

The Heart of a Country Girl ... Life with Livestock ...

Sixth-Grader Mallie Williams experiences success on junior rodeo circuit

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I got to keep
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-Sixth-Grader
Mallie
Williams

Being a true country girl at heart, livestock has always been a major part of her life.

Sixth-grader Mallie Williams has participated in the Junior American Rodeo Association since she was 5. She competes in barrel racing and goat tying.

This spring, Williams competed in Woodward, Texas. Despite her goat standing up on the first day and her time being slower than preferred on the second day, she placed third in the goat tying with Cowboy, her horse.

"(I get nervous about) the goat tying. I don't ever know if I'm going to stand up or not after I hop off my horse," Williams said. "If I look at the ground, I bust. I got to keep my head up."

Williams has won many rodeo

awards. Saddlebags, spur straps and belt buckles are a few of the many trophies that line Williams' shelves. She always goes into competition with Elsie, her barrel-racing horse, and a self-proven effective strategy.

"(With barrel racing) Just go as fast as you can without hitting the barrel. If you do (hit it), it adds five seconds to your time," she said.

Williams has competed in countless locations. Her favorite rodeo, however, occurred only 30 miles away from home.

"When I ran in Pampa, I got second and won \$75," Williams said. "Mom suggested I spend it on school supplies, but I didn't."

Cowgirl runs through Williams' blood. Her mother and supporter, second-grade teacher Julie Britten,

has always been active in rodeos. She teaches Williams tips and tricks learned from first-hand experience.

"My mom helps me," Williams said. "She helps me come up with ways to go through the pattern with my horse, so I don't hit barrels."

Her mom says she enjoys the practice they do together, as well as the success that practice creates.

"I feel proud when she accomplishes goals she has set," Mrs. Britten said.

According to the sixth-grader, countless memories from competing in rodeos flood her mind.

"I don't have a favorite thing about competing in rodeos. I like it all," Williams said. "I do enjoy being with my animals and friends."
-Caroline Britten



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Photo by Hirschman Photos

Sixth-grader Mallie Williams hops off her horse in the goat tying competition. Being a true country girl at heart, she has always lived with livestock being a major part of life. "I do enjoy being with my animals and friends."

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