

RODEO FREE FOR A YEAR!

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"Rodeo for Free" Prize Package

By Siri Stevens

This was the third year that Vicki Townsend played ProFantasy Rodeo with her husband, Abb. "It makes watching the NFR so much fun," she said. "We get all in to our team and our people - it's hard to explain." This past year she entered her own team, adding a side pot of Rodeo for Free. "I wanted my son, Monte (Leggett), to win that, so I signed him up." Anybody can opt in for the Prize Package and put a PRCA members card number down. The winner of the prize package receives \$10,000 in Entry Fees and \$5,000 for fuel. Last year, Vicki Townsend from Florida won the package. What she did next made for the best Christmas ever. "Fantasy rodeo gave me the opportunity to give something to my son that I would never have been able to."

"I've never won anything," said Vicki. "Monty, and his wife, Ashley, rodeo in the Southeast circuit,

and their two boys, Trenton, 10, and Trevor, 7 compete in the junior rodeos. Monty wasn't going to buy his pro card this year because of the expense of traveling." Monty works as a lineman for Tallahassee Electric in Tallahassee, Florida, and Ashley is a dental assistant. The furthest west Monty had gone was the high school finals in Gillette, Wyoming, and the boys had never been west.

Christmas morning came and Vicki hustled the family to the tree to unwrap gifts. Buried deep within a huge box came the Christmas present that Monty and his family will never forget.

"It was great," said Monty. "It was a shock. There was a big box with six boxes inside - the envelope was at the bottom - we do this every year, and there's no telling what's in there, but that envelope was a shock. I didn't know what to think. I started trying to figure out where we wanted to go and how to enter."

The planning began. The bucket list of rodeos was narrowed down;

time off was saved up the family took off the last week of June. "We took my barrel horse, Monty's team roping horse and my oldest son's horse and everything we could think of," said Ashley. "The only thing we forgot was winter blankets - it was a bad mistake - when we got to Montana it was 35 on July 3 - when we left Florida, it was 103 degrees."

The Leggett's were able to travel for three weeks, leaving right after the junior rodeo finals. They carefully planned the trip, entering nine rodeos - Springdale, Arkansas; Belle Fourche, South Dakota; Mobridge South Dakota; Red Lodge, Montana; Livingston, Montana; Cody Night Rodeo, Cody, Wyoming; Laramie, Wyoming; Cheyenne, Wyoming; Pretty Prairie, Kansas; and Savannah, Tennessee. Along the way, they saw Yellowstone, Mount Rushmore, and Custer State Park. Short of a few flat tires and a hail storm, they had a blast. "My favorite part was Livingston, Montana. We were up for the performance on the

fourth of July. It was a packed house, loud - it was a cool rodeo and awesome fireworks," said Ashley. "Cheyenne was cool - I want to go back. The entire trip was totally worth it - it was an awesome vacation."

Ashley and Monty grew up junior rodeoing and high school rodeoing. Since their families lived only 30 minutes from Georgia, they rodeoed in that state. The high school sweethearts went on to community colleges and rodeoed in the amateur associations and college rodeo. Monty worked his way up from truck driver to lineman and continued to rodeo. They have been married for 14 years and have passed the love of the sport on to their two boys. They both compete in all the events offered in their junior rodeo associations, and thanks to this trip, they are both eager to compete themselves out west.

"It was awesome," said Trenton. "We got to see all the places and the biggest rodeo people in the world. It made me want to compete there and get to the NFR." Trenton won the All Around saddle last year in the East Coast Youth Rodeo.

"I saw buffalos, snakes, and elk and little pronghorn," said Trevor. "The West is big and I want to go back." Both boys got to take a run in Cody and Trevor thought that "was the funnest thing ever."

Monty had always wanted to take his family out west. "We were able to rodeo for nothing. I always wanted to go out and see it - how many contestants and how big the rodeos were was unbelievable."



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To top that off, San Antonio is also going to provide the winner with a **\$5,000 fuel card!** Let's Rodeo!

