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Hey guys!

It was an awesome clinic with Buck in Whitefish this year! This one was Buck's final US clinic of 2015 and he told us on day 1 that he wasn't going to make it easy on us. It's an H2 with cattle working and roping, and everyone is expected to be efficient in every aspect. Although there were a few of us that were pretty nervous coming into it, everyone was up to the challenge!

We worked on serpentines with hands and legs together, legs only, lots of walk, trot, lope transitions in a soft feel; leg yields at the walk and trot, a variation of the "teardrop" exercise, flying lead changes and stopping hard on a straight line from a full on gallop (after calling out your lead before striking off, of course!). That was just in the morning. In the afternoon we all took turns working cattle out of the rodeer and afterward, working on several different roping shots.



Buck rode Big Swede and Guapo and each morning and afternoon

at the start of class, we were mesmerized by watching him ride. Nothing is ever forced, the horses try their hearts out for him and he always knows how much to ask--although he could do just about anything on any horse at any time, he never gets greedy and rushes the horses in their progress. And they are like poetry in motion.

It was awesome to watch him work cattle with both horses too. Swede has only worked cattle 2 or 3 times and he is stopping and turning so hard on cattle it's mind-blowing. Guapo has only worked cattle 10 times max (maybe less!) and Buck is nearly having to grab leather with as catty as Guapo's becoming.



Swede had only been roped off of a handful of times as well and Buck was heading cattle, holding them with ease, and even tied off to one steer without an issue. It's a testament to how much a horse will do for you if he has his trust in you. It's obvious to see this with Buck and his horses.

Shayne was really impressed with the MMR crew. Everyone stepped up to the plate and worked their butts off. He said it was his favorite clinic ever!

On one final note, we want to end this Highline with a tribute to Teresa Konshak. Nathan's mother, Teresa lost her battle with cancer last Saturday. She was sure proud of Nathan, and the highlight of her life was getting to stay at the ranch early this spring and spend some time with him. She will be missed!

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