

Pro Rodeo Canada



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May 11, 2015
For immediate release

Bouchard Back to Back

It only stands to reason. A crane operator is now looking down from the top of Canadian tie-down roping standings.

“To tell you the truth, I wasn’t really prepared for the start of the season,” admitted Al Bouchard after winning the Stavely Indoor Pro Rodeo this past weekend. “I was sitting in school for five weeks and now I’m trying to catch up on things at home. I’m not in the best of shape yet.”

Bouchard was busy getting his Crane and Hoisting Equipment Operator’s ticket at the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology in Edmonton while other ropers were in the practice pen preparing for the season. But after putting together back-to-back wins on the Pro Rodeo Canada trail, it doesn’t seem the practice was necessary.

“Well, I drew at the top of the pen,” suggested Bouchard when describing his 7.6-second winning run in Drayton Valley during the May 1-3 weekend. “When I backed in the box, I knew it was going to be like roping a high school rodeo calf. If you’re not 7 on him, you should hand in your card.”

As for the Stavely win, an 8-second flat trip in last Thursday’s slack, it wasn’t quite that easy for the Scandia, AB cowboy.

“They’re older longhorns and each of them has a trick here or there,” offered the 14-time CFR qualifier in handicapping the calves used at the Stavely Arena. “If it works out right, you think you’re a stud. If it doesn’t, you think you’ve never roped before.”

The 41 year-old, Bouchard credits a new horse for helping him move to number one in the Canadian Professional Rodeo Association roping standings with \$3,848 in earnings.

“I bought him from Kyle Lucas,” said Bouchard of *Wart*, a 12 year-old who helped Lucas qualify for his first CFR in 2013. “He’s got all the tools. He can run and he stops hard. He’s a good horse.”

While Bouchard took home \$2,140 for the win in Stavely, he wasn’t the biggest money winner from the weekend. That honour belonged to Tanner Milan. The Cochrane, AB cowboy pocketed \$3,362 for a 3.9-second winning run in the steer wrestling and a second-place, 5.3-second trip in the team roping with 2012 Canadian champion header, Dustin Bird of Cut Bank, MT.

Barrel racer, Karen Warren won her second rodeo of the season with a time of 13.599-seconds in Stavely. Warren, who also won her hometown rodeo in Medicine Hat, AB, grabbed \$2,081 for the win and now has over \$4,200 in earnings so far this season.

Other winners from Stavely included bareback rider, Kyle Bowers (82.5-points on Vold Rodeo's *Mucho Dinero*, \$1,400); team ropers, Rocky Dallyn/Kolton Schmidt (5.0-seconds, \$1,405 each); saddle bronc rider, Sam Kelts (81.5-points on Vold Rodeo's *Pedro*, \$1,566); bullrider, Tyler Pankewitz (86-points on Vold Rodeo's *Feeling Blue*, \$1,511) and steer rider, Owen Berrreth (77-points, \$446).

Next up on the CPRA schedule is the Falkland Stampede in Falkland, BC (May 16-18).

Find complete results at www.rodeocanada.com

About the Canadian Professional Rodeo Association: The Canadian Professional Rodeo Association (CPRA) with its headquarters in Airdrie, Alberta, is the sanctioning body for professional rodeo in Canada. The CPRA 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](#), or like our page on [Facebook](#), and watch the action on [YouTube](#) throughout the year.