

Norcatur cowboy is headed to nationals

By JIM MERRIOTT

Norcatur's Chance Harman wants to follow in the footsteps of Casey Tibbs, Ben Johnson, Larry Mahan, Don Gay, Tom Ferguson, and Ty Murray, all world champion rodeo riders.

Harman is proving his point as a professional cowboy with his second trip to the National College Rodeo Championship in Casper, Wyo., June 10-17. He's no "wannabe" anymore. He's the real deal, slapping leather and taking his bumps and bruises with the big boys.

He is the son of Renee and Ron Harman of Norcatur and grew up on the family farm.

Though he knows rodeo is a tough life, Chance is a tough kid. When you talk to the soft-spoken young man, you can see the twinkle in his eye. He has a gift and the guts and grit it takes to be a champion. Today, he is just paying his dues.

He dreams of riding against professional saddle bronc riders like Cody DeMoss, Heflin, La., the No. 1 rider this year. He knows that Dan Mortensen, Billings, Mont., has been a champion in the past years and he wants to ride against Billy Etbauer, Edmond, Okla. Harman, a 2005 Decatur Com-

munity High School graduate, is spending most of his time in Curtis, Neb., where he attends the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture on a rodeo scholarship.

His team competes against eight to 12 colleges at rodeos across Nebraska, Iowa, North and South Dakota. A wiry 5 foot 11 inch, 160 pounds, Harman won the Great Plains College Regional May 6 allowing him to compete in the National College Rodeo Championship.

He works as a farm hand in the summer, working cattle, calving, artificially inseminating heifers, hauling cattle to pasture and mending fence to pay for his entry fees and living expenses, as well helping with his college necessities in the fall.

Harman was born May 27, 1986 and turns 20 Memorial Day weekend. He rides the fall and spring circuit only, taking off December, January and February. Harman said the team competes in four rodeos during the fall semester taking him to Iowa State University in Ames, among other schools — and five rodeos in the spring semester.

The coming school year will be

his last to compete on the college circuit.

"Currently, I am working to get my professional rodeo card," he said. "A rider must make \$1,000 on a learners permit to receive the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association member card, which makes them a professional."

Harman said he started competing in rodeo after a friend, Logan Glaze, talked him into joining the Decatur Community High Rodeo team his junior year. A family friend gave him a bronc riding saddle to get started. Later, he had one made for himself. He competed in saddle bronc and bull riding, making it to the state High School Rodeo Championship in Topeka, where he won a first-place saddle. This entitled him to compete in Farmington, N.M., at the National High School Rodeo Championships in 2004.

His senior year, he competed in Saddle Bronc, Tie-Down Roping, and Team Roping winning many buckles, bags, and knives.

2004-05 found Harman attending the Junior-Senior High School Rodeo at Curtis where he took first place and lassoed a college scholarship to Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture.



Chance Harman is a saddle bronc rider. He rides for Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture, Curtis, Neb. He is the son of Ron and Renee Harman, Norcatur.

— Photo courtesy of Dan Hubbell

He qualified for the state championships again his senior year, winning first place again to bring home another state championship saddle and buckle.

His first-place finish allowed him to compete again at the National High School Championship in Gillette, Wyo., where he took fourth out of 39 riders and won a scholarship.

Oberlin people have sponsored Harman the past three years.

"I would like to thank everybody that has helped me get started," he said. "I appreciate it. I

won't let them down."

Harman said he doesn't train like regular athletes. He works as a cowboy.

"Over the years, I have learned to stretch well before I compete," he said. "I don't work out with any training program like football players and the like, but if I don't stretch, I get really sore, and stretching has kept me from any injuries so far."

He attended bronc riding school in Burwell, Neb., and learned under Corey Hughes and Bart Macbeth during the summers his

— Photo courtesy of Dan Hubbell

eight and ninth grade years. "Ever since I can remember, I have been riding a horse," he said. "Mom said that they put me on a horse before I could walk."

Few of us have the courage and ability to enter the rodeo ring with over a thousand pounds of thunder between their legs.

Harman has what it takes to answer the rodeo call, "Cowboy Up!"

"Chance has always wanted to be a cowboy since he was a little kid," said his mother, Renee. "and has been fortunate in doing well."

Runners, walkers take part in annual Riverless Run/Walk

By DICK BOYD

A large number of men and women from a wide area ran and walked in the annual Riverless Run/Walk to kickoff the Riverless Festival in Phillipsburg on Saturday morning.

The top three finishers in each age division of the two-mile and five-mile runs received medals and the winners of both received trophies. No medals were awarded for the two-mile walk.

In the five-mile run, Mark Simonds, Phillipsburg, had the best men's time with a clocking of 34 minutes, 55 seconds and Teresa Chestnut was top runner for the women with a time of 45:35.

Simonds won the age 30-39 division. Other men's placers included: Heath Vincent, Norton, 36:07, first; Luke VanSki, Norton, 38:47, second, 15-19; Ryan Manning, Norton, 39:54, second, 30-39; Joel Hiesterman, Phillipsburg, 35:40, first, 50-59; Dick Stroup, Smith Center, 44:43, first, 60-69.

Women's placers in the five-mile run included Kerri Oliva, Phillipsburg, 50:08, 30-39, first.

Kyle Merklein, Prairie View, recorded the top time in the men's two-mile run with a clocking of 11:38. He competed in the age 15-19 division.

Other men's placers included: Brett Pinkerton, Logan, 13:32, first; Caden Vahle, Phillipsburg, second, 15:00,

10 and under; Luke VanSki, Norton, 12:59, second; Kevin Pinkerton, Logan, 13:31, third, 15-19; Eric Krafft, Phillipsburg, 15:07, first, 20-29; Lester Peak, Kirwin, 15:46, first; Curtis Johnson, Plainville, 16:27, second, 30-39; Brian Keiswetter, Norton, 19:10, second; Leonard Robinson, Phillipsburg, 30:46, third, 40-49; Morris Engle, Phillipsburg, 19:59, first; Terry Babcock, Phillipsburg, 27:57, second, 50-59; Kay Kinter, Phillipsburg, 30:37, first, 60-69.

Top time in the women's two-mile run was recorded by Hannah Pinkerton, Logan, who was clocked in 14:30. She ran in the age 11-14 division.

Other women's placers included: Marcy Gaines, Logan, 22:12, second, 11-14; Courtney Beard, Phillipsburg, 30:34, first, 15-19; Bridgett Ziola, Phillipsburg, 17:05, first, 20-29; Sheila Solida, Phillipsburg, 17:42, first; Kerri Thieben, Phillipsburg, 17:43, second; Kathy Beard, Phillipsburg, 30:33, first, 40-49; Sharon Krafft, Phillipsburg, 18:47, first; Carolyn Babcock, Phillipsburg, 27:58, second, 50-59; Debres Stroup, Smith Center, 29:12, first; Joyce Kinter, Phillipsburg, 34:49, second, 60-69.

Heather Harper was the race director. The races were sponsored by the Phillips County Health Systems.

Norton grad scores points for Fort Hays

By DICK BOYD

Jered Sloan, a red-shirt freshman from Norton who competes in track and field for Fort Hays State University, has been chosen to the first team of the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference All-Conference Decathlon Team.

In addition to competing in the decathlon, Sloan is also a regular competitor in the open 110 meter high hurdles and high jump.

Sloan was also a Spring 2006 RMAC All-Academic selection. He is an art major and had a 3.38 grade point average the spring semester.

This season, Sloan ranked 15th in the nation in NCAA Division II in the decathlon. He placed second in the decathlon in the RMAC Championships which were held in the Mountaineer Bowl on the campus of Western State College in Gunnison, Colo. It is the highest collegiate football field in the world with an elevation of 7,750 feet.

Sloan won four of the ten events

in the decathlon at the RMAC meet. He earned the gold medal in the 110 meter hurdles, high jump, 400 meter dash and 100 meter dash. He set a personal record of 13-feet-9-inches in the pole vault. The other decathlon events are the shot put, javelin, discus, long jump and 1500 meter run.

In open events, Sloan placed fourth in the high jump with a personal best height of 6'7" and won his preliminary heat of the 110 meter hurdles with a personal best time of 14.6. In the 110 hurdle finals he hit a hurdle and placed fourth.

The Tiger men won the conference championship. They are exciting the conference after winning the title six of the last seven years. Head coach Dennis Weber was named the RMAC Men's Coach of the Year.

Earlier in the season, the Fort Hays men glimpsed their future when they traveled to Pittsburg to compete in a four-team quadrangular, which included Pittsburg State University and two other opponents from the Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association, of which Fort Hays will be a member next season.

Fort Hays scored 188 points to win the quadrangular. Sloan placed second in the 110

meter hurdles in 14.78 and fourth in the high jump with a height of 6'4.25".

Sloan was also the champion of the 110 meter hurdles in the Fort Hays State University Twilight Open with a time of 14.63.

Sloan is the son of Wendy and Jon Sloan, Norton.

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Jered Sloan of Norton, a red-shirt freshman for the Fort Hays State University track and field team, competed this season in the decathlon, open 110 meter high hurdles and open high jump. In these photos taken at the conference meet, he crossed the finish line to win a race and cleared the high jump bar. — Photos courtesy of Wendy Sloan

BOWLING

TUESDAY HOUSEWIFE Standings May 16 — The

Four Dots, 48.5-19.5; Norton Co-op, 35-33; D/M Service, 33-35; Irene's, 19.5-48.5; High Scratch Game: D/M

Service, 582; Norton Co-op, 576; The Four Dots, 563; Carol Gerlits, 198; Becky Williams, 191; Sharron Smith, 189; High Scratch Series: The Four Dots, 1591; D/M Service,

1572; Norton Co-op, 1513; Becky Williams, 510; Sharron Smith, 481; Carol Gerlits, 431; High Handicap Game: Norton Co-op, 779; D/M Service, 778; D/M Service, 736; Carol Gerlits, 247; Becky Williams, 218; Sharron Smith, 210; High Handicap Series: D/M Service, 2160; Norton Co-op, 2122; Irene's, 2081; Becky Williams, 591; Carol Gerlits, 578; Marie Ritter, 576



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