Cort Scheer

Saddle Bronc Rider

The youngest son of a Nebraska rancher and a schoolteacher, Cort Scheer was born to ride.

He grew up in the saddle, helping his parents, Kevin and Pam, on their ranch, and watching his dad compete in the rodeo at the local county fair.

His first rodeo experiences were at a junior rodeo during Fourth of July celebrations. According to his mom, Cort ran barrels on a stick horse and caught chickens while his siblings, Clete and Kema, competed in events for older kids.

"Cort walked around with a rope as long as most people can remember...the funny thing is, his brother is the one that really loves roping," said Pam.

From an early age, his family knew Cort would forge his own path. His grandfather called him a "happy lad" and Pam said Cort was often up way too early in the morning with a big smile on face, ready to take on the day.

He was also a bit of a daredevil.

"When he was five, he fell from a branch and suffered a compound fracture. He held his arm, crawled through a barbed wire fence, and told his friend's mom (where he was playing), without tears, that he thought he had broken his arm," Pam said. She said Cort's brother once told her, "Mom, Cort just isn't smart enough to know better than to do some things!"

Throughout his childhood, he was determined, conscientious, and always kind-hearted — characteristics that are still evident today.

Cort knew from an early age, he wanted to compete in rodeo. His mom was in the stands watching when he rode his first bronc in high school.



"Kevin wasn't with us when he rode, and I did not get the whole ride taped as the horse went down and Cort was underneath it right in front of me. Fortunately, it had rained and poured so there was plenty of cushion and he came out of it unscathed." Pam said. "When you know it is something they are destined to do, you want to support them."

Support is something Cort has always been able to count on from his family, especially his mother.

"When I high school rodeoed, it was hard for dad to get away from the ranch to come watch so mom hauled us most of the time," Cort said. "She was a pretty good traveling partner. We had a lot of laughs and good times."

His family knew Cort was destined to compete professionally. In high school, people would comment on his riding.

"I did love to watch him. A good bronc ride is beautiful," Pam said. "It was probably when Kevin told me he knew Cort had the ability that I truly believed it. He started talking about going pro early in college, and I asked him to get his bachelor's degree first. He never really gave me a definite answer, but he never talked of quitting though he did everything to be ready when he had the papers. He is my one child that did not walk at his college graduation, and only made it to the last half of his high school graduation because he had to ride his bronc at the rodeo first."

After high school, Cort started college at Garden City Community College then transferred to Oklahoma Panhandle State University in Goodwell, Okla. He is a four-time qualifier for the College National Finals Rodeo. In the midst of his college rodeo career, Cort joined the PRCA. It took him a few years to get to the coveted top 15 in the world standings, which he did in 2010. He made his fifth qualification in 2015.

Cort said some of the best things about his career are, "the times with your friends, places you see, and the people you have the opportunity to meet. I've had unforgettable times, seen breath-taking views, and created lifelong relationships with people all over I wouldn't have ever met without rodeo."



Cort and Pam Scheer on their way to a high school rodeo.

When Cort is able to spend time at the ranch, he likes to be out working.

"Anytime I can go out and work with him is special," Pam explained. "We just like to visit. He has shown me how to hit a golf ball, so we have that for a new project."

Sometimes Cort brings along his traveling buddies. According to Pam, they are helpful and have great manners. "They make a bed better than most girls that stay here," Pam laughs. "Experiencing the camaraderie of the rodeo world is so heartwarming. The competitors, their families, stock contractors and committees truly know the meaning of family."

Family factors into Cort's success. "There are no words to explain how much my family's support means to me," he said. "No matter if I'm riding good or not, they are always there supporting me and helping me reach my goals."

Pam said one of the best things about being Cort's mom is seeing his loving spirit. "He is also very fun loving. We have a lot of laughs together."

Although Cort doesn't typically help with the cooking when he's home, he does pitch in to do dishes. According to Pam, she tries to make all of Cort's favorites when he's home, including Hamburger Gravy. (Recipe below).

As for his future beyond the rodeo, Pam said she's sure Cort will pursue something in the agriculture sector.

"Owning cows and having my own ranch has always been a huge goal of mine," Cort said. He said his family gave him a great start in life and he hopes to do the same thing for his own family someday.