

# THE ARROW

SHOWCASING BARREL RACING STATISTICS IN THE MIDWEST REGION

## Why YOU need to take advantage of the Midwest's latest offerings in the barrel racing community

OPEN Divisional Top Riders		
1D	ABIGAIL SCHWAB	\$ 1,126
2D	BROOKE SCHUBERT	\$ 476
3D	KARLEE EGEMO	\$ 383
4D	PAIGE WEIDA	\$ 200
5D	N/A	

Shown Above: Apparently a couple people still braved the weather in February & March, here are the top divisional riders for March and their earnings! Congratulations ladies, well deserved!

### Gearing Up!

Words From the editor, Rachel Lueth

This is only the second issue and we already have ideas flowing in consistently. We love feedback and are very excited to see where this goes next. Please continue to share your ideas with us! To submit feedback you can either contact us on Facebook or email us at [arrowproductionswi@gmail.com](mailto:arrowproductionswi@gmail.com).

February was a slow month for races. Between the cold and the snow, many races were cancelled. When races didn't get cancelled, entries were low. I know I'm still frozen into an ice block, I'm still happily ticked into my couch behind this keyboard. I digress to say, that spring is here. It's time to take all the hair off your horse and successfully get it stuck to your clothing and into your mouth. Start your getting in shape program, if you haven't already, because the races have started!

The more races that get submitted, the more data we have to work with. When we have data to analyze, we are able to use it to draw conclusions and make suggestions to producers and barrel racers based on the current trends. Remember to request that your producers submit their results to us so we can make the Midwest the best place to barrel race in all of America!

Pictured Below: Hilary Van Gerpen and PC Judge Cashnlace



## The Midwest take Over at The American!

Author: Rachel Stewart

The American Rodeo is held annually in Texas and displays some of the greatest ropers, bronc riders and barrel racers from across the country. While states like Texas, Oklahoma and Wyoming are notorious for supplying the country with excellent cowboys and cowgirls, the North and Midwest is sometimes an underrated supplier of great barrel racing talent.

While names like Lisa Lockhart, Jessica Routier and Jane Melby come to mind as barrel racing stars of the north, there are many new, veteran and unrecognized barrel racers from the Midwest. If you're a barrel racer from Minnesota, chances are the name Varpness sounds familiar. Shawn Varpness is one of two parts that own SC Productions out of Rochester, MN. Shawn made the long trip to Texas for this year's American Rodeo, as a qualifier, earning his spot at the American semi-finals at the Tri State Futurity and Derby in Winona, MN.

"The experience was great. It was great to ride with all the big names from the NFR. There are a lot of talented riders down there." Shawn recalled.

Making a total of three runs, two in the semi-finals and one on the buy backs, Shawn felt he learned some valuable lessons, "Be down there a month beforehand, and get some runs in. We got the horses up here, put the time and the runs in if you want a shot."

Unfortunately, Shawn tipped in all his runs but felt his horses worked well. He ran VF Alive N Streaking, a five-year-old mare owned by Jana Groski of Rochester, MN, US Flit N Fabulous owned by Shari Taggart, and in the buy-backs, Shawn ran his own horse Bob's Famous Birthday aka "Bob" named after another great Midwestern barrel racer Bob Manor. Bob the horse shares a birthday with Bob Manor.

While the American rodeo didn't go as planned, two of Shawn's mounts finished in the top 20 at a nearby race out of 458 entries. An impressive statement of Midwest caliber horses.

As a man in a sport dominated by women, Shawn can certainly hold his own. He can see a day when a man wins the American, "You women are tough! But the American is for anyone, anybody can win it."

The ability to attain rodeo's highest title has never been so simple. Simple. Not easy. In the most basic terms, a barrel racer from anywhere across the country would need to qualify at an American Qualifier run, make it through the semi-finals, and then to the final round. While the concept is simple and straight forward, every barrel racer knows making three to five perfect, fast runs in a row, when it counts, under an immense amount of pressure is far from easy. In the past few years the Midwest has begun to make its mark on the barrel racing world down south. Everyone knows true barrel racing success doesn't come overnight.

Hilary Van Gerpen of Avon, South Dakota spends the winter in Arizona perfecting her training and technique year-round, "I have worked really hard since I was a kid riding and training horses. I quit all sports in high school to focus on my horses. I moved on to rodeo in college and from there started training futurity horses."

Hilary was aboard a six-year-old mare PC Judge Cashnlace by Judge Cash out of a daughter of Lone Drifter at the 2018 American. "Cashy" finished the year as the 2018 WPRA 1D Futurity World Champion. "She gives me 110% every day. You couldn't ask for better work ethic from a horse. Cashy is a very special mare."

Comparing Midwest barrel racing to barrel racing in other areas of the country, Van Gerpen says "From my experience of travelling the country going to futurities, I don't care if you are from the Midwest, Texas, Arizona or the Northwest, barrel racing is tough!

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## American Cont...

The horse power keeps getting better and no matter where you are from there are amazing horses and jockeys. All you can do is make the most of the horse you have, work hard, be positive, and have fun!"

Minneapolis native and current Hudson, Colorado resident, 18-year-old Jillian Zaun represents the youth of the barrel racing industry. She qualified for the American in Fort Worth, Texas at the Last Chance Jr. Qualifier that runs with the Patriot. Zaun ran in the Jr. American Finals placing sixth, unfortunately she caught her belt on her horn that affected her performance. Zaun praised her six-year-old mare CFour Dark Flashen aka Flashen, "She still ran at the top with no help from me. She knows she runs the world. Thankfully she likes me because I absolutely adore her."

A common thread among the Midwest competitors qualifying for the American are the fine-tuned athletes they call partners. Whether it's a winning run or a matter of tough luck, these barrel racers know the value of their mounts and the value of what the Midwest offers in their growing breeding industry. Anna Jorgenson qualified for the 2019 barrel racing at the Montana Barrel Daze and in Arizona for the breakaway roping. She ran a horse named Banjo Be Quick, an eleven-year-old gelding, "I do think there are more horses of an elite caliber in the south, but I do not believe they are any better than those from the north. Many great horses and bloodlines come out of the Northwest. All you need to do is look at the world standings to prove that." Jorgenson did not have the semifinals she had hoped for but was proud to represent Killdeer, North Dakota, "The caliber of horses that ran at the semi-finals was amazing. It didn't matter where the girls were from."

Proof of Jorgenson's assertion is Amanda Harris's gelding Frenchman Fire Fly. He is a three-time American Semi Finalist and Badland Circuit Finals qualifier. Harris hails from Spearfish, South Dakota and made a family trip out of the experience with her husband and two young kids, "There are some great breeding programs to be found in this area. Our horses in the Midwest are just as competitive in other areas in the U.S."

In case it wasn't already obvious that the Midwest is well represented in other areas of the country, take it from the barrel racers that have been there and seen it firsthand. Middle America is making waves unlike ever before. With a shorter riding season, it's a remarkable feat for these horses to hang with the best of them. The bitter, harsh winters up north must equip riders and horses a like to have the ice in their veins they need in order to withstand the rigorous competition down south. Keep an eye on these Midwest riders and many more as they continue to pursue greater titles and achievements.

**Pictured Below:  
Jillian Zaun and CFour Dark Flashen**



## Where Should the Focus Be?

**Author: Rachel Lueth**

I may be a little biased in writing this piece, but mostly I like to poke fun at myself for being pokey. Hopefully I speak to a couple of you when I say this, do you ever go to a barrel race and think, I paid just as much as everybody else to be here, yet, it seems like all the fun awards or the random awards are geared towards the fast horses? Because I have! Like the lucky drags? They usually aren't pure luck. Usually it's the fastest horse out of the drag. I have a 4D horse, it isn't about luck, it's more about statistics. I'm usually doing the math when I happened to get called as part of a lucky drag. I'm sure you other 4D girls are with me when you are in lucky drags. If you are later in the drag every time you possibly still have a chance you do a mini cheer in your head. Woohoo! You finally might win one! But wait, there's Molly, just waiting to smoke a run. And she does it. Darn. But it's a Cowgirl Tuff lucky drag, is she wearing CGT? Maybe she isn't and it'll go to the next person. Of course she is! Sorry Molly, I just had to pick on you! Statistics, nor luck, typically work out in my favor. Lucky drags and random prizes are fun. Even I enjoy them and celebrate them with my friends when they win them. After all, that's what it should be about.

*Cont on next page...*

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## Events Submitted this Month:

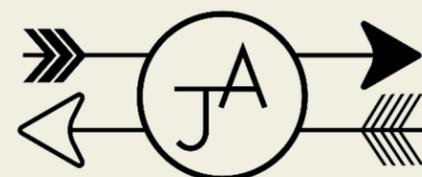
March 2-3rd Mondovi WI  
March 3rd Solway, MN  
March 16-17th Deerfield, WI  
March 22-24th Cedar Rapids, IA  
March 23rd Maple Plain, MN  
March 24th Solway MN  
March 30-31st Mondovi, WI  
March 30-31st Iowa Falls, IA  
March 31st Solway, MN

### What's coming up next month?

April 3rd Maple Plain, MN  
April 5th-7th Winona, MN  
April 12th - 14th Verndale, MN  
April 13th - 14th Mondovi, WI  
April 17th Maple Plaine, MN  
April 19th - 21st Topeka, KS  
April 20th - 21st Montfort, WI  
April 20th Hinkley, MN  
April 20th - 21st Deerfield, WI  
April 26th - 28th Hinkley, MN  
April 27th - 28th Iowa Falls, IA  
April 27th - 28th Midland, MI  
April 27th - 28th Deerfield, WI

To submit show results for stats, go to:  
[www.ArrowProductionsWI.com](http://www.ArrowProductionsWI.com)

### Arrow Productions Partners



HORSE RANCH



**Focus Cont...**

**Shown Right:  
Breakdown of Divisions from 8 shows submitted in month of March.**

Open Classes - Division Breakdowns	1D	2D	3D	4D	5D	No Times
4D Half Sec. Split	13%	19%	16%	26%		26%
4D Half/Half/Full Sec. Split	N/A					
5D Half Sec. Split	N/A					

Ultimately what most competitors tend to love about divisional barrel racing is that you don't need to be the fastest horse to bring home a check. And even on the slower end of the spectrum, I appreciate that the faster horse is still better than mine. I don't think many of us want to start receiving participation awards. But, the question lies, where should the focus lie in a producer's target market? What are the implications of a certain target market? How will it affect entries, payout, the atmosphere of the race, the producer's reputation, and not to go unmentioned, the profitability of the production company and all other affiliated vendors? How will it affect the local horse training, breeding, and sales economy?

I do believe that there have been many exciting trends in the industry that we can analyze to use as examples of how target markets can affect the things mentioned above and we can do some case studies to identify both the negative and positive risks associated in targeting horses of a certain caliber.

I believe the first step is to get an idea of what the breakdown looks like for a few months in a row and into the busy season. I may even have a poll up and get your input on how you think the industry would be affected if they started to focus on targeting a different audience depending on the population of riders in their area. Maybe they tend to have more 3D riders, so they target them more. Not to say they don't welcome all. But this might mean instead of a lucky drag, they have a true random drag. Or they could do something real creative and innovative for that target audience.

There weren't many races in February, however, here is the breakdown from the races that were submitted. As you will see, it really is relatively equal across the board. A quick interpretation from me would say that riders of all abilities had good representation at these races. It really surprised me to see how equal it was. The number of NT also surprised me. Spurring my thought of maybe encouraging a door prize for anybody that knocks? Again, not to say everybody should win something, but if this statistic holds true as more events get turned in, a \$20 door prize given away to 1 person out of 100 people at a 400-person barrel race might boost the atmosphere.

As more races get turned in, I am really excited to see how these percentages change. Stay tuned and I would love to hear your feedback!



**Catching Cricket**

**Author: Shelly Olson**

One of the 2018 top earners is Eau Claire, WI's Cricket Gintner. I caught up with Cricket as she was settling in to Kissimmee, Florida for the Ram National Circuit Finals Rodeo. Cricket and her notable Dial A Little Fame (AKA Jax) are on the road to another successful year. During the Great Lakes Circuit Finals a tipped barrel took them out of the average; however their year-end earnings earned them the trip south to the RNCF.

Jax, like many other stand-out barrel horses, has a personality as big as the accolades of his career. He prefers a travel buddy, he dislikes cows, and "he is a chore outside of the arena". Cricket explains that Jax needs minimal barrel work but at times needs a little lesson in hustle and snapping around the barrels. There will be another big sorrel in the trailer this summer. Fame, by Lions Share of Fame, is showing great promise as Cricket seasons him while on the road. When comparing Fame to Jax, Cricket states, "He's a little quicker, but still acts a little colty." Rodeos provide different challenges as compared to jackpots. The rodeo scene is one of different smells for the horses, lights, crowds, and miles of travel. "Jax could go to jackpots all day, everyday. He doesn't care for the rodeo scene."

Winter riding and prepping for early season runs can be a challenge in Wisconsin and this year has been a test of determination and sheer grit. Between the extreme cold and record-setting snow fall, finding acceptable days to ride were problematic. Cricket generally gives her horse a month or so away from riding and brings him back with a lunging program. Having a smaller indoor at home is convenient for getting back in the saddle. Nonetheless, she appreciates the heated comfort of Double H Arena in Mondovi, Wisconsin. Prior to her recent trip to The American she put some runs in. "I really love being able to not only work him in the heated indoor, but the ground is safe and you can send him through the pattern like a competitive run. It's nice to have that facility so close to home."

Jax continues to run competitively due to diligent care and proven methods. Nutrena feeds and a top-dress of DAC supplements keep Cricket's horses looking and performing their best. Cricket has a number of sponsors including Luck Saddlery which happens to carry her favorite saddle, the Kelly Kaminski Flex 2 by Circle Y. Complimenting her saddles are Reinsman Nitro-Gel pads. A recent improvement to her horses' leg gear include the use of FlowBoot. Another favorite of Cricket is the attire from Cowgirl Tuff.

There are a number of supporters who help Cricket stay competitive on the road. She credits her family, as she grew up with horses and rode as early as she can remember. High school and college found her busy with sports and building a career; thus creating a hiatus from the competitive world of horses. As destiny would have it, she met someone who enjoys horses and competition as much as she does. During her final year of radiography school, she met her husband, Mike Gintner. Cricket credits him for her re-entry to the competitive world of barrel racing. Tammy Whyte, Cricket's mom, gives her not only words of wisdom but the first-hand experience of a tried and true championship barrel racer. "I've told my mom, "When you're 80 and not running, you are coming with me!" Rounding out the support are her grandparents, Cliff and Janet Bushendorf, who are often along for the ride

Fortunately for Cricket, she's had a lifetime full of available opportunities with her horses. She is quick to point out that "for every one win, there have been ten losses." Her advice for barrel racers looking to improve and reach the next level is "remember that every barrel racer has been at your level at some point. Don't compare yourself to people you look up to. Before Lisa Lockhart was known by everyone, she was putting in a lot of time."

As Cricket begins her season with the end in mind she would like to once again make it to GLCF as well as the BBR in April. More important to Cricket for this year's agenda is running closer to home. While she loves the thrill of the bigger events, she is looking forward to watching her children compete. The thought of hauling a little over an hour to SC Production events in Winona is appealing after hitting up Texas, and two weeks later, Florida. It is truly a family affair and the odds of yet another successful year are favorable regardless of how it's measured!

**Pictured Left: Cricket Gintner and Dial A Little Fame (AKA Jax)**

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**MARCH STATISTICS**

Top 5 Overall Earners	
Total Reported Payout	\$ 37,767
<i>Horse Name</i>	<i>Earnings</i>
MOMS DUAL PEP	\$ 1,126
THREE BUGS MOON BAR	\$ 1,110
POCOS REVENGE	\$ 1,073
LRG DANDY STRIPPER	\$ 871
SON OF A HICKORY ACRE	\$ 871
Remaining Horses	\$ 32,716

Open Top 5	
Total Reported Payout	\$ 29,894
<i>Horse Name</i>	<i>Earnings</i>
MOMS DUAL PEP	\$ 1,126
POCOS REVENGE	\$ 1,073
LRG DANDY STRIPPER	\$ 871
THREE BUGS MOON BAR	\$ 822
SON OF A HICKORY ACRE	\$ 607
Remaining Horses	\$ 25,395

Youth Top 5	
Total Reported Payout	\$ 3,642
<i>Horse Name</i>	<i>Earnings</i>
THREE BUGS MOON BAR	\$ 288
CB STARTING WITH ME	\$ 245
CHARMING - MICHAELA ROEMMICH	\$ 212
FYR SPARK SURPRISE	\$ 148
BABE - DOMINIC HAUG	\$ 147
Remaining Horses	\$ 2,602

Futurity Top 5	
Total Reported Payout	\$ 222
<i>Horse Name</i>	<i>Earnings</i>
IMADIRTYFIREFIGHTER	113
EASY LOVIN JOEY	75
CLASSIC WAGON	20
BUSTER MIRACLE PERRY	14
Remaining Horses	\$ -

Derby Top 5	
Total Reported Payout	\$ 169
<i>Horse Name</i>	<i>Earnings</i>
MP HAY ITS HOTHERE	\$ 101
EASTERS STREAKIN GLO	\$ 68
Remaining Horses	\$ -

Slot Race Top 5	
Total Reported Payout	\$ -
<i>Horse Name</i>	<i>Earnings</i>
Remaining Horses	\$ -

Pole Bending Top 5	
Total Reported Payout	\$ 2,727
<i>Horse Name</i>	<i>Earnings</i>
FYR SPARK SURPRISE	\$ 280
JUSTA MINUTE BABE	\$ 152
GIZMO - SAVANNA JUELSON	\$ 130
SON OF A HICKORY ACRE	\$ 120
HOWARD THE DUN	\$ 111
Remaining Horses	\$ 1,934

Rodeo Top 5	
Total Reported Payout	\$ -
<i>Horse Name</i>	<i>Earnings</i>
Remaining Horses	\$ -

Other Top 5	
Total Reported Payout	\$ 1,103
<i>Horse Name</i>	<i>Earnings</i>
MP RED HOT DINERO	\$ 146
AMBER - BARB VANDEN BOSCH	\$ 97
MISS RARE JET HANCOCK	\$ 92
CCR FIREFLY	\$ 92
JUSTA MINUTE BABE	\$ 64
Remaining Horses	\$ 612

Open Top 5 Divisional Breakdown of Earnings							
						Total Reported Payout	\$ 29,894
<i>Horse Name</i>	<i>Earnings</i>	<i>1D Earnings</i>	<i>2D Earnings</i>	<i>3D Earnings</i>	<i>4D Earnings</i>	<i>5D Earnings</i>	
MOMS DUAL PEP	\$ 1,126	\$ 1,126					
POCOS REVENGE	\$ 1,073	\$ 1,073					
LRG DANDY STRIPPER	\$ 871	\$ 871					
THREE BUGS MOON BAR	\$ 822	\$ 822					
SON OF A HICKORY ACRE	\$ 607	\$ 235	\$ 372				

OPEN Divisional Top Riders		
1D	ABIGAIL SCHWAB	\$ 1,126
2D	BROOKE SCHUBERT	\$ 476
3D	KARLEE EGEMO	\$ 383
4D	PAIGE WEIDA	\$ 200
5D	N/A	

