



Pro Rodeo Canada

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Aug 25, 2013
For immediate release

Travis Reay Rides Into All Around Race

Normally when a guy wins the steer wrestling for a \$2115 payoff (as Travis Reay did at the Whoop Up Days Rodeo in Lethbridge), it's big news, right?

Well, Reay's 73.5 point ride in the bronc riding at Sundre for a last hole cheque of \$109 might turn out to be even bigger news come the end of the season. And the cheque, while not the biggest, might be one of the most important of the Mayerthorpe cowboy's career.

The eighth place ride at the re-scheduled Sundre Pro Rodeo gave the 2009 Canadian Rookie of the Year the three placings he needed to qualify for the Canadian All Around title and vaulted him to first place in the All Around standings with just shy of \$20,000 plus in total earnings.

Reay, who has a house full of saddles and buckles from his semi-pro days, many of them commemorating the countless All Around titles he won before turning pro, says this one, if he can win it, would be extra special.

"Since I was a young kid just starting in rodeo, this is something I've always wanted," Reay confessed. "I won lots of All Around awards in other associations but this is the one I've dreamed about. Last year I won enough in the steer wrestling, that if I'd had the three bronc riding placings, I would have been the All Around champion. So I decided to really go after it this year."

Reay didn't start entering the bronc riding until after the Calgary Stampede so he didn't have a lot of time to nail down the three placings he needed. "It's really been stressing me out worrying about getting that third one," Reay acknowledged. "I was having trouble focusing on my bulldogging so it's really nice to have it out of the way."

And if he is able to win the All Around what then—is it time to hang up the bronc saddle?

"I don't think so," Reay declared. "If I'm lucky enough to win it, I'd probably go after it again. And to tell the truth, I've been thinking about that Linderman award. It was cool that Kyle Thomson won it last year and I've been entering the team roping so we'll have to see what happens there. You never know."

The Linderman Award is a PRCA honour that goes to the top cowboy who has entered a minimum of three events—at least one timed event and at least one riding event—and has won a minimum of \$1000. in each of the three.

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Kyle Bowers of Brooks, Alberta kept up his torrid pace in the bareback riding, claiming the top prize at both of the weekend CPRA stops. His 84.5 score at Lethbridge on the 2012 Bareback Horse of the CFR, Kesler Rodeo's Break Dance, earned the two time title holder \$1924 while his 85 points at Sundre on

Franklin's Twenty Three netted the veteran \$1521. The \$3445-plus haul took Bowers to the top of the Canadian standings with \$27, 279.

Meanwhile several cowboys and cowgirls took important steps toward CFR berths. In the steer wrestling, the race for the final few qualifying berths was particularly heated entering the weekend with only \$1600 separating 11th place from 20th. Harley Cole, trying to get to his first CFR, made the biggest move. His second place 3.8 at Whoop Up Days combined with a 4.4 for a ¾ split at Sundre, netted the Cochrane dogger \$3540 and vaulted him from 15th to 10th place. In the month since Morris Manitoba, Cole has sizzled, winning over \$8100 and establishing himself as a serious contender for a spot in Edmonton come November.

Ponoka steer wrestler Trygve Pugh's win at Sundre (3.9 seconds for \$2378) moved the six-time finalist into the CFR conversation as well as he went from 17th to 12th,--the final qualifying spot.

In barrel racing, it's really a two pronged race as eight American cowgirls are sparring for the five spots available to non-Canadian residents while at least ten Canucks are battling for the seven CFR positions designated for Canadians. Kim Schulze of Larkspur, Colorado made the biggest move amongst the American barrel racers as she collected \$2400 in earnings to take over the fifth and final spot in the U.S. contestant ranks.

On the Canadian side, 2012 finalist Cranna Roberts of Lacombe, Alberta made the most of the weekend, winning Lethbridge and placing at Sundre to move to 4th among the Canadian barrel racers. Katie Garthwaite remains the top Canadian at \$11,367 with last year's Cowgirl of the Year, Kirsty White next at \$10,318, a scant seven dollars ahead of Tara Muldoon and \$223 up on Roberts.

Complete results from Lethbridge and Sundre are available at rodeocanada.com

CPRA rodeo action moves on to Armstrong, BC Aug 29-Sept 1, Oktotoks, AB Aug 30-Sept 1 and Merritt, BC Aug 31-Sept 1.

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