



**United Rodeo Association Celebrates Golden Anniversary With Finals At Topeka**

Fifty years is a long time; it's half a century. That's reason for celebration, and there'll be a golden anniversary when the United Rodeo Association Finals come to Topeka this weekend.

"A total of 145 cowboys and cowgirls from throughout the Midwest have qualified to compete for more than \$60,000 in prize money at our 50<sup>th</sup> birthday URA Finals, Thursday through Saturday, Nov. 1-3, in the R.R. Domer Livestock Arena at the Kansas Expocentre," according to Muff McGee, URA secretary from Yates Center.

Advertised and promoted heavily on 580 WIBW, The BIG 94.5 Country and the Kansas Agriculture Network, performances are set each evening at 7:30, with year-end champions to be crowned at the conclusion of Saturday's performance. A Western Trade Show is to be featured each day, along with the rodeo action.



Dustin Jilek of Princeton will compete in the forty-and-over calf roping at the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary United Rodeo Association Championship Finals Thursday through Saturday, Nov. 1-3, at Topeka's Kansas Expocentre. (TF Event Photography [www.tfeventphotography.com](http://www.tfeventphotography.com))

"Actually started in Iowa, the United Rodeo Association is a non-profit organization established in 1962, but rodeos are now sanctioned primarily in seven states. However, there will be contestants representing several more states than that," said Monty Dyer, URA president from Ottawa.

"Our Championship Finals Rodeo each fall features the top 15 contestants, who have competed at qualifying rodeos throughout the year in each of nine events," noted McGee,

"The URA has averaged 800 members each of the past few years and annually approves or co-approves more than 100 rodeos," Dyer pointed out.

Noteworthy, many of the year-end titles will come down to the finals competition. "It is very close in nearly every event, with only a few dollars separating the top contestants," Dyer pointed out.

"Linda Kay of Lawrence was a charter member of the URA 50 years ago, with membership number nine. She'll be competing again this year at the finals, coming in ranked ninth in barrel racing," McGee related.

Interestingly, the all-around standings is being led by a cowgirl, Timber Allenbrand of Paola, who is also in first place in the barrel racing event and seventh in the breakaway roping.

"Cooper Martin of Alma is leading both the calf roping and breakaway roping events," Dyer pointed out. "If he ropes good at the finals, Cooper would be the youngest cowboy to ever win the tie-down event."

Additional information is on the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary United Rodeo Association Finals is available at [www.unitedrodeoassociation.com](http://www.unitedrodeoassociation.com).



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*Padre says:*

*"Don't interfere with something that ain't botherin' you none."*