

Smith wins second World Championship in Wild Horse Racing

Winning national titles and the silver belt buckles that come with them has become routine for Warm Springs wild horse racing champion Jason Smith. The trophy displays in his home along the Deschutes River are teetering on museum status and his list of rodeo victories is approaching legendary proportions.

This past year Smith won his second world championship in wild horse racing, capping a record setting season that also included his eighth national title and 15th Columbia River regional championship.

"It was a good year," said Smith. "We won a lot of rodeos and finished the season with a record number of points."

Smith is the shank man on a wild horse racing team that also features mucker C.J. VanSickle of Madras and rider Tony Cortazar of Pendleton. The trio, competing to-

gether for only the second season, rang up 36,000 points last year, shattering Smith's old standard of 26,000 points set in 1997.

The national championship won in Denver, Colorado recently was Smith's fifth in a row. He won his first title in 1985 and has been a perennial contender ever since.

No one was really thinking about national acclaim when Smith entered his first wild horse race at Hebe during the Huckleberry Feast of 1980. The upstart cowboy teamed up with his brother Troy and Uncle Chief to take the top prize. He also won the wild colt race that day.

Although he wasn't part of the team back in 1980, Smith's father, Buck, was the one who encouraged Jason to compete.

"I really thank my dad for supporting me through all these years of rodeoing," said Smith. "He got me going. He was my mentor."

The wild horse racing circuit has changed considerably over the past 20 years. Smith now competes on a regular basis from April through October, and inevitably he competes at the National Finals in January.

The competition has always been tough, but like other sports, achievements are always being challenged and athletes are always striving to reach a higher plane.

"People used to get beat up and it was a wild event, but now the competitors are starting to perfect their sport," said Smith. "When I started out a minute was a good time and now if you're over 30 seconds you're out of the money."

The Western states are noted for producing wild horse racing stars. Many of the top teams come out of the Columbia River Region and some of the best are located in central Oregon. Jason's team has had the most success, but his father has also done well. Buck's team has placed in the Top 10 several times and in 1994 they won the National Finals Rodeo.

Another local team with Top 10 credentials features Spud and Rodney Smith of Warm Springs, and Ricky Lyons of Pendleton. The group has yet to win a national title, but they have come close and they are always considered one of the teams in the running.

"The Northwest has historically been the best area for wild horse racers," said Smith.

Besides the bumps, bruises and occasional serious injury (Smith has suffered one serious concussion), one of the sport's more difficult aspects is the travel. To contend for a national title, competitors have to tally points over the course of the year, because national championships are determined by season-long accumulations.

For Smith, the jet set rodeo circuit includes approximately 30 rodeos each season, only five or six of which are in Oregon.

"In order to win the nation you have to travel," said Smith.

All that time away from home requires support that can't be measured in point totals or belt buckles. Smith credits his wife Snuffy, mother Susie, and daughters Jacoba, (12), and Joella, (8) for making the whole thing possible. They're not only the core of this fan club, but his top hands around the home place when he's out on the rodeo trail.

"They've helped me a lot with ranching and allowed me to free up

some time," said Smith. "They're all pretty good cowgirls."

After 20-plus years in the business, some wild horse racers are thinking about retirement. The grinding schedule, aches and pains make a weekend on the couch watch-

ing TNN sound pretty good. But those days are still a ways off for Smith.

"It's hard to say how long you can go," he said. "I'll probably continue until I feel as though I have to quit."



From left to right, Tony Cortazar, C.J. Van Sickle, and Jason.

The Clover Speaks

Arlene Boileau and Minnie Talalakas

We have a new 4-H Club at the Community Wellness Center. The name of the new 4-H Club is Scrap-A-Doodle. The 4-H Leader is Oriá Made Welcome Oriá.

Oregon 4-H Leaders Forum, April 6-7, 2001 Redmond, Oregon at the Deschutes County Fairground/Expo Center. This will be a fun filled weekend for the entire family. Registrations fee includes: recognition lunch, two breaks, conference program and speakers, and the Friday night program the cost is \$35 by March 26, 2001 and after that date the cost will be \$40. If you are interested in attend the Leaders Forum come to the Warm Springs Extension office to pick up application.

Know Your State Government April 18-21, 2001

Great Opportunities.

4-H Camp Leadership Education Weekend Dates are May 18 - 20 at Oregon 4-H Center in Salem, Or. Cost \$ 35.00.

4-H Camp Information: High Desert 4-H Camp located at Round Lake Dates are June 25 to June 29th 2001, Round Lake is located in the Sisters area the cost will be \$95.00, with limited scholarships available. The 4th - 6th graders may apply for slots with own transportation.

Warm Springs 4-H Culture Enrichment Camp at Peters Pasture: Dates are: Session I

July 29 - Aug 4. Session II Aug 5-11, 2001. Remember State 4-H Summer Conference for June 27-30 at the OSU Campus (this was formerly OSU Summer Days.)

Planning for drought

Robert Pawlek

What are you going to do when you find yourself faced with another year of drought, when the stock ponds don't fill and when there isn't enough feed in your pastures to get through the dry season?

Do you plan to feed your way out of the drought, sell some animals, or do other options exist? If you destock when will you do it and which animals will you sell? The answers to these questions can be the difference between staying in business or going belly-up.

If you are in the livestock business just about the only thing you can be sure of is that sooner or later there will be another year of drought. (It will probably be sooner.) Are you prepared?

Most of us are not.

Unfortunately, we only plan for drought when we suddenly find ourselves out of feed or water.

Ironically, this is precisely when our planning is least effective and our options are most limited. Markets are flooded and stock prices are lowest, feed prices are highest, and pasture leases are most expensive and scarce. It's easy to avoid planning for drought when the rain is falling and the grass is growing, but this is precisely when our planning is most effective. This article will help you develop a drought policy.

Flexible Stocking Rate

Production varies drastically from year to year. If you stock your ranch based on the average forage production you will probably be overstocked half of the time and understocked the other half of the time.

To bring this to the real world, the average peak standing forage crop at the Burns Research and Extension Center is 2,800 lbs/ac. If your stocking rate was set to that average, you would have been overstocked for

seven years, about right for four years, and understocked for five years).

Ranchers should be prepared to fluctuate their stocking rate to match feed conditions. Flexible stocking means ranchers should be prepared to wean calves early or cull heavily when the feed outlook is grim. They should be ready to retain calves as stockers, cull lightly or purchase additional stock in good feed years.

Destock Early

If it looks like it will be necessary to destock due to the lack of feed, make the decision to do so early. Selling early will leave more feed for the rest of the herd. The earlier you destock, the fewer animals you'll have to sell. Ranchers who wait for prices to improve before they sell may find the market flooded and prices even lower.

Sell the least productive animals first. Preg check cows and heifers and sell all open animals. Sell late calving cows and heifers since these will require a higher plane of nutrition to rebreed on time.

Lengthen Rest Period

Plants grow slowly during droughts and require more rest than they do in normal years.

The rest period can be lengthened by increasing the number of paddocks, increasing the graze period, or combining herds.

Increase the Graze Period

Increasing the graze period in each paddock will increase the rest period. For example, grazing a half day longer in each paddock in a 15 paddock cell will result in an extra week of rest for each paddock.

However, you must exercise caution if you lengthen the graze period. Grazing paddocks too severely will negate the value of the additional rest because it will increase the time it takes for the paddock to recover if all the leaf area is removed.

Combine Herds

Combining herds will increase the number of paddocks resting and increase stock density which improves uniformity of utilization. It will also lengthen the rest period. This is one of the most powerful and simple drought management tools available if you run multiple herds.

Drought Reserve

Some ranchers leave one or two paddocks ungrazed during the spring and summer as a drought reserve. If feed runs out in their other paddocks stock are turned into the drought reserve paddocks at the end of the season.

Graze half of the time - Rest half of the time.

Graze one quarter of the time - Rest three quarters of the time.

Feeding: Supplement or Substitute?

It is important to recognize the difference between a supplement and a substitute. Supplements are used when feed is available but the quality is insufficient to meet animal requirements.

Supplements improve the quality of the diet. A substitute is fed to feed available. **NEVER TRY TO FEED YOUR WAY OUT OF A DROUGHT. YOU WILL GO BROKE TRYING!**

Other Thoughts

Hopefully in the next few weeks, we will have had more rain and the danger of drought will be lessened.

No matter what, you should develop a drought plan that features critical dates that provide an early caution and warning to let you know when to implement your drought plan. From there you should specify what strategies are to be used for the level of drought that is occurring. You will probably encounter hungry cows imploring you to move them to the next paddock ahead of when they are scheduled to be there. Are there consequences to such action?

The Stockman's Roundup

LIVESTOCK HEALTH ALERT

Foot and Mouth Disease

Worldwide Spread

During the past year there have been numerous outbreaks of Foot and Mouth Disease all over the world - Asia, Africa, South America, and now the United Kingdom and France.

Foot and Mouth Disease has broken out in England and has spread rapidly in the past two weeks. There are confirmed cases in Scotland and Ireland as well. Significant disease control measures are being taken and livestock movement has been greatly limited to slow the spread. European nations are taking strong defensive measures. Here in the United States and Oregon, **we need to upgrade our awareness and be alert.**

Susceptible animals

All cloven-hoofed animals, domestic and wild

Pigs, cattle, sheep, goats, deer, elk, etc.

NOT HORSES.

Symptoms -

Blisters and/or open sores with ragged edges (from ruptured blisters) in the mouth and on the tongue, lips, and muzzle.

Blisters and/or open sores on

teats, between toes, and around the top of the hoof.

Slobbering and lip smacking (due to sores in mouth).

Lameness (due to sores on feet).

Fever, depression, abortion.

What to do -

Observe your livestock closely

and carefully.

Biosecurity if the most important thing for livestock producers - don't let it on the farm or ranch.

Screen visitors - if someone has been overseas recently, use sanitation and do not allow contact with animals. The virus can stay alive and be transmitted by contaminated shoes, boots and clothing and can be carried in the throat, nose, ears etc of people who have been in contact with infected animals. Screen materials - animal origin products of any sort - foods, souvenirs, and so on, can carry the virus.

Exercise good general sanitation - have boot washing equipment and disinfectant ready and available and have visitors use it.

If you see or hear about anything you think might be Foot and Mouth Disease -

Call your veterinarian immediately.

Natural Resource Notables Oregon's nursing industry growing fast

Springtime is when the Oregon Nursery Industry gears up for its shipping season. Valued at about \$584 million a year, the greenhouse and nursery industry in Oregon is expected to continue "growing" far into the future. There are good "road signs" for the industry, as there has been strong and steady growth in production, good prices, and consumer demand for yard and garden products.

John Aguirre, Oregon Association of Nurserymen, points out that "there has been a significant expansion of acreage dedicated to nursery products, both here in Oregon and nationwide...if the economy takes a dip, then our people are concerned about what the market might look like." Industry folks are optimistic that if that day should come, Oregon would fare better than other nursery-producing states. Particularly in the Northern Willamette Valley, Oregon's unique soil, water availability, climate, and access to market should serve to protect the industry in hard times.

"It's hard to find excellent conditions anywhere else," says Aguirre. "But for the next five years or so, there is concern that there may be a glut of some

plant material that could hurt Oregon producers."

Oregon's greenhouse and nursery industry owes much of its success to good marketing. "There are a lot of good producers out there who can grow good quality nursery and greenhouse plant material," says Aguirre. "But if you don't have a strong marketing plan, you will have problems."

This is something I have thought about for a long time about potential products here at Warm Springs. Over the past few years, Composite Products has done quite a job of finding specialty markets for their products - with great success. There are projects in the works now for essential oils and other ideas here at Warm Springs. The key to success in these enterprises will be marketing - making our products look better than anyone else's - and for premium prices.

As the nation's third leading nursery producing state - behind California and Florida - Oregon is poised to do even better. Aguirre predicts the value of the industry will pass the \$600 million mark after 2000 figures are finalized. The nursery industry is strongest in the areas around Portland - establishing a strong bridge between agriculture and the city.

Home Sweet Home

"Food & Fitness: Build a Healthy Lifestyle" is the slogan for National Nutrition Month® sponsored by the American Dietetic Association. The Dietary Guidelines for Americans, 2000 is a great tool and offers the ABC's (Aim for fitness, Build a healthy base, Choose sensibly) to build a healthy lifestyle for you and your family. These guidelines are intended for healthy children (ages 2 and older) and adults of any age. Earlier, I offered suggestions to Aim for Fitness. The next step is to:

Build a healthy base

Let the Food Pyramid guide your food choices.

Choose a variety of grains daily, especially whole grains.

Choose a variety of fruits and vegetables daily.

Keep food safe to eat.

Let the Food Guide Pyramid guide your food choices. Make grains, including whole grains, fruits and vegetables the base of your

meals. Keep an eye on the servings. Since foods within the same food group differ, choosing a variety helps you get all the nutrients, energy and fiber you need. It can also keep your meals interesting from day to day.

Choose a variety of grains daily, especially whole grains. Eat six or more servings of grains (rice, cereal, hardtack cracker, bread, lukameen) every day. Grains provide fiber as well as other nutrients. If your calorie needs are low, limit yourself to only six servings. Include whole grains (whole oats, whole wheat, popcorn, oatmeal) daily. Combine whole grains with other foods in mixed dishes. Prepare or choose grains without added salt or fat (i.e. - popcorn without salt or butter).

Choose a variety of fruits and vegetables daily. Enjoy five a day - at least 2 servings of fruits (huckleberries, chokecherries, apple juice, etc.) and at least 3 servings of vegetables (mushrooms, wild celery, roots, potatoes, dark leafy greens,

etc.). Choose any form: fresh, frozen, canned, dried or juice and a variety of colors and kinds. Try serving raw vegetables with a low or reduced fat dip, stir fry vegetables in a small amount of oil or mix with other foods in salad, soups or casseroles. Buy wisely and store foods properly to maintain quality. Keep a day's supply of fresh or dried fruit on the table or counter. Serve fruits as dessert instead of other sweets.

Keep food safe to eat. Foods that are safe from harmful bacteria, viruses, parasites, and chemical contaminants are vital for healthful eating. Wash hands and surfaces often. Separate raw, cooked and ready-to-eat foods while shopping, preparing or storing. Read the labels and follow the safety instructions on the package such as "KEEP REFRIGERATED".

Cook to proper temperatures. The best way is to use a thermometer. Reheat leftovers thoroughly to

at least 165° F. If using a microwave oven, cover the container and turn or stir the food to heat it evenly. Cook eggs until whites and yolks are firm. Serve foods safely. Keep hot foods hot (140° F or above) and cold foods cold (40° F or below). Be sure to chill leftovers as soon as you are finished eating.

Refrigerate perishable foods promptly to below 40° F or freeze to below 0° F. Use refrigerated leftovers within 3 to 4 days. Never thaw meat, seafood or poultry at room temperature. Instead thaw in the refrigerator, microwave or cold water changed every 30 minutes. When in doubt, throw it out.

Hope you are on your way to Building a Healthy Lifestyle! Tips to help you Choose sensibly will be offered in the next issue. In the meantime, if you want more information on the Dietary Guidelines for Americans, 2000 or for your own copy, contact OSU Extension @ 553-3238.