

HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE



CHARMAYNE JAMES-GARRITANO



BARREL RACING



Charmayne James-Garritano is by far the most successful barrel racing and best-known cowgirl of all time. Her talent, unbridled passion for the sport and 'never quit' attitude pushed her forward and into the hearts and minds of fans all over the world. Throughout her career, Charmayne's devotion to her horses was evident, training the legendary horse, Scamper and advocating for putting horses first. This determined attitude paired with her God-given abilities, fighting spirit and tough resolve led her to 11-Time World Champion Barrel Racing titles including, with her horse Scamper, setting an unprecedented record by winning the World Championship Barrel Racing title ten consecutive years. Her other career highlight was winning the 11th World Championship on a different horse that she had trained, Cruiser. At the time Charmayne left the rodeo scene, she was the all-time barrel racer in earnings with 1, \$1,842,506 lifetime earnings.

In early 1984, Charmayne was 13 and struggling to make her way on the pro rodeo circuit. Her savings were low and big paydays eluded her. At a family meeting in Clayton, her parents, Charlie and Gloria, had already set the bar high, telling her she would have to keep her grades up and she would "have to pay her own way" if she wanted to pursue a professional career in rodeo. Charmayne's rookie 1984 season was nothing short of sensational. She consistently finished in the money all year and went on to take both the Women's Professional Rodeo Association and National Finals Rodeo championship buckles. She was subsequently named the WPRA's Rookie of the Year. The San Antonio Stock Show & Rodeo was the turning point. She arrived at the Joe Freeman Coliseum to calls from some girls to "go home." At previous rodeos she had felt intimidated, but that night she was determined to show the world how good she and her horse were. Scamper ran as if he had a time clock ticking in his head. They won their first pro race. A few weeks later they won the Barrel Racing Championship at the largest season pro rodeo, the Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo. Later that year she celebrated her 14th birthday by winning the Reno Rodeo Barrel Racing Championship.

In 1985, one of the most amazing runs came during the 1985 National Finals Rodeo. They came down the alley to the arena, Scamper's bridle broke. Charmayne was able to ride the pattern and won the round. In the 1986 NFR, the pair won money in all ten rounds at the NFR, a feat only three other riders have accomplished. In 1987, she was the leading money winner in all of rodeo, the first woman to ever wear the coveted "Number 1" in a National Finals Rodeo. In 1990 her professional rodeo arena winnings surpassed \$1,000,000, earning her the moniker "Million Dollar Cowgirl".