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For Immediate Release

When the dog days of August roll around on the Pro Rodeo Canada trail, the list of injured bareback riders often grows longer. This season is no different. But, at least one cowboy is hoping to buck the trend.

“I’ve been working my butt off this year to be stronger and ride better,” revealed Cole Goodine, moments after capturing the Strathmore, AB Stampede bareback championship on Monday afternoon. “This is the year I’m determined to be number one and I’m going to do whatever it takes to get there.”

The 26-year-old took a big step towards that goal with the Strathmore win. The \$5,778 cheque, coupled with a smaller \$232 win from the other Wrangler Canadian Pro Tour stop in Medicine Hat, AB, on the long weekend, will push Goodine unofficially into 2nd place in the Canadian bareback standings.

“The focus this time of year is on staying healthy,” offers Goodine, who is not among the list of five of the top eleven bareback riders in the standings either injured or just coming back from injury. “I work out every day, been training and using a bucking machine all the time. I’m stronger and more prepared than I’ve ever been.”

Goodine topped the field in Strathmore with a two-head, total score of 173 points, helped by an 88-point ride in Monday’s final on Calgary Stampede’s, four-time CFR superstar, Shadow Warrior.

“My specialty is ‘hoppers’ so when I drew him, I knew he was going to be a handful. But it was amazing. Reminds me of why I love this so much.”

Oregon barrel racer, Callahan Crossley is loving her time in Canada these days. The 2015 College National Finals Rodeo champion was the biggest money winner over the long weekend with \$10,983 in earnings from Strathmore, Medicine Hat and the 103rd Bruce, AB, Stampede.

“My first rodeo up here was Stavely and it didn’t go that well,” recalls Crossley. “I hit a barrel, then I came to Innisfail and hit a barrel. I thought Canada is tough.”

But things have turned around considerably for Crossley, who has now won just under \$21,000 and sits 2nd in the CPRA barrel racing standings. At issue now is competing at the required 18 Canadian rodeos to qualify for the CFR.

“I’m going to try to get to enough and see where I’m at. I’m entered up so we’ll see.”

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South Dakota saddle bronc rider, Chuck Schmidt also made a big move up the standings by earning \$8,230 with wins at both Strathmore and Medicine Hat.

“Honestly, this is my first good win of the year,” sighed Schmidt, after his 84.25-point ride on Calgary Stampede’s Timely Delivery in Monday’s finals in Strathmore earned him the championship with a total aggregate score of 169.25 on two head. “I don’t know how much I’ve got won because I don’t watch the standings. Every now and then, I have to call my dad at home to see how I’m doing, whether I need to hit it harder or take a rest.”

His dad would tell Schmidt he’s won just under \$19,000 to sit 2nd in the Canadian bronc riding standings.

In other notes, reigning Canadian champion, Dakota Buttar is back on top of the CPRA bull riding standings after splitting the win at Bulls For Breakfast in Camrose, AB, and winning top money in Strathmore for over \$7,000. And 2012 Canadian bronc riding champ, Luke Butterfield picked up \$361 in the steer wrestling in Strathmore to join Josh Harden in qualifying for the Canadian All-Around championship.

Other big money winners from the long weekend included bull rider, Jared Parsonage (\$6,130); bare-back riders, Colin Adams (\$5,164) and Caleb Bennett (\$4,905); team ropers, Clay Ullery/Riley Wilson (\$4,080 each) and Justin/Brett McCarroll (\$3,553 each); barrel racers, Jackie Ganter (\$6,568), Kylie Whiteside (\$5,462) and Kirsty White (\$3,853); steer wrestlers, Morgan Grant (\$6,484) and Tanner Milan (\$5,857); tie-down roper, Logan Hofer (\$5,355) and saddle bronc riders, Dustin Flundra (\$4,241) and Jake Watson (\$3,436).

Next up on the Canadian Pro Rodeo Association schedule are the High Prairie Elks Pro Rodeo in High Prairie, AB (Aug. 2-3), the North Peace Stampede at Grimshaw, AB (Aug. 6-7), the Cochrane Classic Bull Riding in Cochrane, AB (Aug. 6) and a steer riding only special event in Irricana, AB (Aug. 6).

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