

Roy Cooper

Born: November 13, 1955, in Hobbs, NM.

High School: Hobbs High School

College: Cisco Junior College

Southeastern Oklahoma State University – degree in journalism.

Roy is the son of Dale “Tuffy” and Betty Cooper. His parents named him after Roy Lewis, a famous roper in the 1930’s and 1940’s. His parents met at the Cameron College rodeo. Tuff was the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association calf roping in 1950.

His grandmother remembers Roy carrying a rope with a loop at the age of two. In 1972, Grandmother, Johnnie Ferguson of Cache, Oklahoma predicted saying “Roy Cooper is going to be the world champions calf roper someday.

He was raised on the Cooper Ranch near Monument, which is fifteen miles southwest of Hobb, New Mexico. Roy was severely afflicted with asthma as a child, which gave little promise of becoming a professional roper.

He was a pro rodeo cowboy that competed in the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association since 1976. For his skills in calf roping, he acquired the nickname of “Super Looper.’ The Pro Rodeo Hall of Fame calls Roy “one of the most dominant ropers in the history of the sport. He was noted for his speed and quick hands, in addition to his rope-tossing ability.

Youth & High School Accomplishments

- At the age of eleven won his first All-Around Championships in the Junior Rodeo Association and would win 6 more all-around championships until age 19.
- Won a national high school rodeo championship.

College Accomplishments

- 1975 Won the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association calf roping championship.
- Led Southeastern Oklahoma State University to two national collegiate rodeo championships.

Professional Accomplishments

- During his pro rodeo career, he won the All-Around Cowboy Championship in 1983
- Claimed seven individual discipline championships, including six tie-down roping titles.
- Career includes a record 32 National Finals Rodeo qualifications: 19 qualifications in Calf Roping and 13 in Steer Roping. Cooper owns eight National Finals Rodeo arena records and holds one of the fastest average times in history at the Steer Roping Finals.
- 1976, Cooper won the organization’s tie down roping championship and won the event at the National Finals Rodeo.

- Broke the record for the most prize money won by a rookie cowboy and earned the PRCA's Rookie of the Year award. His nickname was "Super Looper" for his roping abilities.
- 1978 Cheyenne Frontier Days rodeo, he led all cowboys in prize money won, and his calf-roping winnings were the largest recorded in any non-National Finals Rodeo event at the time.
- 1983, Cooper won the All-Around Cowboy championship, steer wrestling and calf roping season championship. This made him the first PRCA competitor since 1958 to win three disciplines season championships and the fourth cowboy in PRCA history.
- Cooper broke the record for yearly prize winnings with \$153,390.84 in earnings and claimed the National Finals Rodeo calf roping title at the end of the season. In calf roping, he set a season record in earnings with \$122,455 for the year.
- By September 1990 was the PRCA's all-time leading money winner with career earnings of more than \$1.1 million.
- At a 2000 rodeo in Lovington, New Mexico, he surpassed \$2 million in earnings; Cooper was the first to reach this mark in rodeo.
- As of 2011, Cooper remained a part-time competitor in rodeo events.

Honors

- 1979 Inducted into the Pro Rodeo Hall of Fame. He was part of the Hall's inaugural class of enshrines in the category of Tie-Down Roping.
- 1983 Inducted into the Western Heritage Museum & Lea County Cowboy Hall of Fame
- 1983 Inducted into the Rodeo Hall of Fame of the National Cowboy Hall of Fame.
- 2004 Inducted Cheyenne Frontier days Hall of Fame
- 2008 Inducted into the Texas Rodeo Hall of Fame
- 2009 Inducted Lea County (NM) Sports Hall of Fame
- 2010 Inducted Texas Rodeo Cowboy Hall of Fame
- 2010 Pendleton Round-Up and Happy Canyon Hall of Fame
- 2014 Inducted into the Oklahoma Sports Hall of Fame

Community

- 1978-1979 National Christmas Seal Ambassador for American Lung Cancer Association.
- Cooper was part of the Hall's inaugural class of enshrines Cooper and other members of his family have founded the Cooper Rodeo Foundation, which aids children and young adults in rodeo.

Family

- There is no bigger family legacy in tie-down roping than that of the Coopers starting with eight-time world champion Roy Cooper who followed in the footsteps of his father Tuffy Cooper.

In December 2010, Clint, Clif and Tuf Cooper became the first trio of brothers to qualify for the Wrangler National Finals Rodeo — the cowboy Super Bowl — in tie-down roping.

“That's a Triple Crown for me,” Roy Cooper, 55, said. “I've dreamed about it, and it happened. I've taught my three boys to rope, and they're doing very well.

- Children: Clint, Clif and Tuf
 - Clint is Roy's oldest son and the first to venture into the extremely competitive sport of tie-down roping. He was a four-time National Finals Rodeo qualifier, Calgary, and Cheyenne Rodeo champion.
 - Tuf is a three-time World Champion Tie-Down Roper, has competed professionally since 2007. In 2013, he became the youngest cowboy millionaire in professional rodeo history at the age of twenty-three. In 2017, he took center stage of the cowboy sport, winning the most prestigious of all professional rodeo titles as the World Champion All-Around Cowboy.
 - Clif, is also a professional Tie-Down Roper, has competed professionally since 2008. He came out of retirement to be part of the Elite Rodeo Athletes organization.
- Sister, Betty Gayle was a champion herself in cowgirl events and in the National Cowgirl Hall of Fame.
- Brother Clay was a professional rodeo cowboy.
- Cousin, Jimmie was a professional rodeo hall of fame cowboy.