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The Ride

By Makyla Jones

I don't know what it's like to win the lottery, but I know what it feels like to win a pickup truck. My family and I go to horse shows all over the states and Canada Penning and Sorting. It's a team sport, and because of that, we have friends all over the U.S. We won a lot of money, but the most exciting thing my family has ever won was a truck. Getting all the rides ready and being mentally and physically prepared for what happens with your teams will get you what you want to achieve.

It was a very frigid morning where you could breathe out and see your breath as I walked outside to see what my mother was doing. She was at the stalls feeding our horses and making sure their blankets were secure to keep them warm.

"Have you packed your bag yet for the show or am I going to have to pack it like I pack your father's, too?"

"Yes. No need for that," I replied. My mom told me she had all the feed and hay in the trailer already and that if we could think of anything to help her get ready for the miserable, cold, and anxiety-filled 20-hour drive that it would be helpful. I got all the buckets from the barn and made sure we had all our leather saddles and bridles.

"We leave in an hour, Makyla," yelled my dad from the house. I hurried in and grabbed my luggage, boots, and spurs, and ran them back down to the five horse slant trailer. As we pull out of our long, gravel driveway, dad leaned over and said, "Did you get the cold beer packed?"

"Yep. In the ice chest. Didn't think we'd need ice for this trip though," she laughed. I think it's the fastest we ever gotten ready for a show, being right after Christmas and bringing on a new year with the fact that we only were going to Las Vegas, Nevada, for 12 rides was exciting and scary.

As we arrived at South Point in Vegas, we unloaded the horses and we saw some of our friends that we have been riding with since we started in 2004. Jim Hayes chuckled as he said, "You think we can win this one this year?" My mother looked at him with a snide look on her face and replied, "I think that truck is coming home with me this year."

Fast forwarding to the big day, it's finals time in the Sorting and Penning world. My mom has six outstanding rides coming back. Three of them in Penning and three in Sorting. "We have to be precise, Michael. We can't screw this up," my mother said to my father as they went into the Sorting pen. You always have to pick your rider that will complement to get you to the top of the bracket so you can take home the biggest money. They did it. They pulled a ten header and were in first place.

"I have one more ride. I won't hold back, but it'll put us all in the big money still." My father spoke in a low tone to my mother.

"Don't mess up. It'll take all our winnings to get us outta here!" As the day came to an end, they announcers told the high point winner of the entire rodeo. They base off point you got from each of your rides. A long, dreadful moment of silence followed. We feared that my mom wouldn't get it. Then they announced her name: "Sumer Jones, you are a high point winner and the new owner of 2007 Ford

"Whoa, I wasn't ready for that," my mom replied after the announcement. We were all so happy and jumping around. Through the show though, you had to be mentally and physically prepared for everything. We had long, dragged out nights, followed by early mornings to go feed our five horses.

The ride that made my mom win a truck will be one of the greatest show moments my family will ever have. We have also won an abundant amount of belt buckles and a good ten saddles. Through the preparation, and the sleepless, long nights, we made it. My mom is probably the best rider in our family. Ever since my mom won that truck, she has made our rides for us ever since, and it has been a great seven years of riding!