

Tom has great showing at Finals Rodeo

By Brian Mortensen
Spilyay Tymoo

When her horse became ill, Liana Tom had to rely on other people's horses while competing at the Miss Indian Rodeo America Contest.

Thanks to good friends in the rodeo community and a horse that was used to riding in the arena, she was able to win the horsemanship competition, which helped her become First Runner-Up in the pageant at San Jacinto, Calif., Oct. 13-14.

Tom finished second to Martina Monroe from the Navajo Nation Rodeo Cowboys Association. Tom serves as Monroe's alternate.

Tom, 20, originally of Warm Springs, said she was nervous when the final award was announced because it was one of the first times she and the contestants would be in front of a large crowd during the pageant.

Tom, a student at Central Arizona College in Casa Grande, Ariz., found out she would have to ride a different horse when hers, Russ, got sick before she left for the pageant and was diagnosed with the West Nile Virus.

He has since recovered in Arizona and will be taken home, thanks to Clint Bruised Head, a rodeo champion from Warm Springs, but without Russ, she had to ride someone else's horse in the pageant's Grand Entry.

She said the congenial atmosphere among people involved in Native American rodeo allowed her to ride, in that she was lent a horse to ride at the pageant.

"Everybody that rodeos are good close friends," she said.

For the horsemanship competition, each contestant had to draw out of a hat to determine the horse that she would use. None of the contestants had ridden either of the horses before.

Her horse, she said, "was really calm. He was used to being



Liana Tom at the Finals Rodeo

out in the arena before."

She found out later he was a pickup horse, used to retrieve rodeo cowboys during roughstock events.

"I think I drew one of the better horses," she said.

Each contestant was given a pre-selected pattern they had to memorize. Tom said the pattern was kind of like a figure eight with stops, and that the contestants were judged on their poise and positioning on the horse.

For winning the competition, Tom received a plaque, along with a Western outfit, sterling silver jewelry, a gift from Native Threads, and a gift from Perrie Whidden-Brugh, the 1997 Miss Indian Rodeo America from the Seminole Tribe of Florida.

Each contestant had to model both Traditional Native American and Western attire. They were each asked questions during the modeling sessions.

"In the Native dress (portion), they asked where I came from, how I'd describe the Confederated Tribes, to tell the Creation story, talk about our foods and where my dress was from," she said. "They didn't ask very many questions."

Questions during the Western

attire portion focused on rodeo, and they were asked about the late Jo Arrington, the coordinator of Miss Indian Rodeo America pageants for several years. The pageant was designated a tribute to Arrington.

She said she was also asked how she would defend the sport of rodeo to animal activists and prove to them rodeo doesn't harm animals, and explain how she is able to prepare a horse for rodeo.

Among the four judges were Charlie Jackson, a past world champion barrel racer, and Will Sampson Jr., an actor from Los Angeles.

Tom, 20, is in her second year in college, where she studying

elementary education.

"I plan on rodeoing as long as I can, and teaching my nieces and nephews to ride and be interested in (rodeo)," she said.

Tom said she is thankful to everyone who helped her on the way to the national pageant, including those who sent encouraging emails and called to wish her good luck.

See LIANA on page 7

Pre-register for GED classes

Pre-registration for winter term 2005 GED classes at Warm Springs Central Oregon Community College will begin Tuesday, Nov. 30 at 1 p.m. in the GED classroom in the education building.

Registration will also be held on the following dates: Dec. 2, 7 and 9, at 1 p.m. At this time students will do the

preliminary testing and goal setting. Please make an effort to be registered before the start of winter term. Winter term begins Tuesday, Jan. 4. Classes are held every Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 9 a.m. till noon. For more information please contact Janice or Cody at 553-1428.

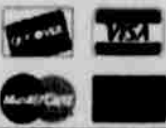
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Raffle helps raise funds

Raffle winners for the Liana Tom fundraiser raffle are as follows:

Saddle blanket, Erland Suppah; halter and lead rope, Aurora Squiemphen; sterling silver necklace, Shelly Richards, Alturas CA; Opal earrings, Bonnie Langeliers; lottery tickets, Eddie Jones; custom made cut bead belt, Ted Skinner, Boring, OR; Pendleton blanket, Wynona Stwyer; wolf design pillows,

Meagan S., Portland; yarn bag & necklace, Bridgett Culpus; beaded earrings, Amelia Colwash; lap/baby quilt, Leona Ike; furry blanket, Girlie; eagle medallion, Adrian White; cut bead medallion, Isaac George; couch pillows, Emhoolah; horse tote bag, B. Barr Winnemucca, NV; travel purse, Dereke Tasymp; beaded earrings, C. Frances, Tacoma, WA; and slave bracelet, Joanne Bryant.

Questions during the Western

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