

"I haven't starved thanks to him. If I was broke and had to win, he was always the one I would get on."

And it isn't just the team roping where Booger has pulled through.

"I'll never forget, I was broke and needing to get back home," Proctor said of a time in Weatherford, Texas, at a college rodeo. "I had made it back in the calf roping. I ran one half way and was 9.6 putting two wraps on him. He was always that horse you could rely on. If I needed to win, he was the one I got on."

If that's not impressive enough, Jerome Schneeberger was high call back in Pendleton on Booger in the tie-down roping the same year Proctor won the George Strait Classic heading on him.

"We've done everything on that horse. I've hazed on him in the bulldogging in college, and I will say, my bulldogger won the region so I think I was the Central Plains Region Champion Hazer. I always joke about that," Proctor laughed. "I've headed on him, heeled on him, roped calves on him, hazed on him, they've breakaway roped on him and ran barrels on him. He's pretty good in the poles. That horse is just a winner. No matter what he's doing, he's going to absolutely give his all."

Despite how user-friendly Booger is, he isn't too friendly when it comes to his personality.

"He's grouchy, very grouchy. Grumpy old man is what I call him. He's always been that way," Proctor said.

One of his best qualities is being lucky whether it comes to helping Proctor draw better or get out clean.

"He will sneak me out of the barrier even when I think I'm way too early. I joke that if I would have rode him at The American last year, he would've got me out for \$100,000. And he draws good. That's one thing people always say is Booger draws good."

After riding him at the Junior High Finals, High School Finals, College Finals and the National Finals Rodeo, Proctor has reason to compliment his long-time equine partner.

"I know I'll never have a better one. I have horses that might be more athletic or might be better in other situations, but I know deep down in the bottom of my heart, that's going to be the best

horse I've ever had in my life. He's the one I'm most proud of, and I think a lot of that just comes from how long we've been together. We just have such a bond together—we've been together for so many miles."

It turns out, Proctor's dad kept his promise and did get him a better horse... and Proctor said the \$3,000 his dad

spent ended up being the bargain they'd hoped for.

"When we were at the Finals this year, I told my dad 'Thank you for buying a really cheap horse,'" Proctor said with a smile.

Proctor hopes he doesn't have to pull Booger out of the pasture this year, but said, "I know he's always there if I need him." **SWR**

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