

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact:

Ruth Nicolaus

319-321-2152

## COLLEGE GIFT HORSES

*Phillipsburg rodeo makes annual donation to Ft. Hays State rodeo program*

Phillipsburg, Kan. (May 10, 2021) – Two members of the Ft. Hays (Kan.) State University rodeo team have received sponsorships from the Phillipsburg (Kan.) Rodeo Association.

Brody Davis, Cody, Neb., and Jessi Ross, Falcon, Colo., are recipients of \$500 each from the rodeo association.

Davis, of Cody, Neb., is a junior at FHSU and will graduate in May of 2022 with a degree in ag business.

A tie-down roper and team roper, he competed in the Nebraska High School Rodeo Association, qualifying for the Nebraska State High School Finals Rodeo three of his four high school years.

A 2018 graduate of Cody-Kilgore (Neb.) High School, in high school he was involved in football, basketball, FFA, speech, and was on the honor roll. He has been on the Dean's List in college at FHSU as well.

Another beneficiary of the donation is team member Jessi Ross, Falcon, Colo. A sophomore at FHSU, she competes in the barrel racing, breakaway roping and team roping.

She competed in the Colorado High School Rodeo Association and qualified for state finals twice in both events. She was a member of the National Honor Society and on her school's honor roll.

At FHSU, she is studying agribusiness and hopes to be involved in livestock nutrition or livestock insurance after graduation. As a child on the family ranch, her dad would explain the horse feed rations to her, and she enjoyed it. She also worked for someone in the equine insurance business and liked that.

College rodeo has benefitted both rodeo athletes, they believe.

For Davis, it has enforced responsibility and work ethic. "You have to put the work in," he said. "If you want to succeed, you have to do the time."

College rodeo helped bring Ross out of her shell, she said. “I was super shy coming into college,” she said, “and being in college rodeo has helped me get out of that, grow as a person, and meet a lot of new people.”

Davis is the son of Greg and Angel Davis.

Ross is the daughter of J.D. and Kathy Ross.

Since 1997, the Phillipsburg Rodeo Association has made an annual donation to the FHSU rodeo program. The Phillipsburg Rodeo Association is the organization behind Kansas' Biggest Rodeo, which will be held August 5-7. For more information on the rodeo, visit [KansasBiggestRodeo.com](http://KansasBiggestRodeo.com).

Over \$25,000 has been awarded by the Phillipsburg Rodeo Association to Ft. Hays State rodeo team members.

- ### -

Cutlines:

Jessi Ross, a college rodeo athlete at Ft. Hays State University, competes in the barrel racing, breakaway roping and team roping collegiately. Photo by Suni Olkjer.

Brody Davis, a junior at Ft. Hays State University, is a tie-down roper and team roper and will graduate in a year with an ag business degree. Photo by Dale Hirschman.