

Larry Mahan, nation's top rodeo performer

When Heppner Rodeo buffs gather around the corral to talk about the great feats of the men who chose to follow the bone jarring sport of professional rodeo, the name of Larry Mahan will be long remembered.

Mahan, a wiry 29-year-old, has his sixth all around cowboy championship all but roped and hog tied. It's the first time for a man to win six all around championships in the history of professional rodeo. Mahan was a winner at the Heppner Rodeo, Aug. 25-26.

In baseball, Mahan's skill would be akin to breaking Babe Ruth's home run mark, or pick your sport and record, and the smiling, dark haired cowboy's feat in rodeo would equal it.

Mahan's six all around championships beat the mark of Jim Shoulders, Henryetta, Okla., who was the only cowboy to win five all around crowns. During his winning days in the late 40's and 50's, Shoulders also picked up the most individual event championships, and his mark of 16 continues to stand as a record not likely to be beat.

To win the coveted all around crown, a cowboy must participate in two or more rodeo events in six standard events—bull riding, barback bronc riding, saddle bronc riding, calf roping, bull dogging, or team roping.

There's no fancy point system to figure out either. It's all based upon who wins the most money at the 600 or so rodeos that are sanctioned in nearly every state by the Rodeo Cowboys Association, Inc., headquartered in Denver, a group made up of 3,500 professional rodeo cowboys.

The final curtain on the 1973 rodeo season rang down Nov. 4, and short of adding a few thousand dollars more to his winnings, Mahan leads his closest competitor in the all around race by a comfortable \$16,000 margin.

As of Oct. 19, Mahan had won \$56,418 compared to \$40,107 garnered by his closet competitor—Tom Ferguson, San Martin, Calif.

In addition to winnings that could top the \$50,000 mark, Mahan will pick up a bonus of \$13,850 from the Rodeo Awards Program—\$10,000 as the all around king, plus \$3,850 for his high standings in bull riding and saddle bronc riding.

Not only does Mahan compete in bull riding and saddle bronc riding, he also is ranked number six in the bareback bronc standings with winnings in this event amounting to \$15,389 as of Oct. 19.

In bull riding, Mahan is ranked number three with winnings of \$21,789. He's also ranked third in the Rodeo Cowboys Association standings in saddle bronc riding and

has spurred his way to winnings of 19,240.

On many occasions, Mahan has exhibited the kind of determination and drive that is necessary for any champion. Last year at a rodeo in Cheyenne, Wyo., Mahan was astride a spinning bull and was scoring well as the hort sounded to indicate the eight second ride was over. After he got off the bull, he realized that he injured his arm. Somehow, he had ripped his bicep muscle from the bone and was not at full strength for the balance of the rodeo season. However, he bounced back this year without a backward look at what had happened.

Most of the cowboys have come to expect a certain number of injuries in the rough sport, but in order to compete, the majority of the men psych themselves to believe the broken bones will happen to someone else.

There's also another kind of determination that a professional rodeo cowboy has to have in order to wear the champion's buckle. In the parlance of the cowboy, it's called "going down the road." For most people, it's called travel.

It's axiomatic that the greater number of rodeos a cowboy participates in, the greater his chances of winning. This year, Mahan entered more than 100 rodeos in

all parts of the country. This calls for going down the road most of the year, since there's only about a two-week stretch around the Christmas holidays when no RCA rodeo is scheduled.

To meet this demanding schedule, Mahan flies his own

twin engine plane, used commercial flights, and drives his own car many miles. It's a challenge—the travel and becoming the only man to win the all around title six times. But Mahan has never backed away from a challenge—champions don't.

Big Sky All-Stars named

The All-Star team for the Big Sky conference for 1973 football season was announced recently.

Chosen for the offensive team were: ends, Terry Galoway, Culver, Mark Bowman, Echo, and Mark Rietmann, Echo, honorable mention; guards, Curtis Sampson, Echo, Ted Nisley, Culver, and Paul Ashursts, lone, honorable mention; center, Bruce Foster, Dufur; quarterbacks (tie) Jeff Spike, Echo, Kirk Holcomb, Culver, with Mark Rietmann, honorable men-

tion; halfbacks, Tom Gates, Culver, Don Uhalde, Dufur, honorable mention Aaron Klingler and Phil Carlson, both of lone.

Chosen for the defensive team were, line: Rex Barber, Culver, Tom Gates, lone, Ted Nisley, Culver, and Bruce Foster, Dufur; backs, Tom Gates, Culver, Steve Asher, Wheeler, Wayne Ottum, Echo, and Phil Carlson, lone. Honorable mention went to Mike Warren and Charlie McElligott, both of lone.

Free games to Mustang fans of 65

Mustang fans, 65 or over, are eligible for free activity passes for the 1973-74 Heppner High School basketball season which can be obtained at the high school office.

Season basketball tickets are now on sale for \$10 which entitle admittance to the 10 home games. The price represents a savings, as gate price this year is \$1.25 per game. Tickets may be purchased at Heppner High School or at Peterson's Jewelers.

Mustangs will play on their home court on Friday, Dec. 7, against Wallowa, and Saturday, Dec. 8, against the Lone Cardinals.

Heppner's freshmen will travel to Hermiston High School Tuesday, Dec. 4. Game time is 7 p.m.

Condon dominates 1973 All-Stars

The Columbia Basin Conference football champion Condon Blue Devils dominated the 1973 all-star football selections recently picked by the conference grid coaches with six individuals named to seven positions.

Seniors comprised almost the entire first team make-up of the choices for all star with 20 being named along with three juniors. No sophomores nor freshmen were picked on the first team.

There were two repeaters from the 1972 all-star team, both defensive players. John Hoffman, senior from Condon, earned defensive halfback honors although last year he was picked at linebacker, and John Richelderfer, senior from Sherman County, repeated at defensive end.

Hoffman was further honored by being selected to both the offensive and defensive team as were John Boyer, senior from Heppner, Dave Stewart, senior of Sherman County, and Jay Johnson, senior from Weston-McEwen.

Two offensive players, both from the same school, were unanimous choices of the coaches. Tony Villanueva, senior quarterback from Weston-McEwen, and Ross Meinhart, a senior end, the target of many Villanueva passes, were honored.

Broken down by schools, the victorious Blue Devils, undefeated in conference action, had six individuals at seven positions. Weston-McEwen earned four berths; Heppner, Sherman County, and Pilot Rock each collected three berths. Wasco County had

two, Umatilla, one, and Riverside, none.

Condon also dominated the second team all-star balloting placing seven. Sherman County had five; Heppner, four; Weston-McEwen and Umatilla, two each, and Pilot Rock, Wasco County and Riverside, one each.

OFFENSIVE FIRST TEAM

Ends - Ross Meinhart, Weston-McEwen, and John Boyer, Heppner; Tackles - Dave Stewart, Sherman County, and Bill Kik, Umatilla; Guards - Doug Kackley, Condon, and Jay Johnson, Weston-McEwen; Centers - Randy Morris, Heppner, and Gary Phillips, Condon; Quarterback - Tony Villanueva, Weston-McEwen; Halfbacks - John Hoffman, Condon, and Bob Weatherford, Condon; Fullback - Randy Thurman, Pilot Rock.

DEFENSIVE FIRST TEAM

Ends - John Richelderfer, Sherman County, and Dennis Barnett, Wasco County; Tackles - Dale Platt, Pilot Rock, and Dave Stewart, Sherman County; Middle Guard - Jay Johnson, Weston-McEwen; Linebackers - Steve Murray, Pilot Rock, John Pierce, Condon, and Ray DeClue, Wasco County; Halfbacks - Dave Eaton, Condon, John Boyer, Heppner, and John Hoffman, Condon.

OFFENSE SECOND TEAM

Ends - Tom Brown, Wasco County, and Dave Eaton,

Condon; Tackles - Keith Beamer, Condon, and Gleen Joliff, Condon; Guards - Ken Hart, Sherman County, and John Kilkenny, Heppner, and Keven Johnson, Condon; Quarterback - Jim Bird, Sherman County; Halfbacks - Craig Krosting, Pilot Rock, and Ken Eckman, Heppner; Fullbacks - John Pierce, Condon, and John Richelderfer, Sherman County.

DEFENSIVE SECOND TEAM

Ends - Mike Bergstrom, Heppner, and Greg Shearer, Condon; Tackles - Don Farrer, Condon, and Bill Kik, Umatilla, Middle Guard - Mike Mills, Heppner; Linebackers - Ron Fox, Weston-McEwen, Chris Snider, Riverside, and Darrel Smith, Umatilla; Halfbacks - Jim Bird, Sherman County, and John Adams, Weston-McEwen.

HONORABLE MENTION

(Offense) End - John Adams, Weston-McEwen; Tackle - Tom Hawk, Pilot Rock.

Centers - Steve Kock, Sherman County, and Dan Morgan, Wasco County; Quarterbacks - Jerry Gentry, Heppner, and Bryce Logan, Condon; Fullback - Gayland Bledsoe, Umatilla. (Defensive) Linebackers - Ross Meinhart, Weston-McEwen; Halfbacks - Jerry Zielinski, Riverside, Jim Graham, Riverside, and Ken Eckman, Heppner.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Reid and family of Hermiston spent Thanksgiving with Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Reid and family, Mr. and Mrs. Chuck Mitchell and family and Mr. and Mrs. Steve Conlee and family.

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