Tryan and Jones Takes $176,000 Payout at 26th GSRTC

By Kent Lynch - Daily Times

www.dailytimes.com

Like the rest of the competitors at the 26th Annual George Strait Team Roping Classic, Travis Tryan went to win. When the dust settled following Saturday’s final round, I’m quite sure Tryan had won more than he expected. The Montana-turned-Texas cowboy cleaned up in the finals of the 2008 GSTRC by claiming both first and second place and hauling $123,285 in cash, a 2008 Chevy truck, Bruton trailer, Twister saddle and Gist buckle out of the San Antonio Rose Palace arena.

Tryan entered the final round on Saturday in the top two positions. His second high call was with past GSTRC champ Kory Koontz, while he and rodeo partner Michael Jones were sitting in the driver’s seat (so to speak), ada high call position.

With another past champion, Kirt Jones, along with partner Jake Stanley, leading the roping, Tryan and Koontz needed a 7.32 to take the lead. They wowed the crowd with a blazing 5.92 to take command of the roping with only one team left. That team was Tryan and Jones.

A 6.16 is what they needed for the win. That doesn’t sound that difficult with the legendary set-up of the GSTRC, where the arena record is a 3.31, but when roping for that kind of money, nothing is easy. Tryan and Jones, who had already turned in one of the day’s fastest times (a 4.56 in round 1), capped the day with a 5.59 for a 15.63 on three head. Their reward was phenomenal; $176,120 in cash, Chevy trucks, Bruton trailers and Gist buckles.

“It was very nerve racing,” admitted Tryan. “I knew another guy was relying on me. I’m thrilled to have the first and second positions.”

Tryan, who calls Chico, Texas home, rode his famous PRCA/AQHA Head Horse of the Year, Walt, winning more in one day than average professional team ropers win on the circuit in a year. “My horse Walt is the greatest horse that has ever live,” said Tryan.

Jones, of Stephenville, Texas, was equally thrilled with the win. “It is definitely a life changing experience to win the GSTRC,” said Jones. “With nearly 500 teams entering, this chance just doesn’t come along every day.”

Continued on following page…
Tryan and Jones Takes $176,000 Payout at 26th GSRTC (continued)

Jones had two of the fastest times of the day. Along with his and Tryan’s first round win, he and the other Tryan, Travis’ brother Clay had a 4.28 in round two. Kaleb Driggers and Adam Phyler turned in a 4.21 in round three.

The one other roper to finish first and second at the GSTRC is Speed Williams, who accomplished his feat in 2006. The second place win by Tryan and Koontz earned them $70,450 and a pair of Twister saddles. Koontz also claimed the last money hole with David Key, earning another $8,805. Stanley and Jones took third for $48,430, while David Motes and Dennis Gatz, finished in the fourth position for $44,030.

Over 480 teams paid the $1,000 entry fee to compete in this year’s event. This type of entry fee, along with the support of a long list of sponsors, made the astounding payoff possible. All of those team squared off in Friday’s preliminary rounds, where the top 50 teams on two head advance to Saturday’s non-progressive three header.

The GSTRC is famous for being fast and this year was no different. The cut-off for making the finals was a blistering 11.62 on two. The fastest qualifying time from Friday came from Camish Jennings and Brandon Bates. The duo won $15,540 for the fastest time of the first round, a 4.36, then added a 5.14 to that in the second round for a total of 9.50 on two.

Southern cowboys Keven Daniel and Brad Culpepper were the second fastest in Friday’s first round with a 4.38, while Jake Barnes and Cory Petska finished third with a 4.52.

Veteran J.D. Yates and partner Jory Levy qualified in the 50th position with the 11.62 on Friday, but surprisingly absent were many of the other team roping mainstays. Names like Allen Bach, Speed Williams, Rich Skelton and Tee Woolman were replaced with the likes of Spencer Mitchell, Dakota Kirchenschlager, Derrick Begay and Russell Cordoza. It seems the youngsters take this roping thing pretty seriously.

From its humble South Texas beginnings in 1983, the George Strait Team Roping Classic has grown into one of the most elite roping events in the world. Strait, the “King of Country Music,” has earned the title, “King of Team Roping,” as his event has eclipsed most others with its $678,000, two-day payout. This incredible amount includes $518,000 in cash, plus an additional $160,000 in prizes.

Fans from all over the world take their vacations and head to San Antonio for the GSTRC. Not all are necessarily team roping fans, but fans of Strait and his music. Tickets are sold online through Strait’s website and normally are sold out within days of their fall release. Friday’s action kicks off in front of a packed house, with fans hoping to catch a glimpse of the singer, but with almost 500 teams, only the die-hard roping fans remain after about mid-afternoon. Sometimes the South Texas humidity takes its toll on the fair-weather fans, but Saturday’s action takes place in front of full stands. With general seating, if you get up for a break, you had better have someone to save your seat.

In addition to the hard work and dedication of the Strait family and their staff, the roping couldn’t take place without the support of sponsors like: Cavender Chevrolet, Bruton Trailers, Tractor Supply Company, Capital Farm Credit, H.E.B., Bill Miller Bar-B-Q, Brake Check, Justin Boots, Classic Ropes, Cactus Ropes, Wrangler, Resistol, Wayne Wright Injury Lawyers, Frost Bank, Priefert, Gloria and Fully Clingman, Hill Country Tractors, Browning and Bill Norton.

Date: March 14-15, 2008
Location: Boerne, Texas

26th Annual GSTRC. Preliminary. 1st go: Camish Jennings/Brandon Bates, 4.36, $15,540. 2nd: Keven Daniel/Brad Culpepper, 4.38, $9,324. 3rd: Jake Barnes/Cory Petska, 4.52, $6,216. Finals. 1st go: Travis Tryan/Kory Koontz, 4.56. 2nd go: Clay Tryan/Michael Jones, 4.28. 3rd go: Kaleb Driggers/Adam Phyler, 4.21.

Average. 1st: Travis Tryan/Michael Jones, 15.63, $176,120, trucks, trailers, buckles. 2nd: Travis Tryan/Kory Koontz, 16.20, $70,450, saddles. 3rd: Jake Stanley/Kirt Jones, 17.61, $48,430. 4th: David Motes/Dennis Gatz, 17.65, $44,030. 5th: Jimmy Tanner/Manny Cunde, 17.86, $35,230. 6th: Charley Crawford/Travis Graves, 18.47, $26,420. 7th: Jake Cooper/Jimmie Cooper, 20.28, $22,020. 8th: David Key/Kory Koontz, 21.21,
Fan Collectable Column

- Texas Monthly. April, 2008 issue. Article on p. 223. George Strait, the Brand New Album “Troubadour.” Dallas, TX.
- STAR Tribune. 4/1/08. Source section. P. E6 Review of George Strait’s CD “Troubadour.” Minneapolis, MN.
- San Antonio Express News. 4/2/08. CD Review “Troubadour” with photo, p. 4G. San Antonio, TX.
- Midland Daily News. 4/2/08. P. A8 review on new ed. Midland, MI.
- The Lawton Constitution. 4/2/08. P. 1 Front cover photo, p. 27 Weekend Arts and Entertainment The List Section - Ticket Sales. Baltimore, MD.
- World Herald. (Sunday Edition) 4/6/08. Entertainment - Travel/Art Section p. 3E “Strait bucks ‘predictable’ label.” Omaha, NE.
- The Wichita Eagle. 4/6/08 (Sunday Edition) p. 3E photo w/story. Wichita, KS.
- The Sun. 4/7/08. Section C p. 1 and p. 4 w/photo. Critics Corner. Baltimore, MD.
- Star Tribune. 4/11/08. Scene Section p. F7 “Twin Cities Top 20.” Minneapolis, MN.
- People. 4/14/08. P. 42 Music Section “George Strait - Troubadour” review w/photo.
- Miami Herald/Weekend. 4/18/08. Photo w/Top 5 Hits. Miami, FL.
- St Cloud Times. 4/3/08. P. 7 photo w/CD review. St. Cloud, MN.
- S Kagit Valley Herald. 4/17/08. P. 10 Section D photo w/story on New CD “Troubadour.” Mt. Vernon, WA.
- Chicago Tribune. 4/20/08. Section 7 p. 4 Arts & Entertainment. Photo w/story CD “Troubadour.” Chicago, IL.
- The Examiner. Baltimore. 4/10/08. P. 15 photo w/story “George is King, No Buts About It.” Baltimore, MD.
- Mpls. Star Tribune. 4/13/08. USA Weekend. P. 8 mentioned in story. Andover, MN.
- Country Weekly. 4/21/08. Front cover photo, p. 9 photo of George and Norma Strait w/personal invitation to the GSTRC. Small photo of GS Roping, p. 10 mentioned in content page. pp. 36-42 “Come Home With The King” story. Full of great photos, p. 51 mentioned, p. 64 mentioned, p. 68 Singles and LP, p. 71 Crossword Puzzle.
- Western Basics/Fort Western Catalog. Spring 2008. P. 43 Justin Boots ad, p. 71 George Strait Collection full page ad (Hats - Resistol and Wrangler Jeans).
- Calgary Sun. 4/1/08. Showbiz Section. Photo w/“Troubadour” review. Calgary, AB, Canada.
- Parsons Sun. 4/24/08. P. 1 Music section - Charts #1 “I Saw God Today.” Parsons, KS.
- The Tennessean. 4/22/08. P. 26 mentioned in “Morsels Section.” Nashville, TN.

The following George Strait Fan Club Members submitted to the Collectable Column…

And We Thank You!

As a GSFC member, you can join in and earn Strait Cash, receive your Strait Talk 1st Class and a Collector’s Card. This is all you need to do - collect magazine or newspaper articles, photos or reviews - send them in and if we use them, your name is added to the list. It’s easy. Remember to enclose the article, where it came from, date, page #, issue and your name and address. Thank You!!!

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III

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     (Includes photo magnet, sticker, fact sheet, discography, bio, 5 x 7 photo of George, Discography of George's Incredible Career, Behind the Scenes Fact Sheet & Biography. All Fan Club Documents are emailed immediately) CANADA $25 __________
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III

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TROUBADOUR CD WORD SEARCH PUZZLE

Find the title songs from the new CD, “Troubadour.” Song titles can be found up, down, across, backwards and diagonally. Have fun and good luck!

TROUBADOUR

HOUSE OF CASH

IF HEARTACHES WERE HORSES

HOUSE WITH NO DOORS

IT WAS ME

BROTHERS OF THE HIGHWAY

RIVER OF LOVE

GIVE ME MORE TIME

WHEN YOU’RE IN LOVE

MAKE HER FALL IN LOVE

WITH ME SONG

HOUSE WITH NO DOORS

IF HEARTACHES WERE HORSES

WEST TEXAS TOWN

HOUSE OF CASH

Please Print

Name: ____________________________________________

Address: __________________________________________

City: ____________________________________________ State:____________________ Zip:____________________

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Jacket Size: ______________________________________

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* All entries must be received by August 15, 2008. One Entry Only!!!
George presents Camish Jennings with his buckle for the fastest time on the first day.

Walker Strait, John Silva, Kara Strait Silva with daughters Niessa & Kailey, Michael Jones, Denise Strait, Trey Strait, Tamara Shipman, Bubba Strait, Norma Strait, George Strait, Travis Tryan with wife and daughter.

Travis Tryan (with wife & daughter) and Michael Jones receive their U.S. Smokeless Tobacco roping bags from Rusty Bradberry (R).

Tryan and Jones receive their Championship Strait Xtreme Bruton trailers from George Strait and Kerry Bruton (R).

GSTRC Champions receive their Wrangler jackets from Karl Stressman (L) and Robert Lever (R).
George Strait Fan Club Members Enjoy The 2008 GSTRC
George Strait address the crowd before Saturday’s final go-round

Preiferts

“Texas Thunder”
George Strait thanks all the GSTRC Sponsors

George welcomes the crowd

Bubba Strait heads a steer during the opening day

Travis Tryan and Michael Jones celebrate their championship

George Strait at the 2008 GSTRC
Welcome to the summer issue of Strait Talk. Time is moving right along, as I feel like it was just yesterday that I was wishing you “Happy Holidays.” With George’s successful 2008 tour complete, his 26th Annual GSTRC wrapped up, his 37th CD “Troubadour” a huge hit and his 56th #1 single “I Saw God Today,” he and his family deserve a rest.

It was nice to visit with so many of you during the first part of the year as we traveled to several different shows. It’s always very exciting to listen and watch the shows. I can’t wait to see what 2009 brings. We are hearing some rumors that there may be some very different places at different times in the mix for next year, but nothing specific so far. We will let you know as soon as anything is confirmed. Continue to check the tour calendar at www.george-strait.com.

George was up for three awards at the ACM Awards show in Las Vegas on May 18th, but did not win. He did look great performing his 56th #1 hit “I Saw God Today” and then doing his duet with Kenny Chesney, “Shift Work.”

The 26th Annual GSTRC was so much fun this year. I really got to visit with many new fans that I had never seen before that had traveled from as far away as Canada. It was a treat for me. Our GSTRC girls had their regular seats each day with their cameras aimed and ready for any George appearance. It was nice to catch up on all the new and old news. It is a great homecoming and I am eagerly looking forward to next year.

During the roping, George’s new CD was brought up on many occasions and everyone was anxious to hear it. It has proved to be worth the wait with 12 sensational songs. It is a huge hit. For your information, “I Saw God Today” was the highest debuting single of George’s long and successful career. The next single from the CD will be the title track “Troubadour.”

Thank you for all the wonderful letters and comments on the single and CD. We would also like to thank the Strait Shooters for the wonderful photos in this issue of Strait Talk. They are Terry Colonge, Dave Jennings, Darci O’Brien and Kent Lynch. We look forward to seeing all of you again next year.

Have you moved? Do we have your new address, email address and phone number on our system? Please call us Monday - Friday from 8:30 to 3:00 PM Central time and give us your updated information or email it to us at customerservice@georgray-straitfans.com. The post office does not forward bulk rate newsletters. If you would like to renew your memberships or place an order please do so by phone at 615-824-7176 or on the George Strait website at www.georgray-strait.com or mail in your order to the fan club office at P.O. Box 2119, Hendersonville, TN 37077. I know it is a little early, but the holidays will be approaching before you know it and we will be adding new merchandise on a regular basis. The Christmas sweatshirts were a complete sellout last year and many fans were caught empty handed. We will feature the new design in the September issue of Strait Talk.

Congrats to JoAnn Bishop of Lawton, OK. She submitted a newspaper review for this issue of Strait Talk. Anyone can be a winner. Read all about it in the fan collectable column section. JoAnn...your prize is on its way.

We would like to say a big “Thank You” for the birthday cards, letters and gifts for George and Bubba. They have been forwarded to them and are greatly appreciated. That is it for now. Till we meet again, have a safe and wonderful summer. When you are relaxing by the pool or driving down the road, don’t forget to drop in George’s “Troubadour” CD and relax. We would also like to extend our best wishes to all of our armed forces men and women stationed around the globe protecting our freedom. We will continue to pray for their safe return as well as for their families who wait for them.

For all of us we hope you have a safe and enjoyable summer.

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OR ORDER ONLINE AT www.georgray-strait.com
George Strait has completed his tour for 2008. Please check the George Strait website at www.georgestrait.com for any further information. You may also check Strait Line by calling 615-824-7176 and pressing 2.