

Stampede Queen enjoys her year

ANGELA STUBBS
Of The News

When Wendi Lund was crowned Stampede Queen she was excited beyond words.

"It was a pretty neat feeling to be chosen. But any one of us could have done equally as good a job," she says, the excitement still apparent in her voice.

Lund hails from Duchess but considers Medicine Hat — a little city with a big heart — her home-away-from-home. She's been studying pre-med and sciences at Medicine Hat College and her year has been extremely full.

So has that of Nichole Hope the 1992/93 princess. Hope was enrolled in the first-year business course at the college.

"Part of our role is with the United Way, so every time they had an event we were involved. I did the kick-off bungee jump for them — that was a thrilling way to start my reign," says Lund.

The pair have attended rodeos in small towns and the big one, the Calgary Stampede, which was their wrap-up rodeo.

"We do the Grand Entry with lots of speed and bright colors

to get the audience excited and prepared for the rodeo," says Lund.

"Nichole and I did all the rodeos — it's too bad they can't crown two queens because our jobs were identical.

"We've become friends and I know the friendship will last. She's a very talented lady and I look up to her in many ways.

"We were partners in crime," Lund chuckled, "and had a really enjoyable time."

Lund says at Medicine Hat's rodeo last year they also got to introduce the entertainment and go back stage to meet them. They had numerous public speaking engagements, attended several teas and took part in the Multiple Sclerosis

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City Walk.

"At the World Debating championship we did a mini-rodeo demonstration and talked about all the events. That was exciting," says Lund.

"We also did medal presentations at the Seniors' Games. I felt really honored. It's neat to know people of that age are active in sports at the competitive level. They showed that the term 'you're never

old till you feel old' does exist."

The pair were the first recipients of the Medicine Hat College scholarships and Lund says they have been involved with the city a lot more than past queens and princesses were.

They are ambassadors for the City of Medicine Hat, the United Way and, of course, the Medicine Hat Exhibition and Stampede.

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During the 1993/94 Stampede Queen contest, July 19 to 24, Lund was on hand to give advice to the contestants as they vied for the crown. She relinquishes her crown this evening.

"There were only a few entered in this year's contest. A lot of young girls shy away from a big title and it's really sad, because they're not aware of the benefits. The contest helps you gain self-confidence. Win, lose or draw, you come out with a handful of qualities you can use the rest of your life.

"It's a lot of hard work and dedication which you don't realize until you get there. But it pays off because of all the wonderful people you meet and the wonderful treatment. It takes a lot of preparation but the contest is a wonderful experience."

She says Medicine Hat has a really strong Stampede Queen committee and very good rep-



STAMPEDE QUEEN — Wendi Lund won the Medicine Hat Exhibition and Stampede Queen crown in 1992. She hands it over this evening when the 1993 queen is announced at the Cypress Centre at 10:30 p.m.

— News file photo Shaughn Butts

utation today because of the 25 years of hard work and dedication of contest co-ordinator Laurie Sharland.

Lund enjoyed the contest and her year as Stampede Queen so much that she has decided to enter the Miss Rodeo Canada contest in the fall.

"I can't pass up an opportunity of a lifetime. Just going

through Miss Rodeo Canada will be a benefit."

This year's Miss Rodeo Canada, Dodie Minor, who handed over her 1991 Medicine Hat Stampede Queen crown to Lund in '92, will help her during this challenge.

"After that, if I don't make it, I'll be going back to school in January."



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