



Congratulations to
Jared Lesh
for being Inducted into the
2022 USTPA Hall of Fame!



Hall of Fame

Congratulations to this Year's Inductee!

Have you ever googled the word cowboy? There are several definitions, here is just one of them. The iconic cowboy represents the American dream; courage, optimism, and hard work. Google goes on to say...a cowboy, by definition, is a man, typically one on horseback, who herds and tends cattle, is a little wild, always a good time and has a ton of heart. Sound like anyone you know?



The old saying goes.... "Cowboys are born, not made". From the time Jared could walk, he wanted to be a cowboy. Riding stick horses, bouncy horses, & Shetland's with his cowboy hat and boots on! If you asked him what he wanted to be when he grew up he'd tell you he was "gonna be a Cowboy"! Not many people grow up and make their childhood dreams come true, but Jared Lesh is living his dream!

Jared is a true cowboy, not because he can ride a horse, not because he can Team Pen & Ranch Sort with the best of them, not because he's a *little* wild and *always* a good time, but really, it might be because of his huge heart and willingness to work hard. Jared is kind, generous, and someone you want in your corner in all walks of life.

Cowboys are even his hero's. His Grandpa Hoss takes the top spot, with John Wayne running a close second. Grandpa Hoss started hauling Jared and his brothers to team pennings in 1990 when Jared was 10 years old. USTPA was just being talked about at that time and nothing local was being produced yet.



But, that didn't hold him and his brothers back. As team penning grew, the competition grew and Jared always worked to stay right at the top of it. He and his brothers attended every 'big' show they could find and were fortunate to ride with and learn from some of the best in Oklahoma. Shelley Fitzgerald, Scott Lodes, David Hall, Donnie Wynne, Mark Morris and Mike Vanzant mentored him and his brothers in those early years. After a few years and a little more traveling he started riding with Jodi Hill, Larry Pancost. Ike Rainey, Gary Stanfill and JR Attea just to mention a few that promoted and rode USTPA shows. The Underwood's, Fields and Saggione families were right there with them in their travels.

Jared started out riding 1/2 broke ponies and horses. He & his brothers Jamin & Joel (baby brother Jordan was 3 at the time and not competing yet) bought a quarter horse or two and started riding the youth class at the AQHYA World Show and brought home 9 World Champion titles among several other top placings. As he got older he fine tuned his skills with some really great cowhorses, Popeye & Colonel that took him to the pay window consistently. One week, over 23 years ago, in 1999, he and his mom drove from the Ft Worth Stock Show to the Denver Stock Show winning both stock shows in the same week! He has won top honors at all of em! He has display tables full of buckles, a trailer or 2, stacks of magazines with memories and many saddles displayed that hold special memories of all the fun times he had with his brothers & grandpa.

At the young age of 17, he won his first title at the AQHA World Championship Show. This was a prestigious show to win back in the day and Jared was fortunate



enough with his grit, determination and overwhelming competitive spirit to be on top several times! He started selling horses and put the JL brand on them, selling over 2500, that you can find all over the world.



Jared's always been family oriented. Family has always come first, we could go on and on, talking about all the wins, prizes and fun he's had over his life span of 41 years. Telling stories, and oh could we tell some stories! We'll let y'all share those with each other and him, cuz if you know him, rode with him, played with him, hung with him....then we know you have a story.....but here is the biggest story, the single MOST important accomplishment to him in his entire career or life. It's the top honor, the most prestigious honor you can have. He says if you've won it, then you've won everything. He has, because he has won the World Champion title of being a father. A Dad, to his best friend Gunnar! This is the duo that he hopes will span his lifetime. They enjoy hanging out, going to movies and Gunnar has rarely ever missed a horse show that Jared has gone to. Gunnar would jump on a horse when he was young but wasn't as horse crazy at a young age as Jared was, but rode his first AQHYA



show when he was just 6 years old with his cousins and jumps in the sorting arena at USTPA events now. Gunnar loves to play football and basketball and carries that same competitive spirit as Jared onto the field and basketball court.

Jared's love for this sport has lasted over 32 years. He has spent time bettering the sport, not just himself. He has spent countless hours on committees, years as a director and sponsor and much more. He has put on USTPA events for over 13 years, always making his shows, a fun time for everyone in attendance. Always with great prizes and added money. Most recently and one that will go down in history as the largest donation in a single USTPA Youth class, was his bold move to give away an electric scooter to every single youth that participated. Trying to help get the youth numbers up and kids excited about riding and wow did it work! The kids came out of the woodwork, making for more than 80 youth teams, bringing back old memories for Jared, when the youth classes were large, back when he was riding in them. 47 scooters were given away that weekend, over \$18,000 of lil black scooters buzzing around the parking, lot all weekend looked like a 'mini' Sturgis bike convention.

Jared Wayne Lesh grew up with his 5 siblings, Jason, Jamin, Joel, Jenna and Jordan Lesh on a small cattle ranch outside of Perry, OK. His father Gary and mother Jan ran a small herd of momma cows and received stockers, lined them out, sometimes penning on them, sold them and turned around a did it again. Jared learned cattle skills from his father, but the speed and sometimes controlled kaos was



all on Jared and his brothers to learn, as dad would NOT let them work cattle on a horse.... always on foot.

The story could go on and on (hard to tell his mother helped write this)! If you ever needed a partner Jared was there. Needed

a horse, Jared would find you one, always helping to find the right fit or just the one you were looking for. You will find him on the sidelines coaching, helping, sharing his skills and encouraging. He truly loves this family oriented sport and wants to see it continue to be as successful as ever.

When we get old and hang up our hats, we all want to be remembered for being that super top hand and we all know that Jared Wayne Lesh is just that!!!!.....but Jared will also be remembered for his over the top personality, heart and how he treated his partners in and out of the arena. Because, a true cowboy isn't remembered for the number of saddles and buckles he's won or the miles he's traveled, a true cowboy is remembered for the legacy he leaves behind....

*"Do what you love
and call it work!"* __JL



USTPA Hall of Fame Mission Statement

1. Honor the Heroes of Team Penning and Ranch Sorting. We shall recognize and honor those individuals who have made an impact on our sport and our members.
2. Celebrate Excellence. We shall enshrine those who excelled and made our sport better.
3. Preserve our History. We shall honor those who sacrificed and worked whenever they were asked without personal reward.
4. Promote USTPA Values. Family, teamwork, leadership, excellence, horsemanship, community and sportsmanship.

