

**BEDFORD'S BULL-ETIN** 

Bull Pen Editor Susan Bedford

# News, Notes & Nods



Spring Break

In case you haven't glanced through your issue yet, this Bull Pen is jam-packed! Due to space limitations some of your favorite columns are on vacation, but will be back next issue. I'm also excited about a new column that will be debuting next

month-Dennis Fantin of MMI Genomics will be on board to explain (in a language we can all understand!) the finer points of

Ross Coleman attempts Corey & Horst/The Western Group's Aces Heart Breaker in Fresno.

DNA, genetics and what you need to know in this modern age of technology and breeding bulls.

### Still Dancin'

Well, as of week 6 of 'Dancing with the Stars', Ty Murray was still hanging in there. Murray fans have it rough-week after week he is the last competitor to learn he is safe from elimination (I guess they just want us to watch the entire results show)! I hope he lasts a few more weeks, but the other celebrities left (except for Lawrence Taylor) can actually...well, dance! Murray is improving a lot, but these

other stars have some mad skills (I'm pretty sure they all took junior ball-room back in the day while Ty was doing junior rodeo.)

Besides his fans, Murray has had a host of support from his friends and family. Besides his wife Jewel, PBR CEO Randy Bernard has been on set to support him. So has Murray's old buddy Jim Sharp and PBR Livestock Director (and Bull Pen columnist) Cody Lambert.



# My Kind(er) of Event

Speaking of PBR Stars, the Mike White Invitational (a PBR Enterprise event) will now also be an ABBI Classic and Futurity event.

The June 26-27 Kinder, Louisiana event is hosted by the Coushatta Casino Resort. This year's Classic Champion will be awarded a special edition .45 Caliber Henry Rifle with an octagon barrel. This handmade rifle, donated by Mossyrock Cattle Company, is a replica of the first repeating rifle used during the Civil War. Besides Mighty Mike White himself, you can expect a slew of great riders (all the better to showcase your



Mike White

Classic bulls) to show up. I hear the dummies showing up have mad skills too, even if they only last four seconds...

# Coleman, McBride, Motocross and More

If you want to support a good cause and just have a fun-filled weekend with some great folks, think about heading up to the Ross

Coleman Invitational Aug. 7-8 in Mollala, Oregon. And just in case a great bull riding isn't a good enough reason to attend, Coleman's good buddy Justin McBride and his band will be performing. Another cool performance will be the freestyle motocross demonstration before the event. There will

also be parties, food and plenty of festivities. Still need convincing? Well, if you live in Oklahoma or Texas, it will be in the low 80s with low humidity in the lush Northwest that time of year!

Still on the fence? It benefits the Make-A-

Wish Foundation, which is the most important reason of all. Over \$400,000 has been raised the last four years by this event for civic groups and charitable organizations. \$127,000 has directly benefit-

ed Make-A-Wish, which makes the dreams of chronically and terminally ill children come true.

### **Our Condolences**

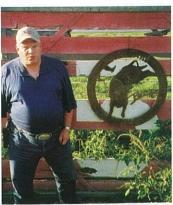
Our thoughts go out to ABBI member and PBR stock contractor Ray and Patsy Mayo who were hit hard by the recent wildfires in Texas and Oklahoma. Mayo's ranch, off U.S. 281 near Scotland, Texas, was in the path of the devastating fires which burned hundreds of thousands of acres in April. Mayo told his local paper, The Times Record News of Wichita Falls, that about 5,000 acres of his ranchland was lost, along with five bucking bulls that were near his house.

Patsy confirmed the bulls they lost included Snickers, White Eyes, and a Futurity bull they were excited about.

Ty Thacker, who owns the 3-T Time Ranch, described what he saw to the newspaper. "The place south of Ray Mayo's house, the ground looked like brown and black mixed sand. There was not a stitch of vegetation. It burned into the dirt. It looked like something on TV and not in your backyard." Patsy said she felt blessed that their house was spared. The Mayos cut all the fences before they evacuated, hoping many of their animals would find safety. When they returned, they found most of their A-team bulls waiting for them in front of their house.

# Prop Me Up Beside the Jukebox

Everyone has a different idea of an ideal way to enter the afterlife. USBBA member Gordon King wants to be buried next to his favorite bull, Bodacious. After becoming friends with Sammy Andrews, Andrews agreed to grant King's final request when the time comes. King is the fundraising chairman for Mothers Against Drunk Drivers in Northeast Ohio.



Gordon King visits Bo's final resting place on the Andrews ranch.

Last September went to a M.A.D.D. convention in Dallas," explained King. "My itinerary had me arriving early morning and things didn't start until 7p.m. that night. My wife Joyce and I were thinking about what I could do in



Sammy and Rena Andrews with Bo's biggest fan.

Dallas." To make a long story short, he'd come across Sammy Andrews' phone number and a P.O. Box on a website. He did a quick map search and it looked like Andrews' place in Detroit, Texas was close to Dallas. King left Sammy a message, but didn't really expect his call to be returned.

"At 50, not too many things stir you, but I'd been a fan since Bodacious started out and the idea of getting to go out to the Andrews place was really exciting," said King. King couldn't believe it when he had a missed call from Texas later that day. "I lit up like a Christmas tree! I called Sammy back and he told me I could come and visit for as long as I'd like!"

Well, it turned out that the Andrews actually lived about 160 miles from Dallas, but King was determined to go. King had a wonderful visit and became fast friends with the Andrews. He still treasures his visit and is amazed how it all came about.

After King returned home, he proudly displayed a picture of himself standing at Bodacious' burial site to his softball buddies. They joked that King should be buried there too. King thought it was a great idea and called the Andrews, who said "yes."

"Sammy and Rena Andrews are like rock stars to me. They were so gracious to me and there couldn't be a nicer couple," enthused King. The Andrews are even going to name one of their bulls MADD to help support the organization King is so passionate about. Read more about King's favorite bull on page 38.

## Missing In Action: Danny Mason

We are not sure why or how, but Danny Mason's name was omitted from last month's Breeder's Guide list. Maybe someone figured everybody already knows about Danny Mason and Bar M Bar Livestock in Mineral Wells, Texas! Our sincere apologies to a man who is a fixture in our industry.

#### Pull Like A Pro

ABBI member Gaylon Childers knew he was on to something good when he came up with the idea of a flank strap with settings (so anyone can flank a bull to the same tension time every time). Now he has made it even better. Childers worked with Cody Lambert to make the product as user and bull-friendly as possible. The result? The new and improved Pull Pro, which is ABBI and PBR approved.

#### **Bad Blizzard**

During the Stephenville event, some Northern breeders were stressing big time. A nasty storm hit home while they were in Texas. During calving season, no storm is a good storm but this was a major blizzard. Randy and Jennie Shippy lost calves, as did Steve and Julie Ravenscroft. "We were really lucky because we had Quirt Hunt (who is also a bullfighter) at our place," shared Julie. "He got stuck in our barn saving calves from freezing for two days. The roads were so bad, he was stuck out there by himself. Thanks to Quirt, we only lost two calves. He saved about 20. It could have been so much worse. A neighbor of ours lost over 200 head."



#### **BODACIOUS**- continued from previous page

ness and catty athleticism. Just like Bo, this bull can get that mass of muscle moving in a hurry, and do it pretty handily.

When looking at these two super-star bucker's pedigrees, it is immediately obvious how hybrid vigor was recreated in subsequent generations of Bo progeny. While Showtime is out of a Bo daughter who's mother is Coffey breeding, just as tell-tale is his Kish-bred sire, Wolf Dancer. Wolf Dancer is by Beasty Boy, a 629 Wolfman son who calls Oscar's Velvet his "Daddy." There's our Bos taurus and Bos indicus cross on both the top and bottom of Showtime's pedigree, and then doubled when his parents were mated, thus producing him:

Apollo's pedigree also reveals the beauty of cross-breeding for hybrid vigor. His mother is a 57 Red Wasp daughter out of a Bo cow and wouldn't you know it. On his top side, our friend Bos indicus is present

via his sire 240 Sky King, another son of 629 Wolfman, an Oscar's Velvet son. His pedigree surely demonstrates the power of the out-cross and how hybrid vigor can continue throughout a pedigree.

While we have only magnified the pedigrees of two current superstar athletes that carry Bo genetics in some fashion, it is apparent that Bo is a super-sire anywhere the concept of cross-breeding has been applied.

The list of bucking sons that go on to produce more bucking sons, and the daughters that go on to produce bucking sons and producing daughters that trace back to Bodacious is *remarkable*, *noteworthy*, *appealing* and *absolute*.

The list is **brazen**, and a blend of **bold** and audacious proofs.

As a matter of fact the proof in the list is downright **BODACIOUS**.

#### H.D. KNOWS BO- Continued from previous page

The very next weekend at Athens, Texas, when Page called back for the draw, he couldn't believe it when they told him he had drawn J31A a third time, and only a week after his last encounter with the bull.

"When I called back and they told me I drew him again, back-to-back weekends, I said, 'you gotta be kiddin' me!' So, this time, I got me a game plan together," revealed Page.

Although he doesn't think Bo bucked as hard this time, his friends that were present all disagreed.

"At Athens the next weekend, I didn't think he bucked as hard as he usually did. These guys say he did, but either way he was still up and down and circled around to the out gates. He still hit me in the face again on the way down," complained Page.

This out had a much different outcome however. There was no comedic overtone; just that of disappointment. Page ended up riding him, but didn't get a score after one judge DQ'd him for a slap.

"I was gonna be 90 something on one side and on the other the judge said I slapped him. I'm not too sure that I did though. Especially since that judge didn't particularly like me," joked Page.

Hating Bo as a draw from a rider's perspective is one thing, but judging him as a producer is another. Since Page is the only person to both climb on board the bucker and also to haul bulls that have Bo's blood pumping through their veins, nobody could give more insight into this multi-dimensional bovine.

"I wasn't real high on him as a producer initially, but I've seen some pretty good stuff out of him—especially his daughters. Most of the Bo offspring are pretty droppy. Some guys like that style — up and down with a lot of drop, but some prefer bulls that are a little smoother. I guess it just depends on how good of a rider you are, as to whether you like bulls with his genetics or not," said Page.

When it comes to producing, Page echoes many others in the industry. He knows there's a large amount of Bo blood out there from which success stories has been plucked. Nonetheless, Page is one of a handful of guys who can also appreciate what it takes to promote a bucker as

"I mean there was a lot of his genetics out there, but nobody promoted a bull better than Tallman promoted Bo. He really pushed that bull to be a prominent sire," Page said.

Page has hauled a good number of Bo sons and bulls out of Bo daughters that have bucked in the PBR and PBR Finals. Frequenting the backpens at PBR events is 77 Hustler aka Super Duty, one of the most recent D&H examples of the power of Bo's genetics.

# **BODACIOUS FUN FACTS**

Fun Fact #1: The notorious bucking bull Bodacious was the first bovine ever registered. His registry number is No.10000708.

#### Fun Fact No.2:

Bodacious was a yellow, Charbray bull—a cross between a Charlois and a Brahman

#### Fun Fact No.3:

Bodacious' brand number was J31. When a rider drew the bad bucker at an event and called back to find out what he had drawn, the secretary would simply say J31. Then, on the other end, she'd usually hear crickets or cursing.

#### Fun Fact No.4:

PBR Contractor and ABBI Shareholder H.D. Page drew J31A three times during his bull riding career. Two of those times were back-to-back with only a seven-day gap.

#### Fun Fact No.5:

H.D. Page actually made the whistle on Bodacious the third time he climbed



on him, but was DQ'd for a slap. This is why he's not mentioned on the list of riders who successfully covered this bad bovine.

#### Fun Fact No.6:

Bob Tallman is responsible for most of Bo's promotion. He also nicknamed the bull and often referred to him as "The Master of Disaster" and "The Yellow Whale."

#### Fun Fact No.7:

Bodacious was outlawed for his danger factor, so he was retired in his prime on December 11, 1995. He was only 7.

#### Fun Fact No.8:

What finally did Bo in at the age of 12? Heart failure, after a serious hoof infection and kidney damage from the medications he was treated with.

#### Fun Fact No.9:

The brazen bucker appeared in Penthouse Magazine and even had condoms named after him, which could be found in truck-stop restrooms

#### Fun Fact No.10:

Bodacious brought bull riding into many homes that ordinarily would never have given bull riding a chance.

#### Fun Fact No.11:

Bo had more fans than his riders seemed to. As a matter of fact, Sammy Andrews was approached by a fan who wanted to be buried next to the bull upon his death. Sammy said yes.