

Journal-Press SPORTS & SCHOOL NEWS

BUFFALO PRCA CHAMPIONSHIP RODEO

Miss Rodeo Sansevere

Sansevere enjoying her time in spotlight as successful farm girl, media personality

By Rob LaPlante
Sports Editor

Ask the eldest of five Sansevere siblings who she takes after more, she likely will say her mother, Mary, one day. And the next day, she may say her father, Bob.

"I feel like I'm a lot of both," chuckled Samantha Sansevere, who spent this past week and weekend representing her hometown and state as the reigning Miss Rodeo Minnesota Queen.

Sansevere kicked off her upcoming busy summer schedule as announcer for "Family Fun Night" on Wednesday, June 23 at the Buffalo Rodeo Grounds.

The microphone and spotlight are nothing new for the Sanseveres. Her mother is a former Minnesota Vikings cheerleader. Her father has been in the media spotlight for years as a sports columnist for the Pioneer Press Newspaper in St. Paul, as well as a long-time radio personality for the KQRS Morning Show in the Twin Cities. He's also a current member of the Buffalo-Hanover-Montrose School Board.

Samantha has her own media gig as well, currently working full-time as a Radio Show Host for iHeart Media. She also works as a Morning Show Producer at Twin Cities News Talk.

When Sansevere is not busy doing her day jobs, she spends most of her time working with her mother at Enchanted Hollow Stables, located at their family's ranch in Buffalo Township.

"My mom and I are business partners. Together we run a riding school," Samantha said. "She is the barn owner, and I am the barn manager and head riding instructor. We both teach horseback riding, horse camps, riding classes and trail rides together. I'm a little bias. It's a really wonderful place. Everybody is so supportive."

The cowgirl in Samantha comes from her mom, who grew up on a farm in Wisconsin. Her dad grew up on the Jersey shore.

"He had nothing to do with horses until he met my mom," Samantha said. "He's been very supportive throughout, and we wouldn't be here today if it wasn't for him."

With things opening up more this summer, Enchanted Hollow Stables has become a busy place.

"During our busy summer season, we have over 80-100



Miss Rodeo Minnesota, Samantha Sansevere, and her horse Preacher, were part of last Thursday's Grand Entry Opening Ceremonies to kick off the first of three rodeo performances at the 66th Buffalo PRCA Championship Rodeo. Riding behind Sansevere are 14 of her ranch horses and riding students. (Photo by Rob LaPlante)

riders for a weekly session," Samantha said. "On top of that, we have horse camps that have 12-15 kids riding throughout the weekday. We also have about 20 horses that we use during a lesson program on a regular basis and about 60 horses in total."

Samantha and 14 of her horses and riding students from Enchanted Hollow Stables kicked off the three-day rodeo festivities last Thursday by doing two laps around the arena during

the Grand Entry Opening Ceremonies.

Serving as Miss Rodeo Minnesota is extra special for her, who missed out on last year's rodeo with it being canceled due to Covid. She was the 2020 Miss Buffalo Rodeo Queen, which currently belongs to Leah Andersen, a native of Bemidji and current resident of Big Lake.

"It has been already so much fun," Samantha said. "Last year, it was interesting to be a rodeo queen

without a rodeo. Now, it's really nice to be able to be here for my hometown rodeo. There's a lot that goes into being a rodeo queen that I never thought about."

Travel is the biggest difference. Some of her rodeos she will attend later this summer include stops in Hamel, Isanti and Waconia. Her first rodeo this calendar year was last February in Rapid City, South Dakota.

In December, Samantha will represent Minnesota

at the Miss Rodeo America Pageant in Las Vegas.

Ironically, being a rodeo queen was never on her long-term radar.

"I heard a couple years ago they were looking for a new Miss Buffalo Rodeo, and I just thought it sounded like fun," Samantha said. "That led to me being interested in being a rodeo queen. I really enjoy it. I

Sansevere

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BUFFALO PRCA RODEO

Big crowds gather for revamped Rodeo

By Rob LaPlante
Sports Editor

The 66th Buffalo PRCA Championship Rodeo brought some big crowds and some big smiles from fans and contestants of all ages.

According to Gretchen Kirchmann, Publicist for GM Western Enterprises in Buffalo, last Friday night's performance drew a standing room crowd of an estimated 2,500 people.

"Friday, by far was our best night as far as attendance," Kirchmann said. "You know you have a nice crowd when the west bleachers start to fill up, which Friday's crowd had."

This was the first year the Buffalo Rodeo was produced by GM Western Enterprises. Greg McDonald is the Executive Director for the Buffalo Rodeo Association. The new committee also includes: President Mike Zumbusch, Vice-President Rebecca Moon, Treasure Casey Mattson, Secretary Miriam Orr, Board Member Rick Scott, and Groundskeepers Paul Hoiland and Scott.

The new committee strived to make this year's Buffalo Rodeo a family-friendly environment, which they saw all three days. Family Fun Night on Wednesday, June 23 kicked off the rodeo week. Families and their kids got to meet the rodeo contestants, as well as watch the popular Mutton Bustin'

Buffalo Rodeo

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CLAY TARGET

Area teams compete in state shoot



STMA's Wyatt Notch was one of five Knights to register a score of 92 at last Friday's state tournament in Prior Lake. The Knights placed 19th with a score of 460. (Photo by Rob LaPlante)

By Rob LaPlante
Sports Editor

The MSHSL officially wrapped up its 2020-21 competitive season with last Friday's Clay Target State Tournament at Minneapolis Gun Club in Prior Lake.

In a tight battle for first place, Red Wing edged two teams to claim its first-ever state title in trapshooting by hitting 484 out of 500 targets. Tri-City United was second (483) and Alden-Conger placed third (482).

The MSHSL has a team and individual portion of the tournament. The top-40 teams from the State Trap Shooting Championships held June 14-22 in Alexandria qualify for the MSHSL state tourney, as do the top-100 individuals with the highest average throughout the five-week regular season.

South St. Paul's Boone Johnson and Becker's Bradley Bible each fired a perfect 100 out of 100 targets to split the individual championship. The top-eight shooters are selected to the Fleet Farm Top

Clay Target

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Rockford celebrates first team title

Girls Track & Field team makes school history with Class A state championship



The Rockford girls' track and field team celebrated its 2021 Class A Track and Field state championship with a victory parade through town on Sunday, June 28. The Rockets' score of 46 points edged second-place Annandale's 42 during the state tournament on June 18 at St. Michael-Albertville. The team title was the first in the 165 year history of the school. To top it off, Rockford's Sara Byers, Aliyah Robran, Elise Biorn, and Cassia Cady brought home an individual state title in the 4x100 relay in a time of 49.88. Chad Robran is the Head Coach of the state champion Rockets. Pictured above are the participating members and coaches from the Class A state championship team with their first-place trophy (front row, left-right): Natasha James, Hannah Moe, Meghan Roggenkamp, Justine Miller, Cassia Cady, Aliyah Robran, Jayden Lark, Sara Byers, Hannah Stedman, Elise Biorn, Sophie Bremel, Kylie Sauers, Maggie Thompson; (back row, left-right): Coaches Mike White, Brian Johnson, Dave Mottet, Colleen Prudhome, Jake Roh, Mike Tauber, Melonie Robran, Chad Robran, Paul Herda, Jeff Dickman, Tim Fowler, and Lindsay Wurm. Not pictured: Jane West (4x800), Elizabeth Smith (4x800), and Coach Jim Clark. (Submitted photo)