



# Hall of Fame

A mother's love is a powerful thing. It's strong, self-sacrificing, loyal, hardworking, and unconditional. It changes in form as your children grow, but it is always there. Jan Lesh is a walking definition of "a mother's love". Jan has dedicated her entire life to her children and her family, and a large part of that has been involved with team penning and ranch sorting.



Jan didn't ride horses competitively when she was young, but she grew up around them. With Hoss Frank as her father, horses were just a way of life. They rode their horses back and forth from the farm to their house, three miles one way! Before her family was involved in team penning, Jan put on ropings with her brother.

Jan and Gary married in 1980 and have Jason, Jared, Jamin, Joel, Jenna, and Jordan. Hoss took Jared, Jamin, and Joel to their first team penning in 1990, and the rest is history. From there they started hauling to bigger shows and producing shows of their own. When they started team penning, Jan



was pregnant with Jordan. She often says she should have just taught them all to play dominoes. .... It would have been needed to win.



way easier and lots cheaper. As everyone knows, the Lesh's aren't easy to wrangle as adults, just imagine them running around as ornery kids! Jan worked a full time job, and then put in a full time workload on the weekends hauling her kids all over the country, while Gary stayed home and took care of their farming and cattle operation.

Jan has produced and been involved with some of the biggest shows in this sport. Producing shows meant being the announcer, secretary, gateman, cattle tagger, flagger. .... Jan's done it all. She put on Sooner State team pennings, AQHA shows, and then USTPA shows. Jan was involved in USTPA from very early on. She started producing shows in the early 90's and continued to do so for 10 plus years. It was definitely an uphill battle for producers at that time. She passed on her passion for producing shows to Jared and Joel and was just as involved with helping them run their shows for many more years. Another memorable show for Jan is one she produced at the Lazy E Arena in Guthrie, and she had a concert with the show. It was so long ago that Kenny Chesney was there and wasn't even the headliner, he opened for Rick Trevino.

Jan didn't ride or team pen very often, but she knows more about the game than just about anyone that goes in the arena. She coached, kept time, and knew which calves were good and bad on every herd. Everyone competing knew that Jan was the source for all the information needed to be successful when you went into the arena. People knew she kept a huge spreadsheet with all the valuable information

Jan entered one ride at Springtime in CowTown with Drew and Ryan Bellinger. They asked her to ride in the #5 class, and she said no! A little while later they came back and told her there were no more #1's left to ride with and they needed her. Turns out with some big coaching and a little threatening from Jan, they won it! Her exact words when telling this story were: "I told those boys: I'm going to stand on the line. If you bring me any cattle, I might kill you later. And I am absolutely NOT going to the hole!"

There was also the time that she decided to ride Jared's horses, Colonel and Popeye..... while Jared flew to another show. He was sixteen and gave her pretty strict instructions to NOT ride them before he left. Jan says she still doesn't know who, but someone told on her and she got a good lecture about using his horses when she called him that evening.

Jan went above and beyond to make sure her kids got to every team penning. To be quite honest, when Jan found out she was receiving this award she said "I think there are people more deserving of this than myself". We sometimes overlook the support that is given in this sport from the people that never climb on a horse and go into the arena to compete. Some of the greatest support has come from the sidelines. Jan has driven endless miles, coached, kept her kids (and everyone else) well fed, cheered for us all, handed out some tough-love, and is STILL putting up with a LOT of wild escapades. Jan's role at the team pennings have changed as her kids have grown up; from driving the rig and coaching, to wrangling her grandchildren and STILL feeding everyone at the shows, so her family can all keep participating in the sport they love. She'll be the first one there, and the last one to leave to make sure we're all taken care of.

