

Adventurous Spirit - Cooper Cordonnier

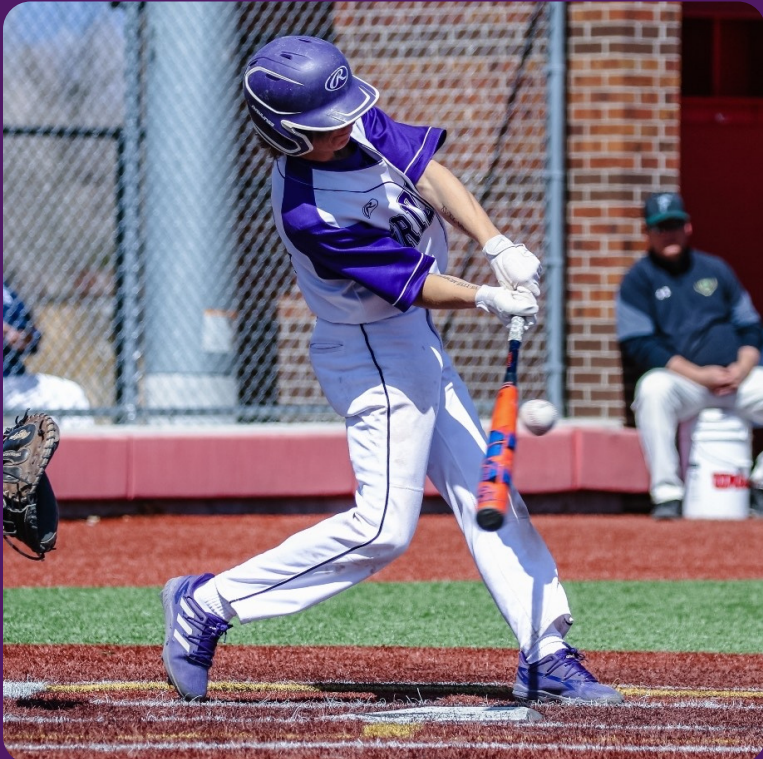
Mesa Ridge senior Cooper Cordonnier is known to his friends as a funny and friendly baseball and football player. To his teachers, he is a good student who works hard in class. To his family, however, he is a thrill-seeking, wild-riding cowboy. Cooper has always had an adventurous spirit and has loved playing sports since he was a kid. He has played baseball since he was 4 and has played varsity baseball at MRHS since his sophomore year.



Playing sports “gives me a drive to succeed in school,” said Cooper. “It’s fun and it’s something to keep me busy.”

Outside of school, the cowboy in Cooper comes out to play. For the past two years, Cooper has been competing in rodeo competitions with his family. He got into rodeo by “messing around” on his uncle’s ranch and practicing roping the cattle. Currently, he is competing in two events: bull riding and team roping.

For bull riding, Cooper mounts a 3000-pound bull and has to hold on with one hand for as long as he can without getting bucked off. It takes quite a bit of courage, Cooper thinks, to want to get on top of a 1.5 ton animal that doesn’t want you riding them. “You need a lot of balance,” said Cooper, who practices by standing on a basketball in his boots. Team roping involves roping the head and the hind legs of an animal with a partner. Cooper competes in team roping with his cousin, who ropes the head while Cooper is in charge of lassoing the legs.



While he plans to continue competing at rodeo competitions in Black Forest and elsewhere with his family, he also intends to go to Trinidad State College to learn to be a lineman and work in utilities. Cooper encourages young Grizzlies to try new things at Mesa Ridge now. “Don’t wait until the last minute. Get involved now, and it’ll really help you out in school.” Whether he’s behind home plate in catcher’s gear or atop a bull in a cowboy hat, Cooper Cordonnier is finding his thrills and demonstrating the daring of a Grizzly Great.