

Shaylea Rae Tatsey



Age: 18

Marital Status: Single

Family/Children: Tenniell M. Tatsey (mom)
Chris LaMere (stepdad)

Siblings: 2 Sisters Katelyn Lorriane (7)
Kashlyn Kris (2).

Grandparents: My grandparents are Peter "Rusty" Tatsey and Lea "Lorrie" Davis. My great grandmothers are June Bullshoe and Cynthia Kipp.

Hometown: Badger Creek, MT

Native American Heritage: Blackfeet -- Pikuni

Horses: Taz (started me on the barrels)
Cody (retired barrel horse)
Classic (barrel and goat tying prospect)
Whiskey (current breakaway horse)
Meme, Princess, and Dora (Shetland ponies)

Pets that you own: Sage, she is a hybrid wolf pup.

Rodeo Events Worked: Barrel Racing, Breakaway Roping, Team Roping, Pole Bending, Goat Tying, and Cow Riding.

Please comment on your 2012 IIFR experience: I believe this experience was amazing. I had the pleasure not only to present myself in the grand entry but I also walked around and interacted with the contestants, chute help, rodeo committee, contractors, judges, and also the fans. I had a great weekend and met tons of wonderful people.

Association member of: Bear Paw Indian Rodeo Association (BPIRA), United Indian Rodeo Association (UIRA), Montana High School Rodeo Association (MHSRA) National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association (NIRA), Wrangler Team Roping (WTRC)

Rodeo Accomplishments: I have been blessed with many prizes in the rodeo arena thanks to my horses; there are so many rodeos to name and buckles I have received. INFR Qualifier (3x), IIFR Qualifier (2x), District 3 Champion Breakaway Roper, Back-To-Back Champion Cow Rider, 2nd place in Ladies Ultimate Warrior Race, Bear Paw Youth Rodeo Barrel Racing Champion, Bear Paw Indian Rodeo Association All Around and Barrel Racing Champion, my latest career high Miss IIFR 2012-2013 J

When did you start an interest in rodeo? I told my baby sister that I was born with my boots on. I have always wanted to be a cowgirl. Since the day I was born I received many encouragements to push me to be the best. Each year I got better and better because everyone pushed me harder. I wanted to the best at all I could do. Rodeo was my passion. Rodeo was everything to me. I always had a never ending smile on my face when it came to Rodeo. Til this day I thank all those that helped me to where I am today. Without their help I would have never had an interest in Rodeo.

What other sports other than rodeo do you enjoy? Varsity Basketball, Varsity Cross Country, Varsity Track. I love competition, it's what makes all sports and rodeo exciting!

What is the funniest thing that you have seen or experienced at a rodeo? I don't know if it was funny or just pure luck, but at the Flathead Tour Rodeo in Polson, MT. some cowboy standing in the roping box threw a nerf football into the middle of the arena and made it in the barrel. I guess it was amusing because no one could make it from right out front t in the grandstands.

What advice would you give to Indian youth about rodeo or anything in general? Your mind, soul and heart have to be fully involved and ready to participate in whatever it is you want to do. If you believe you can do it, you'll achieve it. Always be positive about trying new things and come in with an open mind. Never Never, give up!

What advice would you give to Indian youth who wanted to participate in rodeo but didn't have the resources or support to get involved? I would take them to one of the kids rodeo associations or point them in the right help. Here in Montana they have many clubs that are going, some of these clubs even have grants to help kids who want to rodeo, but don't have their own resources, to rodeo. I believe I can help them just by guiding them in the right direction or giving them an encouraging push to just try and ask people. Many contestants who are veterans in rodeo have been in these kids shoes before they started. I know of some good folks who are willing to break down and help a kid with a rope or maybe a horse for the event.

Are there any songs that inspire or pump you up before you ride or rope? I have so many, I have a playlist on my ipod that has many songs with loud beats and energizing music. My favorite song to be pumped up to his "mo money, mo problems". I think I get pumped by this because I want MO MONEY!! (but no problems)

What would you like to see more of at Indian rodeos? At Indian Rodeos, I would just like to see more happening. A variety is always great. I also believe I would like to see a larger crowd and more contestants every year. More people is going to give the rodeo a larger purse and harder competition.

What are/is your favorite western movie(s)? 8 second of course! Urban Cowboy, Pure Country, The Cowboys, Flicka, 3:10 to Yuma.

What is your favorite music? Country. I love it! I also like oldies music, rock, and the new stuff that comes out everyday.

What was your most memorable ride or run? Every rodeo run was memorable. My favorite was during the MHSRA Districts. 2 head rodeo and I was entered in each event-running for the All Around. Every event we did we went out with more fire on the final day. My breakaway run I had to beat a 3.2 and I told myself I'm going to be a 3 flat... here I ended up being a 3 flat. I Ended up being 12 pts short of the All Around saddle due to my horse touching the goat, but I ended up winning the breakaway and placing in the other events. So I was content going home with a new buckle. Another one that I always think about is the first time I rode a cow, I was so scared. I basically was tied in and hung on for my life. I ended up stickin my cow and probably had the worst get off but I walked back to the chute with a 80 point ride!!

Who is your all time hero? Hands down my all time favorite cowboy and hero: My Papa Rusty!

What Indian cowboy or cowgirl has influenced you to rodeo? My grandpa, he has been there since day 1. He let me use his rope horses to compete in every rodeo. From tiny tots to college rodeo..im still using Papas horse and Im so thankful for the faith he has in me to go out every rodeo and do my best. There is also my mom, she has pushed me, trained me, paid for me, put up with me, and of course loved me. Without her throughtout all these years I would have never been at my BEST. I would have never made it to where I am today.

Would you like to thank sponsors and/or anyone for your success in rodeo? Yes, my parents for giving me life, all my family for supporting me, and my friends for encouraging me. I would personally like to thank my horses, without their help I wouldn't be able to rodeo. Than also My Mom, Papa, Grandma, Katelyn, Kashlyn, Chris, Darcy, Hardee and Alonzo Skunkcap. Cis, Robert, Royce and Rickson. Mike, Jonnalea, Prestin and Ry Ry. Both my great grandmothers June and Cyn. All my aunties, uncles and cousins. My best friend Katie Bell and her family. Koty and Ron Brugh (WARPONY), Wade and Clintanna, Shanna Running Crane for being so proud of me and sharing it on her facebook page and everyone else I may have forgotten. Thanks for helping me get to where I am today. All your encouragement and support helped me make my dreams come true.