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## **HOMETOWN COWGIRL**

*Phillipsburg barrel racer one of more than 500 contestants to compete in Phillipsburg this weekend*

Phillipsburg, Kan. – July 31, 2023 – A familiar face around Phillipsburg and Norton will be competing at Kansas Biggest Rodeo this weekend.

Deb Forell Christy, a veteran barrel racer and resident of Norton, will run on Fri., August 4.

She'll be aboard her nineteen-year-old gelding, Ped, short for Pedro, whose registered name is Streaking Senor Dash.

Ped has won a lot of rodeo money, but he's not her only horse; she has another veteran, a horse named Blitz, who is fifteen and runs at most of the rodeos. She also has two younger ones coming up, ages five and six, but they're not ready for a rodeo like Phillipsburg. Pro rodeos like Phillipsburg can be more distracting to younger horses. "Phillipsburg is a tough rodeo for a young horse," she said. "It's so noisy and there's so much milling around."

Christy is picky about where she runs Ped. He's in semi-retirement, she said, "and he owes me nothing, and I don't want him to get hurt. I only run him at rodeos he really likes, and that's it." Phillipsburg is a rodeo that Ped likes, "because the ground (condition) is very good, and I appreciate that," she said.

Christy trains her own barrel horses and prefers those with the breeding of Dashing With Cash, a famous barrel horse sire.

"They fit me," she said, "their size and their temperament. For the most part, they're very kind horses and very fast." They're also taller, which suits her well, because of her height.

Two months ago, Christy was awarded the Better Barrel Races (BBR) Producer of the Year Award, for producing barrel racing events sanctioned by the BBR.

She and her husband Steve have produced the events for the past fifteen years, mostly in the winter, and mostly held at Kiplinger Arena in McCook, Neb.

As producer, she's responsible for sponsors, sanctioning paperwork, entry and payout paperwork, the condition of the arena, and more.

She credits the award to the good team she's put together, including Steve, who runs the tractor to groom the arena.

She loves producing the barrel racing events.

"For me, it's a way to give back," she said. "Barrel racing has been fabulous to me, over my lifetime. I have met the most wonderful people in the world through barrel racing and rodeo. They're like my family.

"Barrel racing has opened a lot of doors for me."

As a kid, Christy remembers watching the barrel racers at the Phillipsburg rodeo, in their shiny stretch lamé pants, "and I was entranced," she said. "I wanted to be a barrel racer. That's all I ever wanted to be."

Her dad, Bud Forell, competed in the pros in the bareback riding, steer wrestling and tie-down roping in Phillipsburg and other rodeos. She ran at Phillipsburg in her teens, as a local cowgirl (not having to have a Women's Pro Rodeo Association membership.) She now holds a Gold Card membership in the WPRA.

Christy is one of 110 barrel racers who will compete in Phillipsburg.

A total of 513 contestants are entered, with eight of the 2022 world champions included (Stetson Wright, world champion bull rider and all-around; Jess Pope, bareback rider; Tyler Waguespack, steer wrestler; Caleb Smidt, tie-down roper; Kaleb Driggers and Junior Nogueira, team ropers; and Jordon Briggs, barrel racer.)

The rodeo is August 3-4-5, with shows beginning at 8 pm nightly.

Tickets range in price from \$17-\$20 and are available online at [KansasBiggestRodeo.com](http://KansasBiggestRodeo.com) and at Garrett Insurance (685 Third Street, Phillipsburg.)

Fans are reminded to purchase ONLY from the RodeoTicket.com site; scalpers are selling tickets on third party websites for more than face value.

For more information, visit the website at [KansasBiggestRodeo.com](http://KansasBiggestRodeo.com) or call 785.543.2448.

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Cutline:

Deb Christy rounds the barrels at a Nebraska State Rodeo Association rodeo. The Norton cowgirl will compete at the Phillipsburg rodeo this weekend. Photo courtesy Chuck Borchert.