

Margo Lea Ball Wins RMQHA All Around Saddle

By
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Of his very first article, Will Rogers said . . . "she'd better go as she lays." Well, if this "goes as she lays" it will be a tribute to a fine young lady, and the RMQHA High-Point Saddle winner for 1973, Margo Lea Ball.

Honor student, seamstress, creative artist, good citizen and horsewoman, Margo has been active in the RMQHA and in the youth association for most of her 17 years. She has served as an officer of the youth group in previous years, and will continue to direct those activities as President, RMQHYA, in 1974. She is a Junior at Poudre High School in Fort Collins and has lived in Fort Collins for ten years. Only recently the Balls purchased an acreage northeast of the city to house the "old friends" that have been so much a part of Margo's love for and involvement with quarter horses.

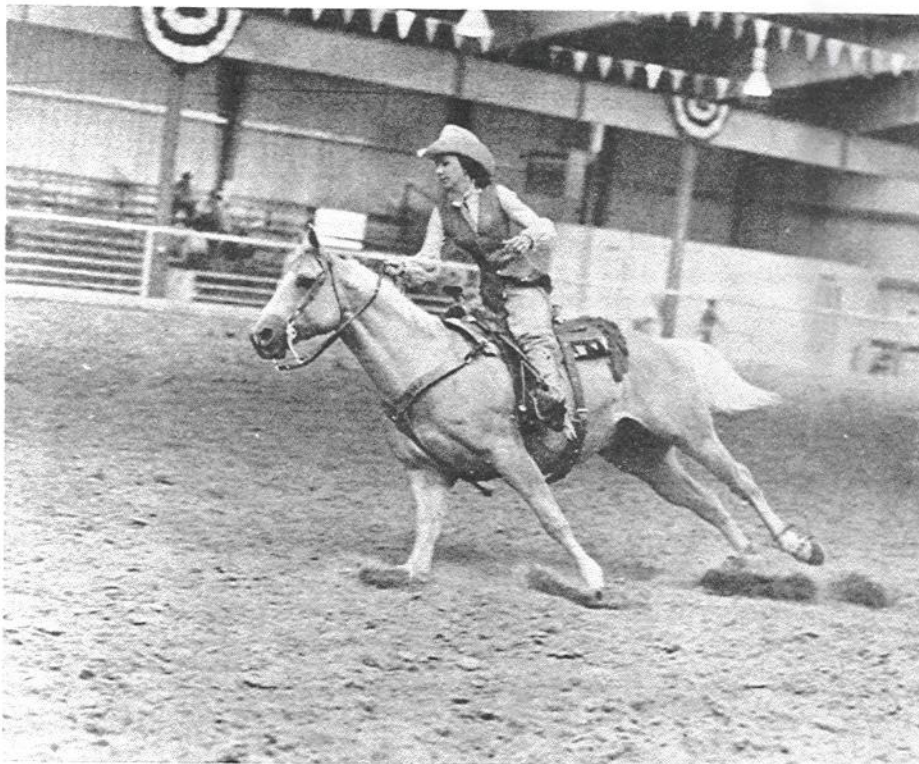
It is customary to list the trophies and awards accumulated by the year-end high point winners, but when you can't stir 'em with a stick, it seems like too many statistics. It's simpler to say there are over 300 trophies, saddles, belt buckles, halters, blankets and bridles in the Ball family room. They are about evenly divided between CRYSTAL SUGAR, NICROME, OKLAHOMA TWISTER, BACA SAGE and JILL'S LADY JANE.

CRYSTAL SUGAR, Margo's first registered quarterhorse, was purchased from Millie and Jack Janowitz, and started in youth pleasure in 1966. She was a Superior Youth Pleasure Horse and won the High Point Western Pleasure Horse trophy in the open division

in 1969. A good palomino mare, now in the brood mare band, hopefully in foal to a Wiescamp bred stallion.

NICROME, an AQHA champion shown briefly by Ed and Nola Schauerman as a two-year old, was purchased in 1966

and earned an open division ROM in English Pleasure, Western Pleasure and Reining, campaigning over the next four years. He was Reserve Open English Pleasure Horse in 1970 and High Point Performance Gelding in the Northern



Margo and Baca Sage running a reining pattern

ROCKY MOUNTAIN QUARTER HORSE

Colorado Breeders Association in 1969. It was with "Nick" that Margo was invited to Amarillo as one of the top ten Western Riding contestants in the nation, in youth activities. In 1969 and 1970 Margo was high point youth for the Wyoming Quarter Horse Association, and was the all-around-saddle winner at the Big Horn Basin show in Wyoming, thanks to the palomino mare and the dun gelding. They call line-back duns "the race that never dies" and Nick was a big factor, along with Crystal Sugar, in winning the high point all-around at the Littleton All Youth show. The threesome then went on to capture the reserve all around youth award for the years 1968, 1969 and 1970.

BACA SAGE, another yellow horse, from Bob Bruce's show string, was a replacement for Crystal and Nick as they took a well-deserved rest. "Sage" picked up another youth and open Register of Merit certificate in Pleasure and was high-point performance horse at the New Mexico State Fair in 1972. He earned points in Trail, Western and English Pleasure and Showmanship. "Sage" and "Nick" were both ribbon winners at the National Quarter Horse Congress in Horsemanship and Showmanship.

OKLAHOMA TWISTER. In the recently created "Non-Professional" division of RMQHA activities, "Twister" won the 1972 year-end award with points in every category except roping. He is ROM in open English Pleasure. He was the high-point performance gelding, 1972, in the Northern Colorado Breeders Association, the second such award for Margo. On this capable sorrel gelding Margo won once again the all-around trophy awarded in youth activities at the Big Horn Basin show in Wyoming. And, in youth activities, was year-end winner in Reining and English Pleasure and runner-up for the all-around award, 1972.

JILL'S LADY JANE was shown by Tom Ball to her AQHA Championship for Kathy Calar of LaPorte, Colorado. By Spanish Cash out of a daughter of Jaguar, the good-looking buckskin mare came up for sale, and Balls discovered they could not imagine anyone else owning her. With Crystal and Nick retired and Oklahoma "resting" for a few shows, "Janie" was soon going down the road on the way to the year-end saddle

for Margo. She took to Western Riding like a natural, and won a large class at Wyoming State Fair, youth division, both youth and open Western Riding at Colorado State Fair, and a second place at the New Mexico State Fair in youth, and a third in open, "Janie" was acquired midway during show season, and perhaps did not have a chance to show her extreme versatility. She did get points in English Pleasure and Horsemanship as well as Western Riding. With this mare in the trailer, and alternating Baca Sage with the older gelding, no one horse was "used up" and all came off the show season sound and still willing.

When not designing and making her own western clothes, or involved in her school activities, Margo can be found where she wants most to be . . . in the barn, in the arena . . . or just riding across country with friends.

Winning the year-end saddle as the RMQHA high point senior caps a ten year effort in youth activities. With a lifetime total of over 300 trophies, and over 700 AQHA youth points, Margo enters her next to last year in youth activities in 1974. For her last two years she will introduce her new gelding — a coming three-year old, bred by Hank Wiescamp and suggested by him as a horse with the disposition for youth activities. By Sir Bar out of Spanish Sin, SCOTTISH MISSILE will make his appearance on the '74 show circuit, availability of gasoline permitting, and will



Margo running the barrels at the New Mexico State Fair on Oklahoma Twister.

do credit both to himself and his new owner. Whatever the measure of success they will have, may they both enjoy the association of horses and people in the years to come as much as Margo, and her horses, have loved every minute of the past ten sometimes exhausting but always rewarding years in the RMQHA.



Margo and Baca Sage in an English class

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