

# KB Horse Camp rodeo team participate with pro rider

HAHIRA — Loading up and hauling her rodeo horses and rodeo team to the annual Horse Fair at the Perry Fairgrounds was a very eventful experience for Kim McGhee, owner/trainer of KB Horse Camp, and her rodeo team.

McGhee traveled with her rodeo team, along with a few parents, to Perry Jan. 15-16 to see Charmayne James, an 11-time world champion barrel racer. James was the first million-dollar cowgirl, making her the top earner in professional barrel racing. She has won more than two million dollars during her career as a cowgirl.

During the weekend horse fair, James held two sessions in the arena focusing on her winning techniques for barrel racing. Several of McGhee's rodeo girls sent in DVD's of their barrel racing skills along with many other DVD's that were sent from other riders throughout Georgia and Florida. Having been previewed personally by James, KB Horse Camp rodeo team members Lauren Ashley, Whitney Bender and Vicky Merriman, as well as McGhee herself, were hand-selected to participate in the sessions.

James had each rider perform their barrel pattern; then she would mount that rider's horse, and while getting a feel of the horse and its tendencies, would instruct the rider about what she needed to correct. For McGhee and her Rodeo Girls, this was an amazing experience, and they couldn't wait to get home to start practicing what they had learned.

Sharon Bender, mother of rodeo team member Whitney,



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From left are, on the back row, Mary Mason Beak, Charmayne James, Kim McGhee, Vicky Merriman and Lauren Ashley; and on the front row: Sierra Griner, Whitney Bender, Katie Pleasants and Sara Pleasants.

who accompanied the team, was delighted to hear James compliment McGhee saying that she was doing "an awesome job instructing her girls and in the training of her horses."

"Putting herself in the arena and up for evaluation in front of her team said a lot about her character," James said.

The world champion bar-

rel racer was very impressed with their horsemanship skills: "I am surprised that they know so much at such a young age."

The Georgia Horse Council hosted the event.

KB Horse Camp's rodeo team wore their team shirts which showcased their sponsors: Western Hay Company, Ag Georgia Farm Credit, Plastic Surgery Associates of

Valdosta, Boot Hill Western Wear, Akins Petroleum Company Inc., Dr. Gregory S. Beale, Natural Threadz, Totally Tone Women's Fitness Studio.

For information about James, log onto [www.charmaynejames.com](http://www.charmaynejames.com)

For information about KB Horse Camp, log onto [www.kbhorsecamp.com](http://www.kbhorsecamp.com) or call McGhee at 794-5275.