leg in that messy accident in Pleasanton; there doctors put in a rod to straighten out his leg, and it's still there today. Heath was on crutches for a year and a half, spending most of his time on his Warm Springs ranch gaining weight, the ultimate horror for a jockey. His weight, once a svelte 110 pounds, ballooned to 145. He ended up "retiring" from horse racing, but the bug inside him gnawed at him to jump back in the saddle.

"One day I went to the races and I thought, 'I've got to get back into this,'" he said.

That's all it took. He lost most of his added weight and made his debut in 1982 in Spokane. He then moved south to Fresno and the winning edged returned to Martinez Heath.

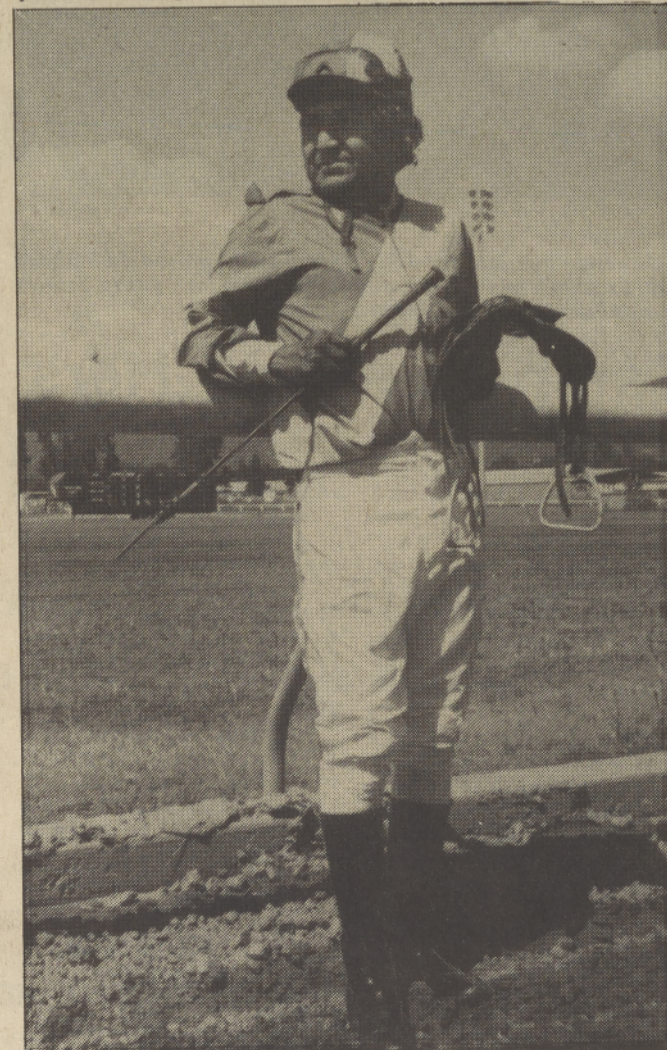
The comeback has been slow at times, but his success is starting to pick up again. After Grants Pass ends its season July 7, he and Dale hope to pack their bags to California—again. He needs to lose about six more pounds off his 5-foot-4, 122-pound frame before he can compete at the tracks in Santa Rosa, Stockton, Sacramento and Pomona.

"We shouldn't have too much trouble getting him horses," Dale said. "About 99 percent of the people here and in California know who he is."

Some day Heath may finally pack it in for good and chase

cattle at the family's ranch. But it probably won't be any time soon. Through the good times and bad he's been a survivor.

"I've thought about giving it up," he said, "but when it's in your blood you can't give it up."



Martinez Heath