

THE WORLD OF WESTERN

Western – what crosses your mind?

Probably adventure and romance connected to the Wild West. While reading a cowboy story or watching western films, most of you are surely fascinated by the cowboys riding their horses, skilfully roping¹ the cattle, and their exact shooting.

Today, the western way of life has returned as a life style and has entered the world of sports as well. Our magazine offers you an opportunity to return to this time too.

Today, we want to introduce you to the youngest discipline of western riding - reining².

REINING

Its origins³ come from the daily tasks of a ranch horse. Cowboys had to control cattle so they needed a quick horse that could change directions quickly, stop, turn round and sprint after a wandering⁴ cow. The horse was controlled by the cowboy's legs and reins⁵ and was ridden with only one hand while the other hand was handling⁶ a rope, opening a gate or just waving a hat. Competitions among cowboys and pride⁷ in the performance of their horses developed into a sporting event.

Today's reining is mainly about precision, skills, training and beauty. It is often called a western form of dressage⁸ because it requires the horse to be responsive⁹ and "in tune" with its rider. The rider and his/her horse compete singly, and perform the given patterns¹⁰ before a judge. Precision comes first. And what do they have to learn? Many difficult movements, such as performing in circles, going back at a straight line, 360-degree spins¹¹ done in place or the most exciting – the sliding stop. The horse, going at a gallop¹², has to stop by sliding¹³ its hind feet. The sliding line is about several metres long and covered up by clouds of dust. And this is the reason this movement is loved by spectators so much.

Reining is becoming more and more popular. It originated in North America but soon spread to Australia and Europe. In 2002, it was included in the prestigious equestrian¹⁴ games. And we can also be proud of Czech riders. The four-member Czech reining team has qualified and can now take part in the World Equestrian Games held in Kentucky, USA, in September 2010.



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1. skilfully rope [skilfuli rəup] – obratně lasovat, 2. reining [reinin] – reining, westernová jezdecká disciplína, 3. origin(s) [oridžin(z)] – původ, 4. wandering [wonderin] – toulající se, 5. reins [reinz] – otěže, 6. handle [hændl] – zacházet, ovládat, 7. pride [praid] – pýcha, 8. dressage [dresa:ž] – drezura, 9. responsive [ri'sponsiv] – vstřícný, pohotově reagující, 10. pattern [pæten] – prvek, 11. spin [spin] – otočka, 12. gallop [gæləp] – trysk, 13. sliding [slaidin] – klouzání, 14. equestrian [i'kwestriən] – jezdecký.