

The Team Roping Journal's

# EXTRA

OCTOBER/2021

## Heading into The Finals

**5Star**  
EQUINE PRODUCTS

*... Naturally the Best!*

**2021**  
**SEASON**  
**WRAP UP**

BIG WINS  
TOP HORSES  
NFR FIRST-TIMERS  
ROOKIES OF THE YEAR

## 2021 WRANGLER NATIONAL FINALS RODEO TEAM ROPING



### TEAM ROPING PAIRINGS

- *Dustin Egusquiza & Travis Graves*
- *Erich Rogers & Paden Bray*
- *Kaleb Driggers & Junior Nogueira*
- *Clay Smith & Jade Corkill*
- *Clay Tryan & Jake Long*
- *Tyler Wade & Trey Yates*
- *Cody Snow & Wesley Thorp*
- *Clint Summers & Ross Ashford*
- *Brenten Hall & Chase Tryan*
- *Rhen Richard & Jeremy Buhler*
- *Derrick Begay & Brady Minor*
- *Andrew Ward & Buddy Hawkins*
- *Coy Rahlmann & Douglas Rich*
- *Coleman Proctor & Logan Medlin*
- *Quinn Kesler & Joseph Harrison*

# PROFESSIONALS CHOOSE

5 Star Equine Products

*...naturally the best!*

## THE ROPER

WIDE PAD 32" X 30"

- Contoured for a perfect fit
- Breathes 24/7 to remove more heat on long rides
- 5 Star's exclusive 100% pure wool gives more protection against pressure points
- Durable - lasts year after year
- Handcrafted in the USA

HANDCRAFTED IN THE  
 USA



**5 Star pads are available with custom cutouts, wither options, fleece lining and more!**

**LEARN MORE** ▶



**5 Star**  
EQUINE PRODUCTS

*...Naturally the Best!*

For a FREE fitting consultation, call us at 870-389-6328.

**5StarEquine.com**

## 2021 WRANGLER NATIONAL FINALS RODEO BREAKAWAY ROPING



### BREAKAWAY ROPING

• *Shelby Boisjoli*

• *Sawyer Gilbert*

• *Erin Johnson*

• *JJ Hampton*

• *Lari Dee Guy*

• *Taylor Munsell*

• *Jackie Crawford*

• *Danielle Lowman*

• *Martha Angelone*

• *Kelsie Chace*

• *Cheyenne Guillory*

• *Sarah Morrissey*

• *Nicole Baggarley*

• *Joey Williams*

• *Taylor Hanchey*

# 5 Star

**EQUINE PRODUCTS**

*... Naturally the Best!*



**PROUDLY MADE  
IN THE USA**



**100% PURE WOOL**  
5 Star pads are available with  
custom cutouts, wither options  
fleece lining and more!

**LEARN MORE** ▶

## **THE RANCHER PAD**

- Contoured for a perfect fit
- Breathes 24/7 to remove more heat on long rides
- 5 Star's felt gives more protection against pressure points
- Durable - lasts year after year



For a FREE fitting consultation, call us at 870-389-6328.

[www.5StarEquine.com](http://www.5StarEquine.com)

## 2021 RESISTOL ROOKIE OF THE YEAR — HEADER

### Gaona Takes 2021 Resistol Rookie Heading Title



AVID VISUAL IMAGERY

**J**ohn Gaona, of Winkelman, Arizona, finished the 2021 Pro Rodeo regular season at the top of the Resistol Rookie heading standings with \$26,871 in season earnings to take home the coveted Resistol Rookie Header of the Year title.

**KAITLIN GUSTAVE:** *When someone says that you are the 2021 Resistol Rookie Header of the Year, how does that feel?*

**JOHN GAONA:** It's just an exciting accomplishment to be able to win it, be able to compete and do the best that I could.

**KG:** *How was the last month of rodeo for you?*

**JG:** The last month, it was pretty stressful. I didn't do very good. It was a long month.

**KG:** *This was your first year to actively rodeo. What were the learning curves you faced?*

**JG:** There were a bunch. I got to meet a lot of people I idolized and learned a lot from them. I got to meet Chad Masters, Colby Lovell and Luke Brown. I met quite a bit of them and they're all nice guys.

**KG:** *Did you pick any of their brains or ask them for any pointers?*

**JG:** I talked to Chad quite a bit. He talked to me quite a bit.

**KG:** *If you got into any slumps, could you ever pinpoint the reason?*

**JG:** I usually would send a video to my brother or Pedro Egurrola. They helped me out a lot and told me what would make me better. I mainly needed to get my shoulder back to throw my rope. Toward the middle of the year, I would bring my arm forward and couldn't get enough leverage on it.

**KG:** *You roped with Trevor Nowlin, who had a chance to qualify for the Wrangler NFR. How were you feeling trying to get him qualified?*

**JG:** I felt like I could have spun a lot more steers. I had a hard time and couldn't click the way we needed to at the end of the year.

**KG:** *You headed on a roan you call Ferrari and a grey you call Smoke Wagon on the road. How did they hold up for you?*

**JG:** They've all held up great. None of them got hurt and stayed solid all year. In the beginning of the year, I believe the roan was more my style, but I got so used to the gray at the end of the year, so that's probably my main one where I'd use anywhere now.

**KG:** *What was the best advice you received this year, or who helped you mentally?*

**JG:** I get trying to kick over and we weren't being fast enough. My brother told me, "Just go do your own game and go fast—don't try to kick

up or safety up."

**KG:** *Did you ever have times when you were really down on yourself, and how did you find the mental strength to push through and stick it out on the road?*

**JG:** There were times where I couldn't catch them and it just, it really frustrated me, and I just felt like I should give up. Trevor, my brother and Pedro talked to me about what I could do better and helped me figure out what I was doing wrong.

**KG:** *How do you feel like 2021 is setting you up for the 2022 Pro Rodeo season?*

**JG:** I feel like I've learned a lot more of what I've got to do in different setups. I'm kind of excited for the new year.

**KG:** *What are your future goals? Are you going to stick with it? Are you going to stick it out on the road, keep rodeoing, or what plans do you have for yourself?*

**JG:** I believe we're going to try to stick it out and keep rodeoing. Hopefully we can one day make the NFR.

**KG:** *What advice could you give to the upcoming Resistol Rookie contenders?*

**JG:** Just play your own game and make the runs you know you can make, and it'll work out. ■

## 2021 RESISTOL ROOKIE OF THE YEAR — HEELER

### *Hendrix Named Official 2021 Resistol Rookie Heeler of the Year*

**C**aleb Hendrix, of Fallon, Nevada, secured the Resistol Rookie Heeler of the Year title early in the 2021 Pro Rodeo regular season and finished the season with \$58,355.06 in season earnings. He finished 18<sup>th</sup> in the Pro Rodeo heeling world standings and helped qualify his header, Quinn Kesler, to compete at the Wrangler NFR in December.

**KAITLIN GUSTAVE:** *The 2021 Pro Rodeo regular season is over, and you can officially say you are the 2021 Resistol Rookie Heeler of the year. How does that feel?*

**CALEB HENDRIX:** It feels cool. Honestly, I wasn't even really excited about winning Rookie until it was kind of the end of the year. Quinn was like, "You know you only get one chance at that, right?" He put it into perspective. It's true. You can make the NFR when you're 40, but you only get one chance at Rookie. It is cool to say that's the one thing that I got done and now I can always say I won the Rookie. It was a fun season.

**KG:** *You were just shy of qualifying for your first NFR by finishing 18<sup>th</sup> in the PRCA World Standings. Looking back, how does it feel to have been that close.*

**CH:** It's mixed feelings. We had a chance. I was Top 15 with one week left of rodeo. We didn't start rodeoing until June. We didn't get into the Tour Finale because of that.

There's a lot of factors that I feel like going into this year, getting into the winter rodeos, I think we were this close this year. I hope we can be closer next year and, hopefully, not be in the position we were.

**KG:** *How were you feeling in those last few weeks of the season?*

**CH:** I wasn't feeling pressure. I'm a competitive guy and I grew up playing sports, so I just like to win. When you get to this level, you're used to winning because you don't get to this level without winning. I was bummed. I think that just comes with rodeo. You can't catch them all no matter how bad you want to, or how you think you deserve to, or how well prepared you are. You can't be a hundred percent all year.



AVID VISUAL IMAGERY/RODEO PHOTOGRAPHY/PHILLIP KITTS

**KG:** *You did help get Quinn qualified for the NFR. How does that feel as a rookie to get your partner to the NFR?*

**CH:** It feels good. The most nervous I was all year was our very first rodeo. It was just a small circuit rodeo here in Utah, with about 20 teams. We took second at it and I remember backing in the box and I was like shaking. Like, "This is my chance. I have a real-deal header." I don't know. Sure, a lot of guys know Quinn. Heads amazing, but I've seen him heading now for two, three years and I knew this guy was Top 15 material. I'm glad I got him there. At least you can't say it wasn't a good year and he can't dump me.

**KG:** *What heel horses were you roping on this year?*

**CH:** I rode my bay almost all year, and then I rode my buckskin at some of the setups. I'm going to ride Quinn's dun mare this winter and give my bay the winter off. I just got my bay injected all over. After our circuit finals in November, he's going to get his shoes pulled and get four months off and be ready for next summer. You got to take care of these horses. They do harder jobs than we do.

**KG:** *You lost your sister, Rachel, to a carbon monoxide poisoning accident in her living quarters trailer in 2014, and your brother, Cord, in March of 2021 to a head-on collision in Arizona. Did your Resistol Rookie year play a role in helping you to navigate those losses?*

**CH:** It was something to follow. My dad loves the sport of team roping, probably more than I do. He likes to have a son out here doing it. My dad drove for us once when we needed two rigs and, my family watched every rodeo that's on the Cowboy Channel. They followed it like crazy. My dad and my mom are my biggest supporters. We grew up rodeoing and they've been supporting me my whole life, but it's different at this level. They were there every step of the way like I was in eighth grade, junior rodeoing again. It makes it easier when you have that much support.

**KG:** *What goals have you set for yourself for the future?*

**CH:** Aiming high, but I think everyone always has the goal of a gold buckle. I train horses here for Quinn. I ride his and I have some of my own and take some outside horses. I wouldn't mind growing that side of my business for when I am home. I think just rodeoing goes hand in hand with that and makes it easier.

**KG:** *What advice would you give to future Resistol Rookie contenders?*

**CH:** Don't get nervous. I think you get intimidated being around some of those big-name guys—Jade (Corkill), Junior (Nogueira), Jake Long. They're all really nice and easy going. You ask a question. I've never had someone not answer. I couldn't believe how many more guys would walk up to me and say, you know, "Good run. Nice shot." People are pulling for you, even if you don't know it. ■

## *Hanchey Heads to Finals as First-Ever Female Double-Event Qualifier*



RODEO READY PHOTOGRAPHY

In her first year actively competing in the WPRA/PRCA Breakaway Roping, Two-time Wrangler National Finals Rodeo barrel racing qualifier Taylor Hanchey—formerly Jacob, until marrying World Champion Calf Roper Shane Hanchey this April—punched her ticket to compete at the second-ever National Finals of Breakaway Roping, to be held at The Orleans in December of 2021, and is the first female to qualify in two Pro Rodeo events.

“Shane told me today, ‘Well, you’re the last first-time qualifier in both events. You’re the last one. There will never be another first-time one,’” Hanchey said. “It’s cool, period. I would like it to be in the Thomas & Mack. To me, that’s the NFR. I wish we were a part of that, and I would like to think that one day we will be. I’m happy to pay my dues until our time does come.”

The Top 15 wasn’t set in stone until after Hanchey and Hope Thompson, who finished \$138.17 behind Taylor, backed in the box at the Stockyard Pro Rodeo in Fort Worth in the morning slack on Sept. 30. Unfortunately, both Hanchey and Thompson missed their calves, handing Hanchey the NFBR qualification.

“It was not a good display of roping on both parts,” Hanchey said.

What initially moved Hanchey from 28th to 15th in the World Standings was her \$4,944 weekend at the California Rodeo Salinas Tour Finale after placing in the rounds and the average.

“After I roped in Salinas, I thought that it was pretty much over,” she said. “I didn’t think I had a chance to make it after Salinas. When I realized that I did still have a chance it was nice. Shane has been nervous since Salinas. I figured it’s going to be what it’s going to be.”

Originally, Hanchey, 31, hadn’t planned on competing at the Tour Finale, but she did enter herself and hauling partner Cheyanne Guillory in the Canby (Oregon) Rodeo, where Hanchey earned enough points to qualify for the Tour Finale.

“At Caldwell (Idaho) the Monday before Canby, I was talking to Jordan Jo Fabrizio about the Tour standings. I wasn’t even worried about them, but Cheyanne was close in the Tour standings, so she had to go to Canby. That was one of the Tour rodeos that I did really well at that helped me get into Salinas.”

Hanchey was mounted out all sum-

mer on Shane’s string of calf horses, which Hanchey felt was a “huge advantage.”

“I rode Pam, his mare, the majority of the time this summer. I got on Si, who was the horse of the year in 2017, at Salinas. He’s really the real MVP because we showed up over there and we didn’t think we had a chance and we left there with a chance. I also rode his other horse, Seven, at rodeos down in Texas. They are all exceptional.”

As the season winds down, Hanchey is excited to be loading up her cowgirl gear to compete for a Breakaway Roping World Title and watch Shane compete for what could be his second World Title.

“I’ve been in the rodeo, and I’ve been in the stands, and it is so much more work to be in the stands. I’ve tried to do the wife-part and look the part—getting all the clothes and outfits. The girls should get more kudos for that because that takes a lot of work and a lot of try. I would much rather be in my cowgirl outfit.” ■



# Richard and Buhler Break the Bubble After Pendleton Win



RODEO READY/CLAY GUARD/FREE

Utah's Rhen Richard and Canada's Jeremy Buhler closed in on qualifying for the 2021 edition of the Wrangler NFR after adding a total of \$13,177 each to their earnings from the Pendleton (Oregon) Round-Up, notching both man's first win on the grass.

Richard moved from 15<sup>th</sup> to ninth in the heading standings with \$71,035.10 in season earnings and Buhler moved from 16<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> with \$66,298.42.

"It dang sure felt good to have a good chance going into the last week," said 2017 World Champion Heeler Buhler.

Richard and Buhler dominated the grassy arena to win the average from second callback with a time of 17.1 seconds on three head, worth \$7,916 a man.

"I just had it in my mind to make sure that I got out at the barrier, and I went all the way to him and made sure that I caught him," said Richard, a three-time Wrangler NFR qualifier. "It worked out in our favor. The high-call team didn't draw very good. I just wanted to try to be winning it after we went and, if we won second, I was happy with second. For us to win it was just a bonus. I feel like we're roping good and, as long as they don't draw us something that will take us out, I feel confident in our run."

Richard and Buhler split fifth with Clay Ullery

and Matt Zancanella in the first round with a 5.8-second run, worth \$2,180 a man; placed sixth in the second round with a 5.3-second run, worth \$1,836; and placed third in the final round with a 6.0-second run, worth \$1,245 a man.

"Rhen got three really good starts," Buhler said. "He handled every steer the same. As a heeler, you're supposed to catch all three of those. The draw was in my favor and my partner did a good job."

Richard made a personal game plan to ensure he hit the start just right on the downhill lane.

"I wanted to be close enough to the barrier and make sure that wasn't pulling at the barrier," Richard added. "I wanted to have some steam when I hit the barrier. I wanted to make sure that I put my horse in a spot where he didn't have to speed up or do something stupid on the grass, position-wise."

After seeing multiple wrecks in the Pendleton Round-Up arena, including Kellan Johnson, Spencer Mitchell and Riley Minor's wrecks in 2021, Richard knows that providing correct footing for head and heel horses, such as ice nails, and setting up a horse to handle the steers with hopes of not slipping is crucial.

"You want to make sure that your horse is square and they're not opening up their front

end," Richard said. "You want their hips and shoulders to stay pretty lined up if you can to where when you put it on the saddle horn, they can have all four feet under them and feel that weight, and not make a big move right there."

Richard's 9-year-old gelding, Deets, excelled in that department.

"He is real square in the hole and has a lot of body control," Richard said. "He's real broke and he let me do whatever I wanted to do. The one round, I kind of started with the steer and he let me throttle. The next round, I seen the steer out there a little more and that horse was great down the lane."

Buhler heeled on a 17-year-old gelding, Hause, which is a horse that he borrowed from Bucky Campbell to place at the High Desert Stampede in Redmond, Oregon, earlier in the season.

"I told Bucky, 'Shoot, if you ever want to sell him, I'd like to buy him,' and he kind of laughed and said, 'My dad will never sell him,'" Buhler said. "But he said I could take and ride him whenever. I took him and rode him a little bit and then they called me and said, 'If you want to buy him, you're more than welcome to.' So, I ended up buying him. I picked him up on the way to Reno and have had him since. I can't say enough on how thankful I am for that horse and that they chose to sell him to me."

To make things sweeter, Richard and Buhler finished their week off competing at the New Mexico State Fair & Rodeo in Albuquerque, on Sunday, Sept. 19, where they split third-place with Hayes Smith and Justin Davis to add another \$2,656 to each of their earnings.

"There was one for everybody and they were kind of older steers. I just played ours like he was going to be good," Richard said. "He took off and tried and I missed the barrier a little bit. I literally threw my whole rope and just tried to duck back with that wall. The steer checked off and Jeremy's horse kind of shot by the corner. He took another swing and heeled him. It was one of those runs where, I guess you're rolling on confidence, and it worked out." ■