

The Team Roping Journal's

EXTRA

JUNE/2020

Cody Snow

2019 NFR AVERAGE CHAMPION

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ONE ON ONE with Cody Snow



ONE ON ONE WITH Cody Snow

Cody Snow kicked off his career as the 2015 Resistol Rookie of the Year, and since then has amassed some \$757,819 in PRCA earnings alone. After his 2019 National Finals Rodeo average win, Snow started 2020 with a win at the National Western Stock Show and Rodeo with Paul Eaves. Now, he's kicking off his partnership with 2016 All-Around World Champion Junior Nogueira. — By Chelsea Shaffer

What did the average win at the 2019 Finals mean to you?

CS: It was a goal I set going into it, and I'm happy I accomplished that goal.

What are you most excited for with your new partnership with Nogueira?

CS: I'm just excited to get to go somewhere right now. I'm excited to have him to go to these rodeos. He's one of the best heelers, and I'm super blessed to have him. I've had some of the best partners a guy could have over his career, and I'm really grateful.

Your buckskin mare, Annie—registered as Ima Fresnos Dee—has stood out throughout your career. What has she meant to you?

CS: She's been the backbone of the team. It really helps having her. She gives 100% every time, so it makes my job a lot easier.

Tell me about the year you won the Resistol Rookie of the Year Award.

CS: My rookie year, 2015, had a lot of learning for sure. I'd never been rodeoing. I was 19, and I learned a lot of lessons. I roped with Dugan Kelly, and I didn't know anything. Everything I learned about entering and getting to rodeos I learned from him. When I started rodeoing that spring, my goal was to win the Resistol Rookie of the Year. Then half-way through the year I wanted to make the Finals. We fell short, but it set me up for making them with Dugan the next year.

Where are you mentally about this year's rodeos?

CS: I'm just going with the flow and

getting all of my horses feeling as good as I can. I want to win wherever I do get to go, whether there are rodeos or jackpots. You can't bank on anything until this deal clears up. I'm taking advantage of getting to be home and work on my horses.

What are you working on with your horses?

CS: Everything from keeping them scoring to getting them more solid out in the field. I have younger horses I've been trying to take and trying to get my arsenal built up for years to come.

Your dad Van was a legendary vet in California. What did you learn from him about horses?

CS: My dad really taught me so much. But about the horses, it was to take care of them health-wise, use repetition and do a good job every time I get on. I try to maximize my horse's ability and keep them confident.

What do you do with head horses to keep them confident?

CS: Going slow with head horses and keeping the fundamentals where you want them.

You're known for your consistency. How do you develop that in the practice pen?

CS: I try to see the same thing at the practice pen that I see at the rodeo, and I run a lot of steers. I try to make the same run in a lot of different situations. Plus, I can see everything happening. When I was 18, the whole run was a blur. Now, it feels like I'm 5.0 and I might be 4.0. What I've learned is the control. I've learned to slow things down at the house and be able to see it clearly and work on my weaknesses to get the most consistency. My dad was really big about fundamental steps of the run, and I grew up with a lot of foundation, perfecting everything I did. My dad was hard on me about doing each step. I've made it my own deal, working on the steps, and then working on speed. If you can't do it slow, you won't be able to do it fast.



KATLIN GUSTAVE PHOTO

HOW SNOW IS HANDLING THE “SHELTER IN PLACE” ORDER



COURTESY KACEY LOWERY

Cabin fever is for real, and cowboys have been living it like all Americans. Recent coronavirus-related cancellations of ropings and rodeos have forced team ropers to “shelter in place,” and have put income-earning opportunities on hold. And yet, our cowboy community marches on, determined as always to make the most of the cards we’ve been dealt. Here’s how 2019 Wrangler National Finals Rodeo Heading Champ Cody Snow has been spending his time away from the rodeo trail.

I’ve been hanging out at my place in Stephenville (Texas) with my girlfriend, Kacey Lowery, and friend, Dillon Wingerid. We’ve been practicing here at the house and over at J.B. James’ place. I’ve just been trying to get all the stuff done that I’ve wanted to work on and

hadn’t had time to do. I’ve been working on the little things I’ve had in my mind that I wanted to apply to my roping.

All this time off has kind of been like a vacation. The extra time has given me the chance to slow things down and try to get my horses perfect. I’ve been cleaning my place up a little bit, too. I don’t go to town a lot anyway, so that hasn’t changed and we mostly eat at the house. I was looking forward to going home to California for the spring, but since that didn’t happen I’ve just made the most of the time at my place in Texas. We’ve all basically taken a big time out.

Austin Robertson did come up with a creative way to let us continue to compete. He’ll have a roping where he lets four teams rope per hour. So we might rope from 9-10 a.m., then the next set of guys comes in and ropes from 10-11



a.m. He doesn’t tell anyone how the others have done, and at the end of the day there’s a winner. They aren’t big ropings, but it’s somewhere to go and something to do, so we’ve appreciated it. ■

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CODY SNOW
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Eliminate Wasted Motion with Cody Snow

FOUR-TIME WRANGLER NFR QUALIFIER CODY SNOW HAS BEEN WORKING ON CUTTING EXTRA MOVEMENT OUT OF HIS RUN.

OLIE'S IMAGES



IN THE BARN

Eliminating wasted motion and time, for me and a lot of ropers, starts with trying to get a string of horses put together so I have a bunch that work the same to make the same run on. I want to be mounted when I leave the house. I try to find horses that fit me and not just make something work. I ride a bunch of different horses all the time, and I'm always trying to find ones that fit my style and work well. The head horse deal is a never-ending battle. I don't want to get behind it, and I don't want to be in a bind.



AT THE LINE

If I break too far to the pin, I have to step out and head the steer. I've been trying to break wider, so I have a clearer go. Both of my horses are really easy to control where I'm going, so I have to work on where I point them—maybe a little left to the flag on the string barrier. I need to have my whole body up and square and not get over the front or chasing the steer with my body.



IN THE THROW

I'm working on how far I throw my rope to get the rope tight to the horns. I want to reach but keep everything tight to the horn at the same time. I don't want to come across the line trying to reach, but I want to have my swing in a spot every time where I can reach if I need to. That means not having my tip too far down and my loop above the horns coming across the line. If the steer isn't in a good spot, I want to be able to go another stride or two. That also means I want my horses working the same whether I'm reaching or running to the hip.

WE LIVE IT
EVERY
DAY



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STEP BY STEP with Cody Snow

OLIE'S IMAGES



IN THE CORNER

I want my horse to collect up when I get hold of the steer. I want my horse to pick himself up and shorten up his stride. That will square the steer up and let my partner get around it, giving him a more consistent throw. I want to get everything tight and get my horse's hind end underneath him to keep the steer's stride the same. In my riding, I want to keep my feet down to do that, pushing my horse where he's supposed to go. I don't want to use my upper body to get my horse to go forward. You'll probably eventually get over the front of your horse, but if you're practicing riding and using your legs, that will become your first instinct in competition. I want to keep my fundamentals in the back of my mind.



IN THE FINISH

I think it's important to keep control of the steer's head even when the heeler gets a wrap. I want my horse to keep the rope tight. If the flagger sees a loose rope, you'll win third or fourth instead of first. I work on that at the house. I will keep my horse moving and keep his confidence up to keep his footwork right. I don't face them a bunch fast, but when I rope, I will un-dally or keep my horse moving sideways after I face to let them know the end of the run is right there. People will let their horse just kind of face in the practice pen, and that creates bad habits. I un-dally, get the footwork right with the pressure off the horn, and then I stay dallied, and I slide rope and let it come off. It shows my horse the release comes when she takes a step back. My mare will pull the steer even more when she faces. It's the same thing heelers do. When you stop a horse, take one step back. That keeps your head horse working through the finish and shaves tenths off the finish—which can be the difference between first and not winning a check.



OLIE'S IMAGES

The BENEFITS of a Warm-Up Routine with Cody Snow

Developing a warm-up routine at a jackpot or rodeo will help you and your horse get in the right frame of mind to execute your run.

SLOW IT DOWN

The goal of my warm up is to keep my horse light and following my hand. To achieve that, I want him to warm up slowly: walking, trotting, then lopeing. If my horse isn't on the muscle in the warm up, he's less likely to be on the muscle when I'm roping.

FOCUS ON COLLECTION

It's important for my horse to be square. I want his hips underneath him because that's where he gets his power. If he gets to pulling on his front end, that's when he gets to dropping and wanting to duck. If he's on his butt, he's less likely to duck. To make sure of that in the warm up, I like to pick my horse up and drive him up into my hand. I try to push his butt under him and ride him around. I'm not trying to pull him down into it—I want him to find that

collection himself. I'm trying to build his confidence that way. I don't want people to think that means jerking their horse onto his back end. I stay light and drive my horse into the bridle with my legs and my seat.

FOOT CONTROL

I want to keep my horse's feet moving, and not let him get locked up. If he's locked up or stiff when I'm riding around, he'll be stiff roping on him. I don't really like the whole "He's good to rope on, so I'll leave him alone" mindset. Some horses are like that, but it makes a horse better when he's soft and riding around good before the run. If you need to do something during a run, and the steer runs over to the left and back to the right, that shoots you to the left. Your horse needs to let you pick him up and get back over to the steer. ■