



Hello Ladies,

The Midwest Match Races are only 5 months away! They will be held Oct. 3 & 4 at the Hoosier Horse Park in Edinburg, Indiana. For those of you who have never been to the Midwest Match Races they are really an event to behold. Ohio will send it's top ten (plus one alternate) women in barrels as a team to compete against eight other states teams. Each team member makes one barrel run on Saturday and one barrel run on Sunday. All team member's scores are added together to come up with a combined time per team. The two days team times are added together to determine a state winner of the Midwest Match Races.

The winning state members receive the traveling trophy, 60% of the Match purse money, individual awards and bragging rights. Runner up team also receives individual awards and 40% of the Match purse money. State teams are dressed in matching outfits for a Grand Entry and match competition ... it's an awesome sight to behold. On Saturday the competition begins with the #1 girl from each state making her barrel run first, then the #2 girl from each state and so on. On Sunday the competition is reversed with the #10 girl from each state making her barrel run first, then the #9 girl from each state and so on. The momentum of the competition just builds all weekend with spectators, family members, other competitors cheering team members on to the climax of the #1 girls running last. If the competition is close between the states, you can hear the stands roar as each girl makes her run climaxing into the final run of the event. I just cannot put into words the feelings that you have when you go there. As a competitor in the event, I can tell you that the adrenaline rush is one of the best highs that I have ever had ... my heart nearly jumps out of my chest. As a spectator of the event, I can tell you that I have been brought to tears some years with camaraderie and joy and pride for the Ohio team.

There is also an award for the Fastest Individual Average of the Match (usually a saddle), Fastest Individual Run of the Match and a Hard Luck Award (you don't want that one). There is a Best Dressed traveling trophy and a Spirit Award given to state winners.

In order to entice people to attend the Match Races you have the personal option of paying a \$40 entry fee (as a Match team participant) toward the 4D barrel race jackpot that will be taken from using your individual Match barrel race times on Saturday and Sunday. The entry fee will be split \$20 for Saturday, \$20 for Sunday. The payback will be 80%, 5 places each division. Payback for each division will be 30%, 25%, 20%, 15% and 10%. (The host state keeps 20%.)

There is normally a Friday night Open show with added money also.

There is also a Men's state team competition each day after the Women's for those state having organized teams.

The Midwest Match Races were organized by our own beloved and deceased, Joan Lutz of The Rodeo Shop in Eaton, Ohio back in 1968. This yearly event started with a friendly competition between Ohio and Indiana and has grown to the eight state event enjoyed yearly by all.

If you have any questions regarding the Match Races or want to hear some interesting stories on past Matches talk to any veteran OGBRA member or give me a call. Match Team cut-off date will be August 24th this year and if you are interested in participating on the Ohio team please reply back to Wbeth937@aol.com or 937-548-3458.

Team members have "trailer" pooled in the past and shared expenses. "Each state must automatically pay their \$400 entry fee each year whether your state chooses to attend the Match or not. Failure to pay the entry fee will result in the loss of state's Core Status. A state would then have to run three (3) consecutive years in order to regain their Core Status." This year's match is practically in our own backyard and it is already paid for. So, please make plans to participate this year, have a good time and bring home the gold ... the memories are priceless!

Ohio Girls Barrel Racing
Beth Weaver, Prsudent