

Top competitors vie for cash and prizes



Bobby Hurley



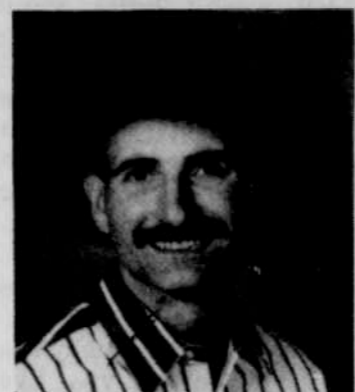
Allen Bach



Joe Beaver



Marvin Gay



Clint Corey

"Troy Pruitt, I thought, roped exceptional this week. He drew some good calves and he really roped good," Beaver said. "I was just trying, if I had a good calf, to win money, and if I didn't, to get by."

World championship fires have been burning inside Bobby Hurley since he was a youngster in Arkansas emulating his heroes.

"When I first started roping, the guys that were roping good then were people like Leo and Reg (Camarillo)," Hurley said. "When we'd practice at home, I liked to pretend it was the last steer at the finals and when we were backing in the box we'd say we were Reg and Leo or Jake (Barnes) and Clay (O'Brien Cooper). You don't ever think, in your deepest dreams, that the stuff in your practice pen could be a reality."

The fire that burned Hurley's name into his first gold buckle started in the opening round at the National Finals Rodeo, when he and Allen Bach tied for third place with Charles Pogue and Bobby Harris. The Continued Page 2

Many former world champions and top 15 cowboys and cowgirls will be competing at this year's Oregon Trail Pro Rodeo to be held this Friday night and Saturday afternoon.

Scheduled to appear are former world champion bareback riders Clint Corey and Marvin Garrett, five-time world champion calf roper Joe Beaver and 1993 world champion team roper Bobby Hurley.

Not many guys would have the guts to trade in a horse that helped him win the first round of the National Finals Rodeo for one that he'd owned just three months.

Not many guys are Joe Beaver.

"It doesn't really matter that much to me what horse I ride," Beaver said. "I just kind of go in there and whichever one I catch that day, I ride."

During the first two rounds of the 1993 NFR, Beaver rode Prime Time, the sorrel gelding that carried him to the 1992 title. Following the second round, however, he switched to Touchdown, a roan he bought from Doug Clark in early September. Beaver said he thought Prime Time was a little too strong for the pen of calves at NFR '93. But, he admitted, that wasn't the only reason he changed horses.

For the third performance, Beaver's tack man "saddled the wrong horse, so I just rode him the rest of the week," Beaver said with a laugh.

Whatever the motive, riding Touchdown turned out to be the right decision.

"He's been real good," said Beaver, 28. "I've won about \$45,000 on him, so he's been a good investment."

Beaver of Huntsville, Texas, split first-place money in the third round riding Touchdown, and remained consistent throughout the week to place third in the average. He earned \$118,787 for the season, \$6,510 ahead of runner-up Troy Pruitt of Minatare, Neb., and \$7,639 ahead of third-place finisher Shawn McMullan of Iraan, Texas.

"It came all the way down to today," Beaver said minutes after the 10th round ended. "It kind of came down to what Shawn did."

If McMullan had roped his final calf three seconds faster than his 12.2 time, he would have tied with Pruitt for the NFR average victory and walked away with the world title.

Another key moment in Beaver's fifth world championship came with his win in the eighth round. Despite a case of stomach flu, Beaver was able to rope and tie his calf in 8.0 seconds.

"I've been real sick the last four or five days, but I just kind of made myself focus in on why I was here," Beaver said

following the final round.

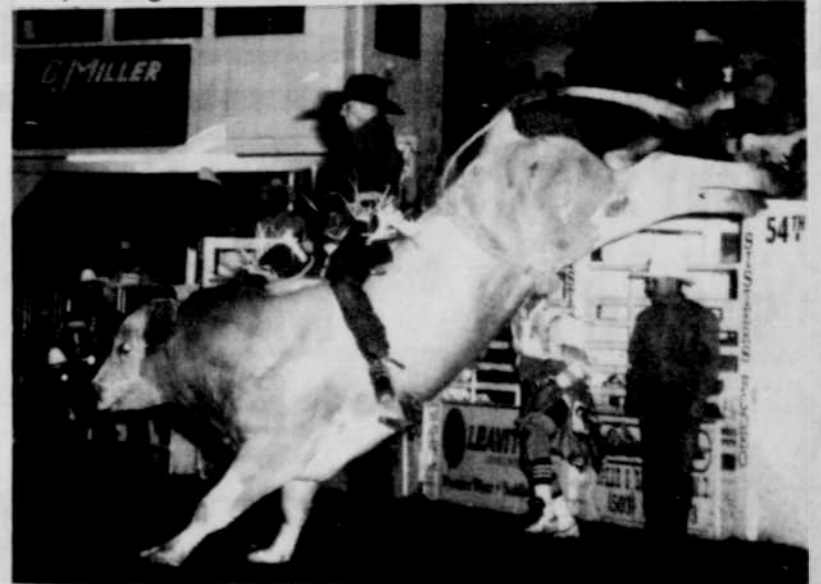
"I've had a good week, a good year," he said. "I felt pretty good (about the NFR). I roped good and my horses worked good. I didn't draw as well as I have out here before, but you can't draw good every year. I had enough chances that it let me win."

Surprisingly, Beaver's closest competitor by the end of the NFR was Pruitt, the 1990 world champion calf roper who entered the Finals in the 15th and final qualifying position. Pruitt earned \$68,111 at the NFR to climb to the runner-up spot with \$112,277 on the season.

Top stock at Rodeo



Copenhagen Heckle



Copenhagen Yellow Knife

"Oregon Trail Pro Rodeo is proud to have Copenhagen Heckle and Copenhagen Yellow Knife of the top quality bucking stock from the Beard Rodeo Co.," said an Oregon Trail Pro Rodeo spokesperson.

Copenhagen Heckle was selected six times to buck at the National Finals Rodeo, three times at Dodge National Circuit Finals and six times at the Col-

umbia River Circuit Finals. He was also named 1993 co-bareback horse of the year for the Columbia River Circuit.

"Copenhagen Yellow Knife and Skoal Sourdough Kid are two of the most popular bulls in the string. Cowboys can count on a paycheck if they ride one of them to the whistle," said the OTRP spokesperson.

HEPPNER



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VOL. 113 NO. 34 8 Pages Wednesday, August 17, 1994 Morrow County Heppner, Oregon

Queen Staci rules with a radiant smile

Morrow County Fair and Oregon Trail Pro Rodeo Queen Staci O'Brien rules this week's annual event with her radiant smile. She will be waving at spectators as she heads up the Saturday morning parade. Her official white divided skirt riding habit is accented with fuchsia matching the colorful outfits of her three princesses.

Capping a full week of fair activities, after the parade the court will host a luncheon, perform in grand entries and hand out awards, those royal duties that Staci handles with natural grace.

This role has come easily to the 19 year old daughter of Burke and Ginger O'Brien, Staci formerly served as a pennant bearer and she was a princess on the 1992 court of Jenni Ashbeck.

Court life is a family tradition. Her older sister, Kristi, was a princess in 1988. Her brother, Casey served as a pennant bearer. Her mother, Ginger, and her aunts have been on royal courts and both of her parents were former court chaperones.

It's been a busy summer for Staci who also has a full time job at Kids World Day Care in Pendleton. Besides travel-

Queen Staci O'Brien

Height: 5'7"
Eyes: Green
Hair: Blond
Parents: Burke & Ginger
Age: 19 year old

Activities: '93 HHS grad, freshman at BMCC-general business, Swimming and Aerobics, Ride Horses, Hunting, Employed with Kid's World Day Care



ing back and forth from Pendleton to Heppner, this year's court has participated in many out-of-town rodeos and events. Their striking parade appearances have given them five first place wins and other placings. Those official trips are an important part of promoting the hometown fair and rodeo, Staci says.

Recently they combined business with pleasure during a day in Pendleton. They made recordings at the KTIK radio station, put up fair

and rodeo posters and toured Pendleton's Underground. They visited at Camlu where they were luncheon guests of Gladys Raymond, the great grandmother of Princess Jossie Evans.

Queen Staci graduated from Heppner High School in 1993. While in school she participated in sports and she was a member of the dance team. She was chosen as the 1993 prom queen and she was a homecoming princess in 1992.

Riding horses has been a way of life as long, as Staci can remember. Her mount for court appearances is "Bum" a 15 year-old thoroughbred that had already been indoctrinated to court life.

From the age of 10, Staci was involved in 4-H with numerous livestock and horse projects. This family has also been active Wrangler Riding Club members, where Staci enjoys participating in playdays and trail rides.

As an ambassador for Morrow County, Chaperone Julie Ashbeck says that Queen Staci is an excellent role model. This year's court has become a very cohesive group who take their royal duties seriously while also having a good time, she added.

money he or she earned through the job bank.

Players must also stop by Heppner High School to pick up physical, insurance and waiver forms before practice begins.

For more information call Heppner High School, 676-9138.

have their fees paid for participation before practice begins. Beginning this year students will be charged \$50 per sport with a maximum of \$200 per family for the year.

Any player who participated The job bank program should call Cheryl Ployhar or Marcia DeBo to inquire about the



Queen Staci reads to Brent Eckman (l) and Torri Lovgren.

Daily doubles begin Aug. 22 at HHS

Daily double football practice at Heppner High School will be held on Monday and Tuesday, Aug. 22 and 23 at 7 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Practice will be held at 3:45 p.m. only on Wednesday, Aug. 24, through Friday, Aug. 26.

All fall sport athletes must

Enjoy the
Morrow County Fair and Oregon Trail Pro Rodeo

We will be closed Saturday
Morrow County Grain Growers

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