Rodeo winner suffers 'inconveniences

OKLAHOMA CITY — The cowlegs of a lassoed calf. Dust swirls in the rodeo arena and rises around the tion in 1976.

roper's face.

It not the ideal situation for an as-

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Cooper's quick hands and fast reboy slings his rope, dismounts in a flexes have won him the money title fight lung diseases. Cooper, who gr fessional Rodeo Cowboys Associa-

His list of championship titles dates back to his 11th birthday. He has had asthma since birth.

But Roy Cooper, 23, has over-come the ailment to become a another title — National Christmas three-time national winner of top money for the season in professional

Seals Ambassador for the American Lung Association — and for the next Rookie of the Year.

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year the Durant, Okla., roper will help the association raise money to

Cooper, who grew up in Monument, N.M., and graduated from Southeastern Oklahoma State University in Durant, is trying for his second world title this week at the National Finals Rodeo in Oklahoma

He won his first world title in

growing up. I couldn't play football, sometimes I couldn't rope when I wanted to, I had to rest more than other kids, and was smaller than most kids.

Cooper said he has "outgrown" the disease to some extent. His wife, Lisa, added that he still has

Horse hair and dust aggravate the asthma. "If I didn't take care of myself and

Only a few people have known of his fight with asthma.

"It's not really something I feel like bragging about," Cooper said,
"Who knows? Maybe one of these

"Who knows? Maybe one of these days they will find a cure. Until smiling. "I've had it as long as I can then, I'm going to treat the disease remember. It's part of my life that I could do without, but I've never let like what it is - an inconvenience. it stand in the way of my goals.
"Asthma slowed me down at No one ever worried or complained their way into being a winner. It takes hard work, dedication and times - especially when I was concentration.

"I plan to keep on roping, keep on winning and plan to tell others with asthma not to worry about the disease, but to concentrate on winning the goals they have set for them-

This year he won more than \$67,000, more than any other cowboy in the history of rodeo in one

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Texas A&M University soccer instructor Steve Cone brond his daughter, Lisa Cone, 2, to class Thursday. She is recupe ating from an appendectomy and will return to her day scho

Crippled TCUer raps U.S. MDs

United Press International
GRAPEVINE— Kent Waldrep, who traveled to the Soviet Unite
to advance his dream of escaping his wheelchair, returned hom
Sunday and said the attitude of American medicine should he

"We have to fight a battle," said Waldrep, 24, who was paraly from the waist down while playing football for Texas Christian I versity four years ago. "And we have to win that battle." Waldrep spent six weeeks at the Polenov Institute in Lenings undergoing treatment which has improved his coordination and de

terity. He still cannot move his legs. The Soviet doctors injected an enzyme designed to break dom scar tissue around Waldrep's spinal cord. The enzyme Ledazaham been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

Waldrep, accompanied by his mother and father, brought back supply of the enzyme.

"I don't want to get into a fight with neurosurgeons," said Walds who was greeted by 200 cheering people upon his arrival from L don. "But, some of those neurosurgeons seem to have been critical

'It's our attitude that needs to be changed. The Soviets do not he the facilities we do, but they are getting things done. They have positive approach.

"After examining me over there, they told me there was not for an operation. They said my spiral cord was in excellent condit "I had a doctor here sit down with me for 30 minutes and told (without even examining me) that my spiral cord was damaged

that nothing could be done. He said that just because of the injust that I had. That tends to make me a little bitter."

Waldrep said he has more feeling in his stomach and back muscle and far better coordination in his arms and hands than he did when the same of the sa

The treatment I received ought to be available to anybody wheelchair," said Waldrep, who received his injury from a tack during an October 1974 game against Alabama.

When I went there I thought I was awfully strong, but it is inc ible what they did in six weeks. They said I was only the the American they had treated and that I offered them the best pair they had had from the U.S. because of the strengh I had and because of the condition of my spinal cord.

In addition to the enzyme, Waldrep began a specially designed accuse of the series of physical therapy exercises and underwent oxygen treatment on. Job sectinside a closed chamber. During the treatment he stood in a special designation. designed walker and doctors moved his feet.

He said he would continue the therapy which he said was an portant part of the overall treatment and would continue to rece the enzyme injections from his parents who were trained by South 'Anybody who is interested in the therapy should know about

and I will write anybody who wants to know about it and give it them," said Waldrep. "When I get up it may be on crutches. But long as I'm in a wheelchair it confines my entire family. Anything person can do to improve himself, he should try it. People who have cancer or muscular dystrophy seek ways to me

themselves better. It is human nature to try to improve yourselfi situation like that. I don't look upon this as a false hope for anyone feel it is positive treatment. Funds for the trip were raised in Fort Worth where Waldrep wo as an asssistant sports information director at TCU. Waldrep's of

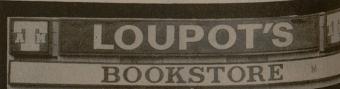
gressman, House Majority Leader James Wright, helped cut through some of the red tape and smoothed Waldrep's trip to the Soil Believe it or not, I am not too tired now that I have seen all of people. It has my adrenalin flowing," said Waldrep at the end of the nine-hour flight from London.

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