

Dreams of being the best

Story and photos by Ann Sipe



Charlie Sampson takes names for the jackpot. Bruce Ford watches intently as one of his pupils tries out what they have been talking about in school.

They came in all shapes and sizes; tall and lean, short and tubby. Some were grown men and others young kids who still had their baby fat. Addresses ranged from the suburbs of Portland to rural routes hidden away in the sage brush.

But they all had one thing in common: they were rodeo riders, and dreamed of being the best, a National Champion, the cowboy's version of the "Right Stuff."

The closest some of them had been to a professional cowboy was that March morning in the small arena at the Dodge City Inn in Boardman. Others had been following the circuit for years, but most of them were high school and college rodeo team members.

They had one other thing in common, they were there to learn rodeo skills from the very best. The event that had drawn these cowboys and one cowgirl together was a rodeo school featuring instructors with seven Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association world championships among the three of them.

They were Bruce Ford, four times World Champion in Bareback riding; Brad Gjermundson, two times World Champion in Saddle Bronc riding, and Charlie Sampson, one World Championship in Bull Riding. Sampson was also assisted by Jody Tatone, four times National Rodeo Finals qualifier and manager of the Dodge City Inn.

During the three day school, the students learned arena etiquette, how to handle themselves in the chute, the best technique for staying aboard the animal of their choice for the required eight to ten seconds, and tips for making the traveling required easier and cheaper. They also spent a lot of time actually riding the animals. But, the major emphasis was on the mental aspect of the competition and the belief in themselves as winners.

To assist in that aim the students listened to Positive Mental Attitude tapes such as "The Magic of Believing," "Positive Expectancy to Win," and "How to Make Winning Your Lifestyle."

The instructors also assisted the students in polishing their mental imagery. They helped the students imagine the ride from climbing into the chute and climbing aboard the animal they were going to ride through to opening of the gate, the successful completion of the ride, and the graceful dismount.

The students then put this mental imagery to work where it counts - out in the arena on board a bull or a horse whose greatest desire was to get that rider off its back.

The instructors for the recent World Champion's Rodeo School held at the Dodge City Arena read like Who's Who of the rodeo world: Bruce Ford, holder of four Professional Rodeo Cowboy Association (PRCA) championships in Bareback riding; Brad Gjermundson, two PRCA titles for Saddle Broncs; and Charlie Sampson with only one title, that for Bull Riding, but perhaps the best known outside the world of rodeo, and Jody Tatone, four times National Rodeo

Finals qualifier and the driving force behind the school.

In an age short of heroes these living legends moved among the students offering a word of advice here, adjusting equipment there, bolstering a shy one's confidence with a quiet "well done," and smiling at the braggadocio of young boys covering their fear with a layer of brave talk about what great rides they had made just last week.

BRAD GJERMUNDSON
Gjermundson calls Dickinson, North Dakota, home when he gets a chance to be there which isn't very often. He attended approximately 130 rodeos in 29 different states and three Canadian provinces last year.

Gjermundson, 25, is not married and spends most of his time either on the road, in the air, or figuring out how he is going to get to his next rodeo.

He does not instruct at very many rodeo schools but finds

them a very useful way to polish his own technique. He also feels that it is a way to repay the people who helped him while he was learning his craft, one of the best Saddle Bronc riders in the world.

Gjermundson started his career in high school, moved on to the college ranks, where he was the 1980 Collegiate Champion; and then took the pro circuit by a storm earning 1980 Rookie of the Year honors and following that with two PRCA titles in the following years.

BRUCE FORD
Ford, 31, is a soft spoken individual whose forceful personality became evident only when he demonstrated to his students what a good bareback ride could look like. He became a whirling dervish of flying chaps and ringing spurs, as he pulled from his bronc the best ride it could produce.

Ford teaches at about six schools every year, most of them are held at his home place in Kersey, Colorado. He stated that the best part of teaching the schools was seeing one of his pupils appear at the National Rodeo Finals or just doing really well. He also mentioned that the schools were a good place for him to "tune-up" his own riding skills.

Ford comes from a rodeo family and entered his first rodeo at the age of seven. His career has been an illustrious one which thus far has yielded four PRCA World Championships, a record hard to match in the rough and tumble bone-breaking world of bronc riding.

He was accompanied to the school by his family which includes his wife, Susie, and two youngsters ages two and four months. Ford explained that his family does not travel with him while he is rodeeing, but this week at the school was the only chance he foresaw for seeing his family during the coming month.

CHARLIE SAMPSON
"I believe that I can ride bulls," and with the conviction ringing in the air of the banquet room of the Dodge City Inn there is not a person present that doesn't also believe that Charlie Sampson can ride bulls.

Sampson, 26, is a firm believer in the power of positive thinking and the signed photographs of him riding a bull, he hands out to his students at the conclusion of the school are emblazoned with the words "You only fail when you have

failed to try."

Sampson is somewhat unusual in the realm of rodeo as he comes from an urban background and is black, because of this he has caught the attention of national media and has done things like give bull riding lessons on TV's "Real People."

Sampson has had one of the more unusual introductions to rodeo as he became interested in horses during the course of a Cub Scout field trip to a carnival that had a pony ring. This took place in Los Angeles, California, and was the first time he had ever been close to a real live horse. He spent his quarter for five times around the ring and was hooked on horses.

Sampson then got a job at the pony ring to support his riding habit and started hanging around a stable where black cowboys kept their horses. They taught him to rope and then talked him into riding one of the roping steers.

"I fell off the first one and cried and then tried another and this time I rode it," Sampson related. It was evident that trips around the pony ring had been replaced with something a little more exciting.

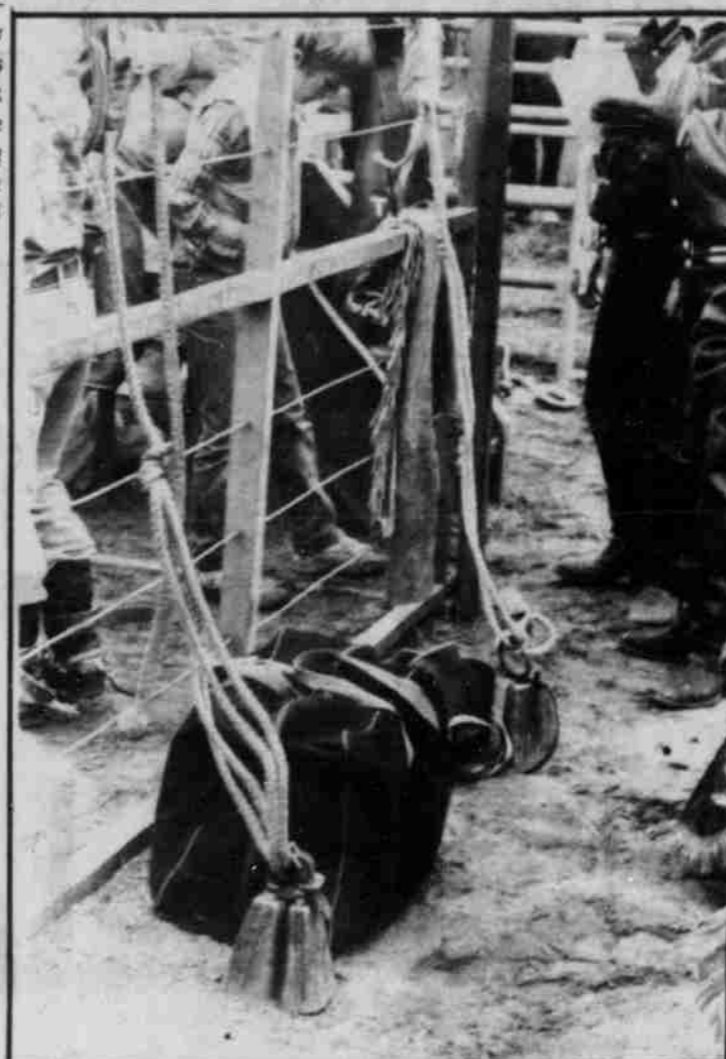
Sampson was the least reticent to talk about how he felt about rodeo and what it offered him. At roughly 130 pounds and slight stature, athletic opportunities were not readily available to him and he enjoys getting out and controlling and conquering 1800 pounds of angry bull.



Instructors at the "Champion's Rodeo School" were (Left to Right) Charlie Sampson, Brad Gjermundson, Jody Tatone, and Bruce Ford.



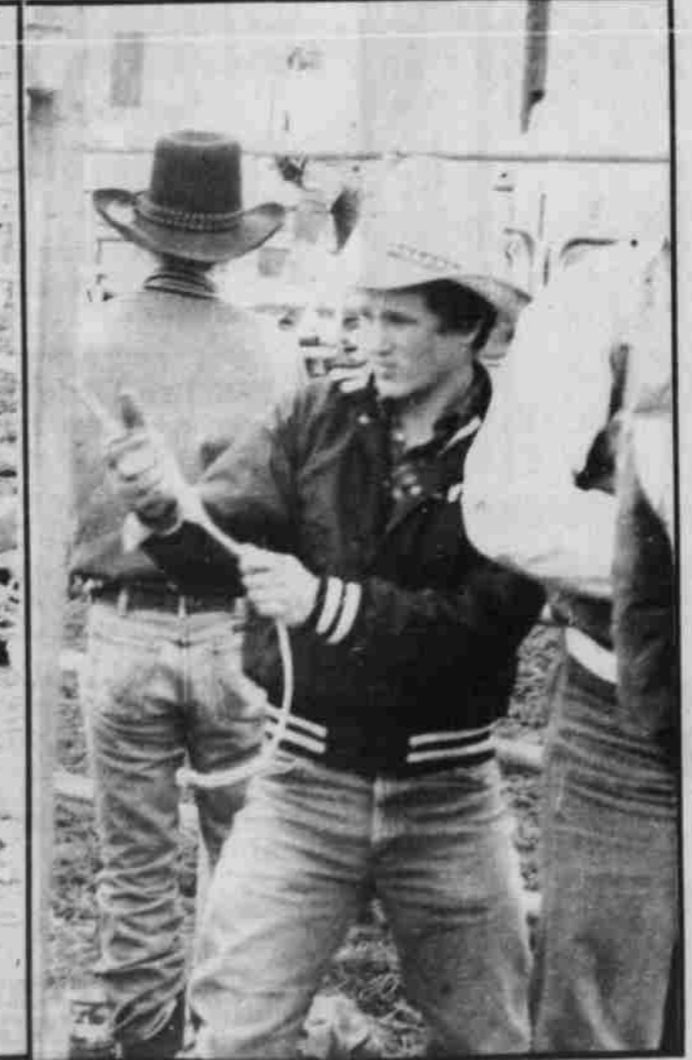
Jody Tatone aids one of the bullriding students in getting his rigging set on the mechanical bull for a practice ride.



The area behind the chutes took on the cluttered, crowded look of a teenager's bedroom as each of the students staked out a portion of it as their territory. Here reposed their gear, bags, equipment, cameras, and for some, all the clothes they had brought with them.



The cowboys express their individuality often through the medium of their chaps.



Much time is spent preparing for the short eight second ride on a bull. Here a student works rosin into his bull rope to prevent it from slipping.

NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING

A meeting of the Board of Commissioners will be held on June 22, 1984, at 1:00 p.m. at the Port office. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1984, as approved by the Port of Morrow.

Budget Committee: A summary of the budget is presented below. A copy of the budget may be inspected or obtained free of charge at 1 Main Drive between the hours of 8:00 and 5:00 p.m.

The budget was prepared on a basis of accounting consistent not consistent with the basis of accounting used during the preceding year. Major changes, if any, and their effect on the budget, are explained below.

Morrow (County) Boardman (City) May 30, 1984 Louis Carlson (Chairperson of Governing Body)

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

	SUPPLEMENTAL	ADOPTED BUDGET THIS YEAR 83-84	APPROVED BUDGET NEXT YEAR 84-85
ANTICIPATED REQUIREMENTS			
Total Personal Services		153,000	
Total Materials and Services		747,926	
Total Capital Outlay		2,195,674	
Total All Other Expenditures and Requirements		4,387,607	
TOTAL ANTICIPATED REQUIREMENTS		7,485,207	
ANTICIPATED REVENUES			
Total Revenue Except Property Taxes		7,450,207	
Total Property Taxes Required to Balance Budget		35,000	
TOTAL ANTICIPATED REVENUES		7,485,207	
ANTICIPATED TAX LEVY			
Total Property Taxes Required to Balance Budget Plus Estimated Property Taxes Not to Be Received		35,000	
TOTAL PROPERTY TAX LEVY		35,000	
TAX LEVIES PARTIALLY FUNDED BY STATE OF OREGON			
Levy Within Tax Base		38,000	
One-Year Special Levy Outside Tax Base			
Serial Levies			
TOTAL PROPERTY TAX TO BE PARTIALLY FUNDED BY STATE OF OREGON		38,000	
TAX LEVIES TOTALLY FUNDED BY LOCAL TAXPAYERS			
One-Year Special Levy Outside Tax Base			
Serial Levies			
Levy for Payment of Bonded Debt			
TOTAL PROPERTY TAX TO BE TOTALLY FUNDED BY LOCAL TAXPAYERS			

STATEMENT OF INDEBTEDNESS

DEBT OUTSTANDING DEBT AUTHORIZED, NOT INCURRED

NONE AS SHOWN BELOW NONE AS SHOWN BELOW

PUBLISH TABLE BELOW ONLY IF COMPLETED

TYPE OF DEBT	DEBT OUTSTANDING		DEBT AUTHORIZED, NOT INCURRED	
	This Year as of July 1	Next Year as of July 1	This Year as of July 1	Next Year as of July 1
Bonds			1,111,000	1,111,000
Interest Bearing Warrants				
Short-Term Note				
Other:				
TOTAL INDEBTEDNESS			1,111,000	1,111,000

FUNDS REQUIRING A PROPERTY TAX TO BE LEVIED

	ACTUAL DATA LAST YEAR		ADOPTED BUDGET THIS YEAR 83-84		APPROVED BUDGET NEXT YEAR	
Total Personal Services (Includes all Payroll Costs)			153,000			
Total Materials and Services			747,926			
Total Capital Outlay			34,000			
Total All Other Expenditures and Requirements			1,264,794			
Total Expenditures and Requirements			1,711,794			
Total Resources Except Property Taxes			1,673,796			
Property Taxes Required			35,000			
Property Taxes Required to Balance			3,000			
Estimated Property Taxes Not to Be Received			38,000			
Total Property Tax Levy			38,000			
Levy Within Tax Base			38,000			
Levy for Payment of Bonded Debt						
Serial Levies and Continuing Levies						
Levy for Payment of Bonded Debt						

FUNDS NOT REQUIRING A PROPERTY TAX TO BE LEVIED

	ACTUAL DATA LAST YEAR		ADOPTED BUDGET THIS YEAR 83-84		APPROVED BUDGET NEXT YEAR	
Total Personal Services (Includes all Payroll Costs)			635,600			
Total Materials and Services			635,600			
Total Capital Outlay						
Total All Other Expenditures and Requirements			635,600			
Total Expenditures and Requirements			635,600			
Total Resources			635,600			

	ACTUAL DATA LAST YEAR		ADOPTED BUDGET THIS YEAR 83-84		APPROVED BUDGET NEXT YEAR	
Total Personal Services (Includes all Payroll Costs)			0			
Total Materials and Services			412,826			
Total Capital Outlay			0			
Total All Other Expenditures and Requirements			143,774			
Total Expenditures and Requirements			556,600			
Total Resources			556,600			

	ACTUAL DATA LAST YEAR		ADOPTED BUDGET THIS YEAR 83-84		APPROVED BUDGET NEXT YEAR	
Total Personal Services (Includes all Payroll Costs)			85,100			
Total Materials and Services			2,162,874			
Total Capital Outlay			100			
Total All Other Expenditures and Requirements			2,187,826			
Total Expenditures and Requirements			2,355,800			
Total Resources			2,355,800			