

# Jason Curry Sportsmanship Award

Jason Curry was an All-Around cowboy who had a heart of gold and showed sportsmanship throughout his entire rodeo career. He was born in 1974 and was raised in South Florida, just off the Big Cypress Indian Reservation. Jason's parents, Jimmy and Audrey Curry, saw an undeniable natural talent in him in the arena from a very young age. He could swing a rope, ride a bronc, or spur the hair off a bull.

Jason was a member of the Florida Junior Rodeo Association (later the AFJRA) where his parents put in many miles traveling to rodeos just to satisfy his passion. It was during the 1989 FJRA season that he walked away with four champion saddles and nine champion buckles. He left that season as the team roping, bareback, bull riding, and All-Around champion. He moved on to Florida High School Rodeo for the next four years where he competed in every event he could enter. Those events included: bareback, saddle bronc, team roping, calf roping, steer wrestling, and his true love, bull riding. He made it to the High School National Finals all four years in at least one event. Jason then competed in the PRCA circuit where he qualified for the 1995, 1996, 1997, and 1998 Southeastern Circuit Finals. From those finals he made it to the Dodge National Circuit Finals in Pocatello, Idaho in 1996, 1997, and 1998 and was projected to make it again in 1999, but passed away in a tragic car accident just days before the circuit finals.

Jason always showed sportsmanship inside and outside the rodeo arena, and for this reason we keep his memory alive by presenting one AFJRA cowboy and cowgirl with the Jason Curry Sportsmanship Award each year at State Finals. This award is voted on by the Adult Directors and awarded to the contestants that they believe exhibited the greatest sportsmanship during the season. Jason left behind his wife, Russhelle "Shell" Curry, and a daughter, Channcy Curry, who was eight months old at the time of his passing in November of 1998. Channcy, who is a visible reminder to all who knew Jason (as they share the same grin), enjoys handing out this award each year.