

MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release
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SDSU Rodeo Club celebrates 60 years of riding at annual Jackrabbit Stampede

BROOKINGS, S.D. – The South Dakota State University rodeo team will celebrate 60 years of kicking up dust at the annual Jackrabbit Stampede Thursday through Sunday, April 12-15, at the Swiftel Center east of I-29 off U.S. Highway 14.

The Jackrabbit Stampede is called a double-header rodeo with two, two-day contests happening back to back. Approximately 250 participants from 13 Great Plains schools take part in rodeo events. The initial competition begins at 7 p.m. Thursday, April 12, and continues on Friday at 1 p.m. concluding at 7 p.m. A new contest starts at 1 p.m. Saturday, April 14, with competition continuing that evening at 7 p.m. The second rodeo finishes at 1 p.m. Sunday, April 15.

SDSU cowboys compete in 10 rodeos during the year in the Great Plains Region, five in the spring and five in the fall. The team travels 3,500 miles around South Dakota, North Dakota, Iowa, Wisconsin, Minnesota and Nebraska to compete inside the ring.

The SDSU club started in 1952 with 40 students meeting in the basement of the South Dakota Agricultural Heritage Museum and 10 of them traveled to compete. Sixty years later, the rodeo club has grown to 60 team members with more than 40 club members competing in rodeos throughout the year.

During the club's 60 years, the rodeo team has placed national and international riders, including 2009 World Champion Barrel Racer and 2010 Reserve World Champion Rachel Tiedeman. "Twenty-three team members qualified for nationals over the past two years," said Ronald Skovly, SDSU rodeo team coach. "Currently both teams — men's and women's — are sitting second in the region and well within reach of first place.

"We are proud of our SDSU rodeo team, its heritage and alumni," said Skovly. "We work hard at managing our time to study, fundraise, practice and travel to regional rodeos in order to be successful in the classroom and the rodeo arena." Skovly said he hopes audiences appreciate all the variables a rodeo presents to team members, especially the challenges that come from drawing an unknown rodeo stock animal to use in competition to earn points.

Rodeo sponsors include the SDSU Student Senate, the SDSU Rodeo Club, the College of Agricultural and Biological Sciences, the SDSU Foundation and local and regional businesses.

See the attached SDSU Rodeo Team roster for members arranged by hometown.

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