

RODEO STOCK MARKET

Bucking horses, bulls excel at their sport, show personalities

Hastings, Neb. (August 14, 2017) – The cowboys may get all the glory and attention at the rodeo, but the horses and bulls are stars, too.

The bucking stock –the horses and bulls - at the Oregon Trail Rodeo in Hastings has been provided by Korkow Rodeos, based in Pierre, S.D., for the past 26 years, and when the Korkow trucks rumble into town, the four-legged stars of the rodeo will be on board.

One of the horses on those trucks is a veteran of the rodeo trail. Paint Chip, an eleven year old red and white paint mare, will be coming to Hastings with the goal of bucking off cowboys. “She’s been everywhere,” said Daniel Yellow Hawk, one of the men working for Korkow Rodeos. Paint Chip has been to fourteen pro rodeos this year, and was ridden thirteen times. “The cowboys like to get on her,” he said. “She’s a good mare.”

Like pets, the bucking horses and bulls have their own personalities, and Paint Chip’s is quiet. “She knows her job when she goes in the chute,” Yellow Hawk said. She also likes her feed. “She likes to eat. She’ll take big, big mouthfuls of grain.” Paint Chip was sired by Korzack and is out of Poker Chip.

Another Korkow horse that will be in Hastings is a four-year-old stud named Harry Dun. The buckskin is one the cowboys like to get on, with the cowboys’ average score 81 points at rodeos throughout the year. He’s big and athletic, Yellow Hawk said, and “pretty docile, pretty good to get along with.” At the Dickinson, N.D. rodeo, Blake Smith won the bareback riding on the horse with a score of 84 points. Harry Dun has spent time in the pasture this year, breeding mares, and “has a few babies on the ground,” Yellow Hawk said. The horse was sired by Harry Feathers, a stud owned by Three Hills Rodeo in Bernard, Iowa, and out of Play-Dough, a mare owned by Korkows.

The horses may be easy to get along with, but there’s a bull coming to Hastings who is never in a good mood.

No. 206, named the Grand Puba, is “monster big,” Yellow Hawk said, weighing between 1500 and 1600 lbs, with horns that are two and a half to three feet long. “He’s really hard to ride,” he said, and “he’s just mean.” Yellow Hawk should know; when he was trying to load him into the chute at the Garden City, Kan. rodeo, Grand Puba tossed him over the fence.

Korkow Rodeos is a family owned business, with Jim and Carol Korkow at the helm, and son TJ as the third generation in the business. Jim’s dad Irv founded the company in the 1940s, and Korkow Rodeos has had stock chosen for every National Finals Rodeo since it began in 1959. Now the fourth generation of Korkows: TJ and his wife Brie’s children Cactus and Clover, are continuing the tradition.

Their livestock is an investment for rodeo stock contractors, and caring for them properly is their top-most objective. Horses and bulls are fed and watered before the help gets a chance to eat, and the animals’ health is always of concern to their owners; if an animal doesn’t feel good, it can’t perform to the best of its ability.

The Oregon Trail Rodeo is August 25-27 in Hastings at the Adams County Fairgrounds, beginning at 7 pm on August 25-26 and at 5 pm on August 27. Tickets can be purchased at the Adams Co. Fairgrounds in advance or at the gate, and range in price from \$10-\$20 for adults and \$5-\$20 for children. For more information, visit the website at AdamsCountyFairgrounds.com or call 402.462.3247.