



*Congratulations to*  
**Louie Saggione III**  
*for being Inducted into the*  
**2025 USTPA Hall of Fame!**



# Hall of Fame

## *Congratulations to this Year's Inductee!*

Louie Saggione III was born on May 15, 1982 in Chicago Illinois. He was the second of 4 children born to Louie II and Connie Saggione. With his older sister Jenine, younger sister and brother, Jennifer and Dominic, Louie grew up in Orland Park, Illinois.



Horses were a part of Louie's life from the very beginning. It was not until 1990 when his dad, Louie Saggione II (Big Lou), started team penning that Louie really got the desire to ride and compete. Louie, along with his Dad and sister Jenine, started penning at local events. It didn't take long before they were producing their own shows.

Louie started showing AQHA in 1995 when he went to the Youth World Show in Ft. Worth, Texas. He teamed up with two other Illinois youth, Julie King and Jamie Watkins, to take 3rd place that year. Louie returned to the AQHYA World Show consistently for the rest of his youth career. He was Reserve World Champion in 1997 with partners Joshua Bartels and Brian Danneberger. Reserve again in 1999 with Nick Lansford and Justin Cunningham. Then in 2001, he finally took the title of AQHYA World Champion with partners Kyle Crecelius and Daniel Davis. Throughout his youth career, Louie rode with many different people. Two of his main partners at the time were his sister Jenine and fellow Illinois youth and friend Justin Cunningham.

Louie qualified and went to the AQHA Open World Show in 1998, even though he was still a youth. He won his first AQHA Open Team Penning World Title at this show. His partners on that first Open World Championship were Dennis Lansford and Jerry Stretch.

Over the next several years, AQHA was very good to Louie. He won a total of 6 Open Team Penning World Championships, and 5 Reserve Open Team Penning World Championships.

In 2007 AQHA offered Ranch Sorting as an event. Louie won the Open Ranch Sorting the first 4 years it was offered. Eventually he would end up with 7 Open Ranch Sorting World Championships, and 2 Reserve Open Ranch Sorting World Championships.

In 1993, Louie started showing at USTPA Shows. This had Louie going down the road about every other weekend with his family.

As Louie got older and his skills continue to improve, he hit the road with a group of friends he had made during his days as a youth. This group of young men would change the face of USTPA forever.





Louie would get out of high school and head towards Oklahoma. It was there that he, the Lesh brothers (Jared, Joel, and Jamin), the Underwood brothers (Grady and Justin) and Travis Kaiser would create quite possibly the toughest box USTPA has ever known. This group would also go on to become leaders within the USTPA.

Many miles were spent, during these early years, going down the road with Travis Kaiser and with one of his favorite horses, Hickory, aka "Precious" and Travis's gelding "Kid" in tow.

Right after high school, Louie would go to work with his Dad as a union carpenter in the Chicago area. During this time, he continued to travel almost every weekend to team penning's across the United States. It was during this time he met his future wife, Niki Hemphill. They were married in 2008. In 2010 Louie laid down his hammer for good and the two moved to Pennsylvania to try and make trading horses a more full time deal. While in Pennsylvania, Louie worked for his father-in-law Ken Hemphill as a salesman and continued to team pen and trade horses. Louie had been selling and trading horses from a very young age. Big Lou bought Louie his first horse to trade on from USTPA Hall of Famer, Gary Stanfill. During this time of his life, horses and team penning was all Louie thought about. Still to this day he says he wakes up with crazy ideas and is always thinking of ways to make team penning and the USTPA better.

In 2011, Louie and Niki had the opportunity to move to Texas and do something they always dreamed of doing. With one baby (Cali) and one on the way (Aubrey), they headed to Jacksonville, Texas. Once they landed in Texas, LS Performance Horses was born.

In 2014, with son LJ still in the crib, the young couple decided to move their growing business to a better location. So, they packed up their family, horses, cows, dogs, cats and chickens and moved closer to their Texas family, Patrick and Scarlett Bray in New Boston, TX.

Louie has won Titles at all major USTPA National Events, as well as the Denver, San Antonio, and Houston Stock Shows. Some of his greatest achievements include, winning the Calgary Stampede in Alberta, Canada with his wife Niki (Hemphill) Saggione and Dustin Johnson. Winning the USTPA Open Team Penning World Championship with his best buddies, Grady and Justin Underwood, and winning his Last AQHA Open Team Penning World Champion with wife Niki and Nick Borgia. During his career, Louie has competed

in Team Penning and Ranch Sorting in 40 states as well as 2 countries.

Louie and Niki have three beautiful children, Cali (15), Aubrey (13), LJ (11). It was always Louie's dream that his children would grow up in the equine and ranching industry and they didn't disappoint. His children have won National Titles in Team Penning, Ranch Sorting, and Barrel Racing. They can also be found roping and dragging calves to the branding iron in the mountains of Colorado.

There have been many people along the way who have influenced Louie. A few of his biggest influences have been childhood heroes, Joe Graham and his favorite rider, Mike Dewitt, riding his legendary mare "Bell". Most importantly is Louie's dad, Louis Saggione II. Big Lou taught his son the value of working hard and hustling to produce for his family. The hard work and sacrifices Louie's parents made so their family could team pen together is a big part of what makes Louie the man and father he is today.



Louie would like to thank all the sponsors who have supported him throughout the years: Todd Jeys Custom Saddles, Cinch, JW Brooks Custom Hats, Cubit Hay, Big V Feeds, Reata Equine, Rod Patrick Boots, Apex, Wild Gold, and Zestera.

Louie and Niki continue to own and operate LS Performance Horses. They have bought and sold some of the greatest horses in our industry and continue to do so. They have customers from almost every state in US. Their latest adventure has been the introduction of Barrel Horses to their arsenal. Just like with the team penning, their barrel horses are shining bright. They have already had two run down the alley of the Thomas and Mack at the NFR in Las Vegas.

In some instances, being inducted into the Hall of Fame, means that one's career is almost over. But with Niki and their 3 talented children carrying on that winning tradition, Louie says the best is yet to come.





## 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.

