

IJRA Kicks Off 2011-2012 Rodeo Season

Cinch Division Contestants Bartonia



Photo by: IJRA

IJRA cowboys and cowgirls have hit the rodeo trail again this year as IJRA kicked off its 2011-2012 rodeo season! We would like to welcome all of our new members: Cole and JP Fuchs, Brian Hostetter, Tyler Manor, Houston Swan, Koy Whitaker, Brandon Tolbert, Abbie and Lexy Austin, Jenna Byers and Tyler Cagel. We are glad you have all joined our rodeo family and wish you lots of luck in your first IJRA season! Our Bartonia, IN rodeo was a great start to the season and the hog roast pot luck that Mike and Marcia Johnson, of 3 Bar J, provided is becoming an enjoyable IJRA tradition! IJRA would like to say thank you to the Johnson family for welcoming us to their arena and for their hospitality.



Photo by: Angela Pitchford

Ryann Pitchford

The Bartonia rodeo had some stand out contestants this year. Ryann Pitchford had a perfect weekend, winning first place both days in all four of her events. Way to go Ryann! New member, Houston Swan, claimed his

first All-Around title on Saturday and then came back on Sunday to claim another one for a superstar start to his rodeo season. The 2011-2012 season is sure to be full of excitement and close competition! IJRA has a spectacular group of members this year that are full of talent, great attitudes and the love of rodeo.

Bartonia was also a Junior High Division rodeo allowing kids in the 6-7-8 Division to win points toward the four spots reserved in each event at the Jr. High National Finals in New Mexico. Team Indiana also traveled to Lanesville, IN on September 17th and 18th to compete with the Indiana High School Rodeo Association (IHSRA) and move their way up in the Jr. High standings. The Jr. High Division is part of the IHSRA and Lanesville was a great opportunity for the Jr. High Division to experience an IHSRA rodeo. Special congratulations go out to Elite and Academic Team Indiana members, Anna Dietrich and Michael Shreeve, as well as Indiana Team Captain and Cinch Junior High Division National Secretary, Sydney Hurley. Not only are these three members part of the Indiana Junior High Division Rodeo Team, but they have also been recognized in these other hard earned positions. Mark your calendars for the IJRA 2010-2011 Awards Banquet. The banquet will be December 3rd in Lebanon, IN and will start at 4:00p.m. We will have an auction again this year, a great dinner, and of course lots and lots of awards to be handed out. If you haven't sent your reservation to Rachel Thomas yet, please go to the website and print one off to drop in the mail.

Bartonia All-Around Winners

Saturday

K-1-2 Boys: Houston Swan K-1-2 Girls: Ryann Pitchford 3-4-5 Boys: Avery Whitten 3-4-5 Girls: Lexy Petro 6-7-8 Boys: Lane McPheeters / Tucker Whitten 6-7-8 Girls: Grace Hassler

Sunday

K-1-2 Boys: Houston Swan K-1-2 Girls: Ryann Pitchford 3-4-5 Boys: Kolt Kelller 3-4-5 Girls: Lexy Petro 6-7-8 Boys: Tucker Whitten / Trevor Colby 6-7-8 Girls: Sydney Hurley

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Check back next month to see results and details from the Veedersburg and Edinburg rodeos. The IJRA cowboys and cowgirls will be focused on their events trying to get themselves in a great position in the standings before winter break sets in. If you would like more information on how to become part of our IJRA family, please check out our website at www.ijra.org or contact any of our Board Members. We also have an IJRA – Indiana Junior Rodeo Facebook page and would love for you to follow us to keep up to date.



Photo by: Lora Swan

Houston Swan

2011-2012 IJRA Board Members

President: Matt Thomas, **Vice President:** Scott Colby, **Rodeo Secretary:** Katrina Banta, **Timing Secretary:** Monica Shreeve, **Association Secretary:** Rachel Thomas, **Treasurer:** Sherri Zimmerman, **Board Members:** Jeff Banta, Mike Mackey, Cory Griffiths, Josh Shreeve, Chris Hurley, Keith White, Chris Keller, Brodie Zimmerman

2011-2012 Schedule

| | |
|--------------|-------------------------------|
| December 3rd | 2010-2011 IJRA Awards Banquet |
| April 13-15 | Hoosier Horse Fair |
| April 28-29 | New Castle, IN Rodeo |
| May 5-6 | Edinburgh, IN Rodeo |

November IJRA Members Spotlight 2010-2011 3-4-5 Champions

Dalton Hartle 3-4-5 All Around Champion

Tell me a little bit about yourself. (age, school, parents etc) I'm 11 years old. I attend Argos Community Schools. I'm in the sixth grade. I love Rodeo! I have wanted to be a stock contractor since I was little. I have been roping and riding all my life. My parents are Stacy and Lisa Hartle of Culver, Indiana. I have one brother Kolton Paul Hartle.

What events do you compete in? Which event is your favorite and why? I compete in tie down calf roping, breakaway roping, goat tye, team roping, and ribbon roping. My favorite event is Calf roping. When I was in the younger divisions I watched the older boys and thought it would be fun. I could not wait until I was big enough to do it myself.

What else do you like to do outside of IJRA? I like to play basketball, fish and show cattle at the county fair. I also like to trail ride and barrel race.

Do you have any role models or advice someone has given you that you would like to tell us about? Mike and Sherrylynn Johnson have been a big influence. I meet them two years ago for my 10th birthday present. They have told me to keep working hard and never give up! My Biggest role model is my dad. He

has helped me the most to learn horsemanship, riding and roping skills. He says "Do your Best Every Time!"

Other than winning the All-Around, what was your favorite or most memorable moment of your 2010-2011 IJRA season? When I won my first All-around metal and nobody told me until Jack announced it at the Rodeo. My most memorable moment was after I lost my grandpa in December 2010, I told my parents that I was

going to work really hard to win the saddle in memory of my grandfather. They said that would be a great thing to do. Grandpa was my biggest fan!

Tell us about your horses. I have a pony named Mackienze and a horse named Stormy. When I was 6 months old Grandpa bought her for me. We have done all of our riding together. Stormy is very special to me. He has taught me how to do the thing I love the most, Calf Rope!

Do you have any advise for other kids who would like to compete in rodeo or who would like to win an All-Around saddle? I want to tell all kids to keep working hard because it does pay off. Working hard everyday and listening to your parents will make you a winner.

What are your plans/goals for the 2011-2012 season? My goals for the 2011-2012 season are to have a good rookie year and make it to the Jr. National Finals in Gallup, New Mexico. If I cannot place in all my events, I'm working the hardest to make it with my ribbon roping partner Abbie White and my Team roping partner Noah Duby. I don't want to let my partners down. Keep working Hard it pays off in the end!

Photo by: IJRA Unless Noted



Grace Hasler 3-4-5 All Around Champion

Tell me a little bit about yourself. (age, school, parents etc) I am 12 years old and am in 6th grade at St. Peter's Lutheran School in Columbus, Indiana. My parents are Michael and Dena Hasler and I have a younger sister, Mel, who also competes in IJRA.

What events do you compete in? Which event is your favorite and why? I compete in Barrels, Poles, Goat Tie and Breakaway Roping. My favorite event is barrels because I love the speed events, and it is my best event with my mare, Bugsy.

What else do you like to do outside of IJRA? I also run the Southern Indiana Jr. Rodeo Association. I show my pleasure horse, Elmo, in hunter under saddle, western pleasure and showmanship. I am involved in the 4-H Horse & Pony

Club and compete on the horse judging team. I also play basketball on my school team and on an AAU team.

Do you have any role models or advice someone has given you that you would like to tell us about? My grandpa, Dick Wetzel, is a horse trader and an amazing horseman. He always reminds me that being a good horseman is about having good hands, and that the more horses you climb up on, the better rider you will become.

Tina Litkenhus, from Lawrenceburg, KY, is a great role model. She has taught me alot about barrels, poles and goats. Tina always encourages me to compete against myself, always trying to improve my "personal best" time. She also says, "Practice, practice, practice!"

Other than winning the All-Around, what was your favorite or most memorable moment of your 2010-2011 IJRA season? My most memorable moment was catching my breakaway calf at the 2011 State Finals.

Tell us about your horses. I am so blessed to have 2 great horses to compete on. My rope/goat horse, Hustler, is 23 years old and does everything I ask him to do. I have been riding Hustler for 5 years now, and he still trots away from me in the pasture. My barrel/pole mare, Bugsy, is 21 years old, and gives 110% every time we run. They have both taught me so much and, without them, I would not have had the success I had this past year!

Do you have any advise for other kids who would like to compete in rodeo or who would like to win an All-Around saddle? Try not to pay too much attention to points. Compete against yourself and try to improve your "personal best" with every run. Also, we need to take the time to appreciate our horses and to thank our parents for the time and effort they put into getting us to the rodeos.

What are your plans/goals for the 2011-2012 season? My goal is to qualify for the 2012 Jr. High National Finals Rodeo in Gallup, New Mexico.

Photo by: Dana Hasler

