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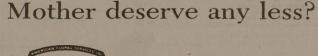
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Rodeo, one of Texas' toughest sports

By DANA McNABB

Take a handful of cowboys and cowgirls, their diligently trained horses, an arena, and a couple of officials to run the show and you have got yourself one of the most popular and roughest sports America has

It's the sport of rodeo. Rodeo has come a long way from its beginnings in the days of cattle drives. Cowboys would then seek entertainment during the long cattlehauls in-between cities and settled for bets of which cowboy could ride a certain bronc the longest or which hand could bet-ter an already established time record in roping a calf.

The adventure, the boastfulness, and the freedom linked with rodeo still exist, but, like the days the sport pegan in, rodeo has refined, and organized to its present day form.

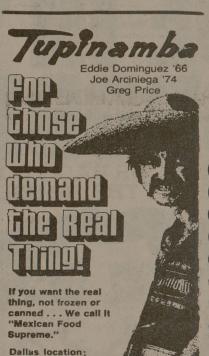
Rodeo is organized in three national associations of rodeo, the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association, the International Rodeo Association, and the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association, with the latter (NIRA) being a college ranking

association.

The NIRA is divided into ten regions representing the United States, with Texas A&M in the Southern Region. Each school represented in the NIRA has a rodeo team consisting of six men and three women; one for each event in rodeo.

The nine events in NIRA rodeo include the six men's events of steer wrestling (bulldogging), team roping, calf roping, bullriding, saddle brone riding, and bareback brone riding, and the three women's events of barel regions great trips events of barrel racing, goat tying, and break-away roping.

These collegiate teams compete in regional rodeos throughout the season and accumulate points from each rodeo, for both individual status in all events and for the women's teams and men's teams from each school. At the end of the season, the top two men's teams, the top two women's teams, the top two individual winners in each event, and the allaround winners from each region participate in the NIRA finals in Bozeman, Montana. This competition is the "cream of the crop" in college rodeo.



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in the Southern Region, 1975-76, and Sam Houston, ranking number one in the Southern Region, 1975-76, will travel to Bozeman this summer. This is the fourth consecutive year that A&M has competed in the national finals, winning fourth place in the nation in 1973 and tenth place

Mike Cox, an A&M cowboy, won the region this year in bullriding and will be on the finals team from A&M.

Last season, Greg Court and Terry Chapman won the Southern Region championship in steer wrestling and saddle brone riding, respectively. They each won for this a \$500 scholarship from the American Tobacco Co., of which \$400 total was given to the rodeo club's scholarship fund. The president of the rodeo club, Jerry Hayes, placed third in the region in steer wrestling

in 1973 and fourth in 1976. A total of \$100,000 in scholarships will be up for grabs this year at the national finals, donated by the American Tobacco Company.

The A&M rodeo team that will

compete in Bozeman is comprised of Daryl Atkins, Johnny Powell, Cody Dutton, Mike Cox, Jerry Hayes, Kay McMullan, Linda Fletcher, and Marilyn Chesser. One additional cowboy will be selected to go to the These cowboys and cowgirls are

the top A&M entries of the nine events of NIRA rodeo. These events differ little from rodeo in the other associations, but a few rules are changed to better fit the college situ-

Calf roping requires a cowboy, a rope, and a calf. The cowboy sets his horse up in a box or a fenced-in area with the side facing the arena open. A calf is placed in the pen alongside the roper's box. Upon signal from the judge, the calf is let out of the chute by another cowboy. The cow-boy mounted on his horse, now proceeds to rope the calf. If the barrier is broken the cowboy gets no time. The barrier is a device which gives the calf a pre-determined head start. It is of a light rope held tight by a coil spring and is latched across in front of the roper and his horse. When the calf crosses the line marking the headstart, it releases the barrier. If the roper rides through the barrier before it is released, he is assessed a ten-second penalty.

The roper may catch the calf any way it works out — over the head, around the middle, even by a leg. But he must let go of the loop he throws when he throws it and the rope must hold on the calf until the cowboy can get his hands on him.

The cowboy must cross and tie any three legs, with any knot he likes, then snap his hands away from the

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down then to signal time to stop. The calf must remain tied for about six seconds after the cowboy has remounted his horse. If the calf struggles free during that time, that cowboy goes home with no time. This is a game of quickness with a good start out of the box and a fast horse being

important. Like calf roping, team roping requires skill and yet good team work because two ropers have the chore in this sport of roping a steer around the horns and heels. One cowboy is called the header (and, as you might guess, he ropes the head as his specialty) and the other is the heeler. The header must first rope the steer's head before the heeler can get his shot at the heels. If the rope is too far up on the legs of the calf or back of the calf, or if the heeler ropes only one leg, then the cowboys are awarded no time. If the header hangs only one horn or his rope goes back past the calf's front legs then the team has no time.

Bareback brone riding consists of only a cowboy, a brone, and the cowboys bareback "rigging" (a smooth sureingle or band of leather with a handhold in the center). The cowboy has no reins, no stirrups just the handle

The rigging is cinched to the horse and the contestant is allowed to rub the handhold with resin to improve his grip. On the brone's first jump out of the chute, the cowboy must 'mark him out," that is to spur the horse over the points of the shoulders until the animal's front hooves hit the ground. If he fails to do this, he is disqualified. The rider is also disqualified if he bucks off before the signal sound, or if he touches the brone with his free hand.

Both the horse and the rider are judged — the horse on how hard he bucks, and the rider on how well he keeps in spurring control. In this event, the cowboy gets credit only for spurring over the points of the shoulders. This is done by the jerking motion with the knees, leaning back off the handhold.

As in bareback bronc riding, in

saddle brone riding the cowboy and horse are judged separately, and the scores of the two are added together to get the score for the ride.

The cowboy earns his marking in saddle brone riding for his command of the action and how well he spurs. In time with the leaps of the horse, he spurs forward against the horse's shoulders, then back to his saddle (looking as if he were spurring the back of the saddle). If he fails to keep his spurs over the point of the brone's shoulders through the first jump out of the chute, he is disqualified. He is also disqualified if he

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tie string to signal for time. The changes hands on the rein, loses a mounted field judge's flag drops stirrup, or touches the horse, the stirrup, or touches the horse, the rein, or the saddle with his free

> Because bull riding requires a matching of one cowboy against a ton of heaving dynamite, the bullriders have the simplest set of rules to follow. All the cowboy can have to help him hang on to the bull is a loose rope without knots or hitches, held around the bull simply by the pressure of the rider's grip. The rider is not required to spur the animal at all, but if he is able to spur it will earn him extra points on his ride. Thus the ride must be made with one hand; the other held free. The ride is a qualified one as long as the riding hand is on any part of the bull rope — and the cowboy hasn't hit the ground when the whistle blows to stop

Bulldogging or steer wrestling is done with a cowboy, his horse, a steer, and a hazer or another mounted cowboy who guides the steer against the side of the participant. The "dogger" leans to the side of his horse on which the steer is and grabs the horns of the steer while still mounted and at a fast pace. He slides off his horse, holding on to the steer, and stops the steer. The cowboy then twists the steer down with his own strength. The steer is considered down only when it is lying flat on its side on the ground with all four feet and head straight

The women's barrel racing is a sport of timeliness and intricacy as the cowgirl races her horse around a cloverleaf pattern with three barrels outlining the pattern. The cowgirl must follow the set pattern and she is disqualified if she breaks the pat-tern. She is also disqualified if she knocks over one of the barrels. After ompleting the pattern the cowgirl 'brings her horse home" by racing him to the end of the arena where

she began her pattern.

In the sport of goat tying, a goat is tied around the neck with a rope and the rope is tied to a stake in the ground that is a minimum of 50 yards away from the starting point. The cowgirl rides her horse to a point near the goat, dismounts her horse, throws the goat to the ground by

goat. A leather string or ap string (same as used to tiet feet in calf roping) may be us the goat. The cowgirl mustand back three feet from the before the judge will start second time limit in which! legs must remain crossed a Should the contestant's hor tact the goat or rope, the cow

be fined ten seconds; if the should break away because fault of the horse, she will a disqualified. Break-away roping uses the format as calf roping, but the girl's rope is not knotted to the dle horn. The rope is tied saddle horn with a string or and once the rope is aroundt head, the pull of the calf i breaks the string and the reloose from the saddle horn. nals the judge to stop the tin that cowgirl.

These nine events aren't rodeo has to offer. Of cours are the ever-famous rode who serve a multi-purpose taining but more important as a life saver to a potent dangered bullrider who mig help. There are also many judges, announcers, secr chute helpers (whose job is the steers and calves), and might even be a country and w band winding out that good of guitar and fiddle music. Oh, b anyone that's ever been to a remembers the way each rode itionally begins — the grand displaying all the contestants their horses; the Pledge legiance, and the silent aren A Cowboys Prayer,

.. We don't ask any s favors; we don't ask to drawan hute-fightin' horse or to break a barrier. Help us, L live our lives in such a man when we make that last inc ride to the country up there the grass grows lush, green a rup high, and the water russ clear and deep, that You, as our Judge, will tell us that our entry

Rodeo riders rope first

By DANA McNABB

The Texas A&M Rodeo Club sponsored its annual National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association (NIRA) sanctioned rodeo April 29 - May 1 at 8 p.m. nightly in the Aggie Rodeo arena across from Kyle Field.

Fourteen teams and several individual entries from schools in the Southern Region of the NIRA participated in the rodeo. Besides being the final rodeo of the year for the Southern Region, the Aggie rodeo offered a total of \$10,000 in prize money and sterling silver belt buckes for the winners in each event and all-around winners in the men's and omen's events.

Schools entered in the contest included Sam Houston State University, the current region leader for both men's and women's teams. These teams competed in the nine rodeo events of NIRA; bullriding,

bareback brone riding, saddle riding, steer wrestling, calf team roping, barrel racing a ing, and breakaway roping.

The Aggie men's team w team trophy in the men's div first place in this rodeo. The standings of both the men's te the women's team leaves At second place in the Souther Johnny Powell and Dayryl

from Texas A&M won the av the team roping event. The a is figured by an average of the for all the performances dum rodeo of the particular cowbo The stock producer and

ompany for the rodeo was Si Davis with the Roundup Company of Simonton, Texas.

The Aggie rodeo team's sponsor is Dr. Gary Potter Animal Science Departme

4 Marines charge

Associated Press
SAN DIEGO — Four officials from the hometown of Marine Pvt.
Lynn McClure say the Marine Corps never checked his background before he was enlisted and fatally injured in basic training. Four Marines face court-martial

charges in the March 13 death of the Lufkin, Tex. recruit, who was knocked unconscious in a close combat drill last December and never regained consciousness.

At a news conference yesterday, Judge David Cook of San Angelina County said McClure appeared before him five times, twice for throwing rocks, and twice spent 11 days in composition teacher at the U

Lufkin Police Chief Le Latham, Chief Deputy Sheriff Hight and Dist. Atty. Gerald win said the Marine Corps contacted their offices withing about McClure.

Civil-rights activist. Groppi, marries

MILWAUKEE (AP) - The James E. Groppi, a leader in civil-rights and peace movement the 1960s and early 1970s, has married a 30-year-old I sity of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

