



# K-State RODEO News

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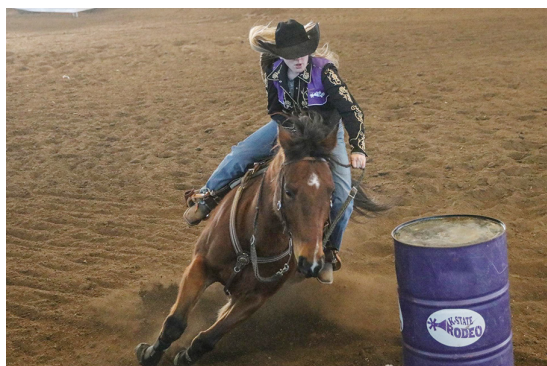


## K-State Rodeo Advisory Council

### GET READY FOR THE 2023 K-STATE RODEO

Weber Arena will be the site again this year for the K-State College Rodeo, February 17-19. This is the 66<sup>th</sup> year K-State has hosted the event. It was voted Central Plains Region College Rodeo of the Year in 2022.

Performances will be Friday at 7:30 p.m., Saturday at 1:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., and Sunday's short-go will be at 1:00 p.m. Slack will run Friday and Saturday mornings at 9:00 a.m. Friday's performance is Tough Enough to Wear Pink Night as a show of support for those with breast cancer. A rodeo for those with special needs will be held Saturday at 11:30 a.m. For the Saturday afternoon performance, kids 12 and under will get in free with the donation of one canned good for the Flint Hills Breadbasket food



bank. The Saturday evening performance will be purple night in Weber. A cowboy church service, open to the public, will take place Sunday morning at 10:00 a.m. in the grandstands. Sunday will be Military Appreciation Day at the rodeo. The Fort Riley Mounted Color Guard will perform opening ceremonies Sunday at 12:30 p.m.

All K-State rodeo alumni and friends are invited to attend a special social during the rodeo. It will be held Saturday afternoon from 4:00 to 6:00 at R.C. McGraws. Bring your old pictures and memorabilia to reminisce with others!

Advance tickets are \$10 and will be available beginning January 18 at Orscheln in Manhattan and Junction City, Yee-Haw, Outpost Western Store, the Call Hall Dairy Bar and R Bar B in Topeka.

Parking is available for rodeo fans in lots marked with a "T" north of Weber Arena. Additional parking will be at the southwest corner of Mid Campus Drive and Claflin, located diagonally across the intersection from Weber.

### PUT ON YOUR PURPLE AND RELIVE THE OLD RODEO DAYS

Be sure to attend the social for K-State rodeo alumni and friends Saturday, February 18, during the college rodeo in Manhattan. Those in attendance will have an opportunity to catch up with past and current K-State Rodeo Club and Team participants at R.C. McGraws. The social will start at 4:00 p.m. and wrap up at 6:00 p.m. in time for the Saturday evening performance. A special update will be provided at 5:00 p.m. on the K-State rodeo scholarship program and an exciting new facility being built to host the K-State college rodeo, among other Department of Animal Sciences & Industry activities.

Dig out your old K-State rodeo yearbook pictures, newspaper clippings and belt buckles to share with others during this fun event! For more information, contact Amber Thompson at [amber63930@gmail.com](mailto:amber63930@gmail.com).



Clarke Jackman  
Chairman  
Baldwin City  
KSU '88

Jeff VanPetten  
Meriden  
KSU '83

Cindy Lindsay  
Brookville  
KSU '84

Todd Domer  
Topeka  
KSU '83

Joel Wimer  
Smolan  
KSU '79

Amber Thompson  
Olsburg  
KSU '17

Greg Gardiner  
Ashland  
KSU '81

Brandi Schnitkey  
Rodeo Club President

Casy Winn  
Team Coach  
(Ex-officio)

Michael Day  
AS & I Dept. Head  
(Ex-officio)

## NEW SCHOLARSHIP MEMORIALIZES K-STATE RODEO SUPPORTER

A key priority of the K-State Rodeo Advisory Council is scholarships for students in the rodeo program. When the council lost a long-time member and avid supporter of K-State rodeo back in September of 2022, a scholarship was set up in his name. The J. Michael Christiansen Memorial Rodeo Scholarship was established



Christiansen

at the KSU Foundation to honor Mike. Contributions may be sent to the KSU Foundation in care of M47422 J Michael Christiansen Memorial Fund, 1800 Kimball Ave., Suite 200, Manhattan, KS 66502. Be sure to specify fund number 056897, J Michael Christiansen Memorial Fund in the memo line. Click on the following link to make a gift toward the K-State Rodeo Scholarship Fund <https://www.givecampus.com/campaigns/26280/donations/new> in Mike's name. Again, in the special instructions section, be sure to specify fund number 056897, J Michael Christiansen Memorial Fund.

Alumni and friends of the K-State Rodeo Club can pay tribute to Mike, who left us far too soon, through this scholarship fund. As some will remember, he was a 1981 K-State graduate with degrees in both ag economics and animal science. His hard work as a student in the K-State Rodeo Club mirrored his commitment to the program as an alumnus. He had served many years on the K-State Rodeo Advisory

Council and was responsible for a number of the group's new initiatives.

## SPRING SEASON AHEAD FOR RODEO TEAM

K-State Rodeo Team Coach Casy Winn reports the student athletes are off to a solid start, with much of the season yet to take place this spring. The K-State women's team is ninth in the Central Plains region after fall rodeos at Colby, Durant, Stillwater and Alva. Kyleigh Winn is ninth in the breakaway standings, with Sydney Tastad and Haley Vollmer also qualifying for short-goes in the fall. Coach Winn said the men's team is tenth at this point, led by Sage and Luke Dierks, who are tenth in the team roping, and Tom Harmon, who is eighth in the bull riding.

The K-State team will compete at six rodeos this spring before qualifications are determined for the 2023 College National Finals in Casper, WY. In addition to the K-State college rodeo February 16-18 in Manhattan, remaining Central Plains Region rodeos will take place at Fort Scott Community College, Garden City Community College, Southwestern Oklahoma State University, Fort Hays State University and Panhandle State University.



Coach Winn

## PLANS PROGRESS TOWARD NEW SITE FOR K-STATE COLLEGE RODEO

A major and multifaceted facilities project for the K-State College of Agriculture will enhance many aspects of the Department of Animal Sciences & Industry (AS&I), including opportunities for K-State Rodeo. A key part of this project is a new livestock competition arena that is planned to be built adjacent to the existing Burtis outdoor arena. According to AS&I Department Head Mike Day, the annual K-State college rodeo is one of many functions that will transition to the 130' x 250' indoor arena with seating capacity of about 3,000. Temporary housing for livestock to be used for teaching and to support the annual college rodeo and an 80' x 80' staging/warm up area connected to the main facility are included with the arena, along with many other components to support the activities. The arena will be coupled with major renovations at the AS&I Horse Unit, including the addition of teaching space, replacement of the headquarters and breeding facility, construction of a stall barn and other upgrades. A future phase of further improvements is planned for both the arena and Horse Unit, including addi-



tional animal housing for the arena and further facility and pen upgrades at the Horse Unit.

In addition to providing a larger arena floor to support the college rodeo, the new competition arena will offer a modern facility with greater access for rodeo contestants, stock and fans. Accessibility to Weber Arena from the K-State rodeo headquarters adjacent to Burtis Arena has become increasingly challenging in recent years given the growth of campus to the north of Weber Hall. Space is finite for animals, contestants and trailers to support the rodeo at Weber Hall. Support space will become a greater challenge with the construction of a new building to replace Schellenberger Hall between Call Hall and Weber Hall. This is one component of the greater and multifaceted College of Agriculture project.

According to Day, it is an exciting time for K-State, the College of Agriculture and AS&I in terms of upgrading facilities to support the teaching, research and extension missions and many of the student, youth and stakeholder programs that are core to AS&I and K-State.

## K-STATE GRAD FINISHES NINTH IN THE WORLD

K-State rodeo alumnus Tanner Brunner of Ramona, KS, finished ninth in the world steer wrestling standings for the recently completed 2022 Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association season. Brunner had a hot finish at the Wrangler National Finals Rodeo (WNFR) in Las Vegas, NV, placing in four of the last five go-arounds at the 10-head event. When all was said and done, Brunner threw all 10 steers down in 69.2 seconds for fifth in the average.



*Brunner*

Last year was Brunner's fourth qualification for the WNFR. His career earnings exceed \$600,000. He is a 2016 K-State graduate with a degree in animal sciences & industry. While on the K-State Rodeo Team, Brunner qualified for the College National Finals Rodeo in 2014 and 2015.

All of his immediate family also competed in college rodeo at K-State. This includes his father Tracy Brunner, mother Yvonne Brunner and sister Lauren "Cat" Brunner. He also has aunts and uncles who were on the K-State Rodeo Team.

The K-State rodeo family is proud to call Tanner one of its own!

## WILDCAT RODEO ATHLETES HONORED BY NIRA

Four K-State Rodeo Team members were named 2022 Scholar American recipients by the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association (NIRA). Sage Dierks, Carlie Jones, Sami O'Day and Haley Vollmer were honored nationally for meeting the criteria of having earned points at sanctioned 2021-2022 NIRA rodeos and achieving a 3.5 grade point average. The students were nominated by Coach Casy Winn.

This is another example of how K-State Rodeo Club and Team members are high-achieving individuals who typically go on to do great things after graduation!

## CLUB HOSTS BREAKAWAY, TIE-DOWN SERIES

The K-State Rodeo Club and Team hosted a breakaway and tie-down roping series last fall. The three-roping series attracted 100 breakaway entries and 30 tie-down entries.

Winners of the 15 and under tie-down series were Kaden Jacobs and Hadley Schonberg. The open tie-down winner was Corey Larson. Avery Kinkelaar was the 15 and under breakaway roping winner for the series. Current K-State team member Kyleigh Winn won the open breakaway.

Thanks to 5A Designs for donating the series prizes!



*Hadley Schonberg (left) and Kaden Jacobs*

## TEAM ROPING HELPS FUND CHRISTIANSEN MEMORIAL

The annual fundraiser team roping for the club and team was held November 12 at Diamond L Arena near Dwight, KS. The K-State Rodeo Mike Christiansen Memorial Roping drew more than 300 teams total for three different numbered ropings.

Winners in the mixed roping were: first place - Kyleigh and Shad Winn; second - Brandee Tubbs and Dixon Winn; and third - Kylie Adams and Clay Foltz.



*Rodeo Club President Brandi Schnitkey and Clint Heller*

First place in the #9 roping was Shad and Coach Casy Winn. Second was Jenny Buchman and Clint Heller. Don Garnett and Steve Zumbrunn won third. Fourth was Colton Kennedy and Pake Collins. Coming in fifth was Daniel Durkes and Jacob Grinstead.

The #12 slide was the biggest roping of the day. Winners were: first place - Marquise Eason and Mitch Murray; second - Zane Leftwich and Clint Heller; third - Reed Murray and Casey Hayes; fourth - Sage Dierks and Corey Larson; fifth - Cooper White and Chad Kimbrough; and sixth - Zane Leftwich and Linden Stueve.

High-money winner for the day was Clint Heller. He received a certificate toward a new saddle from Burns Saddlery. Thanks to Burns for the company's support of K-State rodeo!

Part of the proceeds from the fundraiser were donated to the J Michael Christiansen Memorial Fund held at the KSU Foundation. The Christiansen Memorial will provide scholarships for K-State Rodeo Club and Team members.

Contributions may be sent to the KSU Foundation in care of M47422 J Michael Christiansen Memorial Fund, 1800 Kimball Ave., Suite 200, Manhattan, KS 66502. Be sure to specify fund number 056897, J Michael Christiansen Memorial Fund in the memo line. Click on the following link to make a gift toward the K-State Rodeo Scholarship Fund <https://www.givecampus.com/campaigns/26280/donations/new> in Mike's name. Again, in the special instructions section, be sure to specify fund number 056897, J Michael Christiansen Memorial Fund.

## RODEO CLUB TO HOST SEVERAL UPCOMING EVENTS

As most alumni can attest, one of the great learning lessons associated with being part of the rodeo club involves event management. The hard work, people skills and time management required to help put on the K-State college rodeo and many other events are invaluable in the game of life!

In addition to the upcoming rodeo in Weber Arena, K-State rodeo students will be actively engaged in hosting several events during January and February. The first of those will be a bull riding clinic January 20-22 in Weber Arena led by past Wrangler National Finals qualifier Dave Samsel and World Champion bull rider Cody Custer. Riders ages 14 and older can enroll in the clinic by calling Coach Casy Winn at (435) 681-0201 or emailing him at [ccwinn@ksu.edu](mailto:ccwinn@ksu.edu).

Other coming events K-State rodeo will host in Weber are a ranch rodeo January 27-28; the K-State Iron Woman roping, goat tying and barrel racing competition February 4; and the Miss Rodeo K-State Pageant February 10-11.

## K-STATE RODEO CALENDAR

**January 20-22** - Bull Riding Clinic, Weber Arena

**January 27-28** - K-State Ranch Rodeo, Weber Arena

**February 4** - K-State Iron Woman, Weber Arena

**February 10-11** - Miss Rodeo K-State Pageant, Manhattan

**February 17-19** - K-State College Rodeo, Weber Arena

**February 18** - K-State Alumni & Friends Social, Manhattan