

This is Not their first Rodeo...

... and it Won't be their last.



Gary Case & Rich Spence

Bi-Lateral UniSyn Hip Recipients



UniSynTM
3 piece modular
Hip System



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Orthopedics

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The "Do Over"

As in games that were played as children, life has really become a "do over" for Gary Case and Rick Spence. A "do over" was a when something happened unexpectedly that either caused an interference or interruption in the game for which the player immediately received another turn. This tells of how two long time friends got their "do over" with the UniSyn Hip System.

Gary Case, Age 47 – His Story

Gary began his professional rodeo career in 1981 as a bull rider in the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association (PRCA). As a PRCA bull rider, he competed in 423 rodeos across the country. He was a 6 time qualifier in the Texas Circuit Finals. He also competed in Bull Riders Only (BRO) events which was the predecessor to the current popular Professional Bull Riders (PBR). He qualified for the BRO World Finals. Gary retired from bull riding in 1994. As you can imagine, Gary encountered several injuries. Including a broken hip twice and dislocated his hip once. After Gary retired from bull riding he became a PRCA judge. A rodeo judge scores the rides in the rough stock events and flags the timed events. It was a way for Gary to stay close to the sport he loves so much. He has judged over 300 PRCA rodeos as well as many other open rodeo, youth rodeos, college rodeos and rodeos in other associations. He is still actively judging PRCA rodeos. Because of the injuries suffered his right hip deteriorated to the point where began to search for solutions. After doing some research and with the consultation of Dr. Bruce Bollinger, it was decided that his best option was a total hip replacement using the UniSyn Hip System. The surgery was done on June 22, 2005. Gary was back to riding horses and judging rodeos by September of 2005. Since then he has started competing in team roping in PRCA rodeos as well as numerous team roping events sanctioned by United States Team Roping Championships, Original Team Roping Association and other regional organizations.



Rick Spence, Age 44 – His Story

Rick began roping in high school and competed in high school rodeos. However, at the time his first love was football. After a serious knee injury put an end to his future on the football field, he decided to focus on college and a career. Along the way he continued to compete at a few open and amateur rodeos. After college, marriage, children and career kept too him busy to rope. Never losing his competitive desire to compete in roping and rodeos he and his wife were able to move back to the country. This allowed him to get back into roping and competing at various open rodeos and rodeos sanctioned by United Pro Rodeo Association and Cowboys Professional Rodeo Association. He also helped support the Aledo High School Rodeo Team by coaching and mentoring many young men and women high school students. Rick's hip problems started in his early thirties when began to experience pain in his hips. After several doctors were consulted it was determined that the cartilage in his hips had worn through. Because of his young age he was advised to wait until he was older before considering a surgical solution. So he continued on with the pain which prevented him from competing at a high level. Carefully studying the progress of Gary's hip replacement for a year, Rick also consulted with Dr. Bruce Bollinger. Because of Rick's active lifestyle the UniSyn Hip System seemed to be a perfect fit. The surgery was done in December 2006 and he was back to work quickly and riding just three months after surgery. His other hip was replaced by Dr. Bollinger in February 2009. Again, he was back to competing in team roping and PRCA rodeos just three months after surgery.



The "Do Over" Conclusion

Because of their long time friendship and their new pain-free life they are able to lead; they have decided to partner up for the 2010 rodeo season and will compete in at least 30 PRCA rodeos and trying to qualify for the Texas Circuit Finals. They are embarking on a new chapter in their lives. Together they bear witness to all that someone does not have to live with hip pain or that hip replacement means that an active lifestyle has to end. They are getting their "do over."

