

The media coverage began as soon as the Smith family arrived. Trace hoped he was able to get in on some of the photos. He knew this would be a great way to increase his supporters on social media. As Trace glanced up from his phone, he saw his Dad walking towards a gathering of photographers, the three other champion calf ropers he would be competing against, and the families Trace assumed would be benefitting from the event. Trace's glance immediately went to his Dad and then the other Titans, but quickly landed on the families and a familiar face. Trace saw Rose pushing a young cowgirl, with a radiant smile on her face, in a wheelchair towards his Dad.

“Hi Stacey,” his Dad said as he knelt down, greeting the young cowgirl by taking her hand and shaking it firmly. Realization hit Trace as he made eye contact with Rose. He finally understood her best friend, Stacey, was one of the people his Dad was competing for today. Trace noticed the tears in Stacey's mom's eyes sparkling as she expressed her appreciation for everything that had been done to make this day a reality for Stacey and the other families present today.





As the video cameras pivoted back and forth and the photographers clicked their shutters asking the participants to pose for media shots, Trace came to a sobering revelation. His starched jeans, pristine white shirt and sponsor patches were not the stars of the show today. Rose appeared at his side as his phone simultaneously buzzed in his back jeans pocket.

Rose couldn't stop talking about the possibilities this benefit could open up for her friend that had been paralyzed from the waist down almost 2 years ago. Stacey's dream was to be able to ride and compete in rodeo again. "Her family has been looking for the perfect horse and saddle for about a year now," Rose explained. "The exposure Titans for Kids is going to get can help us find and pay for the horse, supplies and lessons she needs to help her dream come true," she added.

Trace's phone annoyingly buzzed again. For once, he did not care about anything the device wanted to share with him. He held down the power button and thankfully watched the phone go dark.