

*The Team Roping Journal's*

# EXTRA

FEBRUARY/2020

*LARI DEE GUY*

WORLD CHAMPION,  
2020 TEXAS COWBOY  
HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE



**ONE ON ONE with Chelsea Shaffer**



# ONE ON ONE

WITH LARI DEE GUY

## Texas Cowboy Hall of Fame Inductee

*Lari Dee Guy has won every major all-girl team roping jackpot in the country and is a many-time Women's Professional Rodeo Association World Champion across the heading, heeling, breakaway roping and all-around. Already a legendary horsewoman and competitor, Guy was recognized January 16, 2020, with an induction into Fort Worth's Texas Cowboy Hall of Fame.*

### **Tell me about your upbringing.**

**LDG:** I was born and raised right here on my family's ranch in Abilene, Texas. I grew up on a horse, working cattle and helping with the daily ranch tasks. I was an athlete, and I pursued basketball and roping. I was a pretty successful basketball player, and I had a few offers at college ball. But I went to Vernon College and Texas Tech to rodeo. It was what we did as a family, and it was just a part of day-to-day life that I never wanted to stop doing.

### **You've gotten quite the reputation as a rope horse trainer. At what point did you realize you had to start prioritizing your horsemanship?**

**LDG:** There was never a single point. Even as a little kid, I always begged for young horses, and I always wanted to train horses. With my roping, that was the main thing I wanted to do. I saw it as a path to success and a way to make a living with a rope in the arena. That focus has paid off in a big way, and it's something I'm extremely proud of.

### **When and how did promoting women in roping become a priority?**

**LDG:** About six years ago, my friend approached me in Reno with an idea. She

asked me, "Can you make the saying 'Rope Like A Girl' cool?" And I really didn't know. I'd said 'I roped like a girl today' like it was a bad thing most of my life. But the more I thought about it, I started realizing that being a girl, and roping, was so important. That opened the door to a whole lot more, and that initial vision drove me to look for ways every chance I could to promote the ladies of the sport.

### **Tell me about the best horse you've ever ridden.**

**LDG:** I would have to say Trevor Brazile's Texaco, because of his size and his grit. That was the horse Trevor made so famous, but I had spent a lot of time riding him before Trevor started rodeoing on him. He was so little, and so tough. He out-tried every other horse I've been on.

### **What is it about great gear that makes your job easier as a horsewoman?**

**LDG:** My horses are athletes, and I ask them to try their hearts out every time I'm on them. I don't let them skimp anywhere with their footwork, their scoring, their run. So I look at it the same way for myself. I don't cut back on the quality products I use. That's from my saddles, to my pads, ropes, bridles and boots. If I expect them to perform, I have to make it possible for them to use themselves to the fullest of their abilities every time. If I were to slack off on their care, I would see the results in the arena or, eventually, in my vet bills.

### **What does your induction into the Texas Cowboy Hall of Fame mean to you?**

**LDG:** It's an amazing honor. When you

see the people in there—Trevor Brazile, Lane Frost, Wanda Bush—and you get to put your name among the greatest athletes in the business and the greatest businessmen, cowgirls and cowboys who've ever lived, it's just unbelievable.

### **What are your goals for 2020?**

**LDG:** My goals are to keep elevating the sport. I want to stay at the top of my game and keep getting better and better. The younger generation is getting better. I've got my big goals of winning certain things, but I want to keep getting better and elevate the sport and myself.

#### **{ Vital Stats }**

##### **ROPE:**

The Future SS by  
Cactus Ropes

##### **BIGGEST WIN:**

Wildfire Ladies Only  
or BFI All-Girl

##### **PARTNERS:**

Annette Stahl,  
Whitney DeSalvo

##### **HOMETOWN:**

Abilene, Texas



TRJ FILE PHOTO

# Buckle Up

*Guy wears Trevor Brazile's Cheyenne tie-down roping buckle.*

Women's Professional Rodeo Association All-Around Champ Lari Dee Guy has been like a sister to 25-time PRCA World Champion Trevor Brazile since their American Junior Rodeo Association days.

"If I was kicking a can around, he'd need to come kick that can around, too," Guy said. "He always liked my horses, wanted to play with my ropes, just tagged along everywhere at the junior rodeos."

Guy, a few years Brazile's senior, would go on to help Brazile make some of the horses that defined his career, so when she told him she'd always wanted a Cheyenne Frontier Days buckle, he told her to help herself.

"You'd have to really know our relationship," Brazile said. "When she told me she wanted one, I just told her to pick."

Brazile won Cheyenne in 2014 on a horse called Peanut, a former breakaway horse that Guy had helped turn into a calf horse. So, naturally, she chose his 2014 Cheyenne Frontier Days Champion Tie-Down Roper buckle.

"They're just a cool, old-school-looking buckle," Guy said.

That buckle might just prove to be lucky, too, because Guy won \$80,000 at the World Series of Team Roping Finale IX in the #12 while sporting it. ■

# 5 Star

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## Lari Dee Guy

- 2020 Texas Cowboy Hall of Fame Inductee
- Numerous world titles over the years
- 2018 WPRA World Champion Header
- Won the breakaway roping twice at the CNFR
- 11 consecutive world titles in the AJRA
- Horse Trainer and Roping Clinician



Lari Dee Guy has been trusting 5 Star to protect her horses for years. She uses the 1" and 7/8" thick Roping pads.



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2020 Texas Cowboy Hall of Fame Inductee: Lari Dee Guy

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## *Taking a horse from broke to rodeo-ready*

I buy and train young horses, and I ride good horses for guys like Trevor Brazile to keep them working when he's on the road. Sometimes, I'll get people like Paula Gaughan who will call me and tell me they have a horse that didn't make it in the cutting pen, and ask if I can train him as a calf horse. And that's plenty. I don't really ride outside horses. From start to finish, from the time I get a broke horse to the time Trevor Brazile could haul a horse to the NFR, I feel it's two years. In six months or a year, I'll start hauling them where there's a little less pressure. Then I try to haul them for a year and get them under lights, around thousands of people hanging over the rails, and someplace where you have to park out past the carnival and walk on pavement past all that.



**1** I was known for training calf horses, but I've been training a little more of the team roping horses lately. If I buy something, I try to get young horses that are strong, look good and all that kind of stuff, but above all I want them broke. They need to give their heads, give their ribs and move off your feet—that makes my life a lot easier. I don't care if they've never had a rope swung off them. Whether it's cutting, reining, working cow horse, ranch horse competitions, whatever it is, if they're broke in some sort of way, I can take those and train them to rope: from swinging a rope to hauling them to the ropings.



**2** When they're already broke, it saves you two years of ground work and showing them how to move the different parts of their body. The horses are more mature when they start getting 5- to 6-years-old. The more age and the more they've been used, the easier it is to show them what I want them to do. For instance, when I pick up on an inside rein, they know where they're head goes. When I move my foot back, they know where to go. I look for those traits before I buy them and once I'm sure those commands are already in place, I incorporate them with my rope. Once I can swing a rope on them, I can maneuver them with my hands and feet because they already know those commands.

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**Lari Dee Guy**

5 Star Equine Products has endorsed Lari Dee for the last 6 years! Lari Dee was drawn to the quality and durability of the products. "I feel that is the very best felt and wool pad in the industry, and I love the way they breathe. I love the pads, but what turned me on to the company is the people who own it. I met Terry and Julia Moore at the WPRA finals one year, and we became like family right away. They're a very great Christian family, and that's what drew me to their company."



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## STEP BY STEP with Lari Dee Guy

**3** I try to pattern a horse by repetition. No matter if a steer is fast or slow or whatever, I ask that horse to get to a certain spot and stay there. To keep them doing that, every time I'm tracking a steer, I do it with purpose. It doesn't matter what speed I'm going, I don't track a steer just to lope my horse. When I pick up my rope and go somewhere—either at a walk, trot, lope or run—my horse needs to go to that spot, rate and gather his stride up. Timing, or rating, is shortening up the stride and running the same speed as the calf or steer your chasing.

**4** When I'm training them, I do all three events: heading, heeling, and calf roping. Horses aren't stupid animals and they know the difference. I'll rope calves on a head horse to help them accelerate faster and get on their hind-end faster. I'll head on a calf horse to keep them from ducking and to teach them when I throw my rope they shouldn't think about stopping, they keep moving forward. When I'm heeling, I can slow everything down, get their ribs bent and work on control—shortening up their stride.

**5** I've found that making a horse do something never pays off. We have to show them what it is we want them to do. Scoring a horse, for instance: I need to show them to stand in the corner until I drop my hand. I develop a pattern, versus making them work. A horse that is unwilling that you make work, will always betray you. But a horse that is willing—but impatient or fidgety—that you can teach will become a much more solid performer.



# ACCURACY IN BREAKAWAY ROPING: Horsemanship is Key



WPRA WORLD CHAMPION BREAKAWAY ROPER AND HEADER HOPE THOMPSON—WHO LIVES AND TRAINS AT THE GUY RANCH IN ABILENE—DEMONSTRATES THE HORSEMANSHIP GUY OUTLINES.

Good horsemanship in breakaway roping allows you to make high percentage shots every time because you're in the same position every run. Horsemanship allows you to give your horse consistent repetition so he gives you the same shot every time you come out of the box.

In breakaway roping, your start is almost everything because you've just got to be so fast. And the start you get depends on your level of horsemanship. Your horse has to be so good and still in the box, and you've got to have the feel to make that happen. You need to have your horse still and calm enough to leave in a straight line the second you drop your hand forward and hit the barrier strong.

When you're riding your horses to the best of your ability, you're keeping your horse between your bridle reins and your legs. You aren't moving your hands much over his neck, but moving your horse with your legs instead. This increases your ability to control every part of your horse with your body position.

So much of your legwork involves where your hips and shoulders are. If you let your shoulders roll forward, you'll get bent at the waist and take the weight out of your stirrups that you need for control and moment in throwing your loop. Your chest should be out and your shoulders back when you leave the box, tipping your toes slightly downward and moving your stirrup leathers back, with good weight in your stirrups. This all keeps your horse moving straight and forward, with steady momentum. ■