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Pro Rodeo Canada
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GRAD PRESENT FOR GANTER

With a line-up of world champions, Canadian champs, Wrangler National Finals Rodeo and Canadian Finals Rodeo qualifiers on the rosters of the two weekend rodeos hosted by Pro Rodeo Canada, it would be hard to believe that it was an 18 year-old, rookie barrel racer who would steal the show.

"I love it," said a jubilant Jackie Ganter, when asked about competing for the first time in Canada. "These was his (Baby J's) first runs back after injury and he came back unbelievably strong."

The Texan and her six year-old horse won the first round of the Wainwright Stampede in Wainwright, AB, with a time of 17.086 seconds. She then captured the championship during Sunday night's "Battle for the Buckles" finals with a total aggregate time of 34.553 seconds.

"He's a once-in-a-lifetime kind of horse," beamed Ganter, who graduated from high school just two weeks ago. "He's my first choice at the rodeos with the most money added."

This starts the craziness now. I've never done this (Cowboy Christmas) before. I'm going to get on a plane now for Reno and then I'll fly back for Ponoka on Friday and then I'll fly out and hopefully back to Ponoka (for the finals on July 1). We sat at a restaurant for two hours figuring out which horse to use where. But, it's fun."

The world rookie barrel racing standings leader also placed 2nd at the Sundre, AB, Pro Rodeo for a total weekend haul of \$7,569.

It had been about a dozen years since 10-time WNFR saddle bronc qualifier, Cody DeMoss had competed in Wainwright. He made the best of his return by winning the championship with a two-head, aggregate total of 168.5 points.

"I don't think I ever won much of nothin' up here," declared the current world bronc riding standings leader. "Man, this is so cool. This is a good quality rodeo."

The 34 year-old, Louisiana cowboy was matched up with Wayne Vold's 2007 WNFR champion, Awesome, in Sunday's finals. The pair clicked for an 85.5-point score, enough to help DeMoss beat out six-time National Finals Rodeo qualifier, Wade Sundell by one point for the title.

"I had that horse at the finals four or five years ago," recalled DeMoss, who won \$4,457 this weekend from Wainwright and Sundre. "I went after him a bit different this time. I gave him a little more rein this time and he dang sure took a bunch more by the end of the ride."

Give Texas steer wrestler, Matt Reeves high marks for perseverance. The 36 year-old was finally able to strap on the championship buckle in his fourth trip to the Wainwright finals. With the title came \$5,652.

“Ever since I saw those buckles when I first came up here in 2010, I’ve said ‘man, I really want one of those,’” chuckled Reeves, who was runner-up for the title that year. “This season has been terrible. Last week, I went to Sisters, Oregon and finally won a cheque with a comma in it.”

I didn’t go hard this winter. I had hip surgery back in the fall. They re-attached my labrum to my pelvis and fixed my groin. I’d fail a vet check if I was a horse.”

Other big money winners from the weekend included team ropers, Brett Buss/Klay White (\$5,078) and Jacob Minor/Garrett Rogers (\$4,199 each); steer wrestlers, Tanner Milan (\$5,404) and Trevor Knowles (\$5,105); barrel racers, Kendra Edey (\$4,401) and Deb Guelly (\$3,786); saddle bronc riders, Chuck Schmidt (\$3,583) and Chet Johnson (\$3,253); bareback rider, Jake Vold (\$5,597); tie-down ropers, Justin Brinkerhoff (\$4,486), Kirk Robinson (\$3,426) and Shane Hanchey (\$3,343).

In the novice and junior events, Owen Berreth won the steer riding in Wainwright and placed 2nd in Sundre for \$1,261 while Lane Cust (NSB, \$683) and Wyatt Gleeson (NBB, \$652) were champions in Sundre.

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Meanwhile a couple of young Canadians made some big time noise south of the 49th parallel. Barrhead’s Kolton Schmidt (2013 Canadian champion header) teamed with American and fellow collegiate heeler, Saywer Barham, to capture the National collegiate team roping title in Kasper, Wyoming on the weekend. Meanwhile, at the other end of the arena, Nanton bronc rider, Clay Elliott, emerged as the National college champion saddle bronc rider with a similarly brilliant weekend performance at Kasper.

Next up on the Pro Rodeo Canada schedule is the Ponoka Stampede in Ponoka, AB (June 25-July 1), the Williams Lake Stampede in Williams Lake, BC (June 26-29) and the Airdrie Pro Rodeo in Airdrie, AB (June 27-July 1).

About Pro Rodeo Canada: With its headquarters in Airdrie, Alberta, Pro Rodeo Canada is the sanctioning body for professional rodeo in Canada. The organization endorses over 50 events annually with a total payout exceeding \$5.1 million. Join us for the 42nd edition of the Canadian Finals Rodeo (CFR) November 11th-15th, 2015 in Edmonton, Alberta at Rexall Place, our association’s premiere event. For more information please visit RodeoCanada.com or call (403) 945-0903. Follow us on [Twitter](https://twitter.com), or like our page on [Facebook](https://facebook.com), and watch the action on [YouTube](https://youtube.com) throughout the year.