

From Barrels to Bulldogging

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He may be relatively new to the sport, but this steer-wrestling horse works overtime to get the job done.

Wranglers Gold Man catches your eye the moment you spot him. The compact palomino gelding is nothing but muscle, and 24-year-old Tyler Waguespack couldn't be prouder of his No. 1 steer-wrestling mount.

"We got him about two years ago," Tyler says. "A friend of ours back home in Gonzales, Louisiana, found him for us actually. He was originally trained to be a barrel horse, but he was having trouble with the first barrel.

"When we went to try him, they told us he was 8. We got there, and suddenly he was 12. We bought him, and his papers said he was 14. He ages faster than any horse I've had!"

Tyler clicked with the palomino, though, and started working on what he himself says was a crazy plan.

"I got this crazy idea to try to make him into a bulldogging horse," he says, "and it has just worked out great. I think he has finally found what he loves."

The gelding is 17 now and has been on the pro rodeo circuit full-time since March. Wranglers Gold Man helped five steer wrestlers

at the recent Cheyenne Frontier Days make it back to the short round in Cheyenne, Wyoming.



“I won’t let more than five guys ride him in a day,” Tyler said then. “Today is his hardest day of work. I usually don’t like to let more than three ride him. With the steers here getting that 30-foot start, he’s in high demand. I hate telling people ‘no,’ but his best interest is my No. 1 priority.”

The flashy, mannerly gelding is actually quite the easy keeper. “He’s fine with grain, hay and hauling,” Tyler says. “He’s not a picky eater or prone to ulcers, and he handles the lengthy trailer rides like a champ. Our hazing horse is a mare, though, and he

has to have his girlfriend. He's really attached to her and gets upset when she's not around. Other than that, he's really easy to have out on the road, which makes life easier."

Tyler travels with three bulldogging horses and two hazing horses. Wranglers Gold Man is reserved for the long-score arenas like Cheyenne and Salinas, California.

"He's really good in the box, and he doesn't pull on the bit too much. He can definitely cover some ground. He runs really, really fast and really honest.

"Some horses can be iffy about if they're going to score good or work good for you, you just never know. He's not that horse. He stays right there with you and stays straight."

That honesty helped Tyler win the Red Bluff, California, rodeo in April.

Five months on the road together have gone more smoothly than Tyler could've imagined.

"Knock on wood, we've never butted heads or had any issues," he says. "He's just honest, and I know he's going to work overtime every time."

Wranglers Gold Man is by War Bars Jessie out of Three Forty Nine by Rocket Wrangler, a superior race horse and member of the American Quarter Horse Hall of Fame.