



Solid Night for Team Canada

Canadians continued their assault on the Wrangler National Finals' chequing account and their own all-time earnings record in Wednesday's seventh round.

The big move for the Canadian contingent once again came courtesy of the team roping duo, Levi Simpson and Jeremy Buhler. The talented twosome, from Ponoka and Arrowwood, Alberta respectively, roped their steer in 4.3 seconds to split second in the round and add \$18,192 to their earnings total. More importantly, they moved to first place in the average and are the only team to have roped all seven of their steers. The average or aggregate - which is the total time on ten head - pays \$67,000 to the first-place finisher.

"We just missed getting to the Finals last year," Simpson commented, "so we changed a few things so that wouldn't happen again. We went to fewer rodeos so we could be rested and focused for the ones we did go to."

"We're just trying to stay aggressive and take it one night at a time," Buhler added. "Levi's turning 'em just great and I'm just trying to do my job on the back side."

Matt Sherwood and Quinn Kesler won the round with a 4.1 while the third Canadian in the team roping, Barhead, Alberta's Kolton Schmidt along with Texas partner, Shay Carroll continued to struggle and finished out of the money in round seven.

Jake Watson is quickly becoming one of the very cool stories of the 2016 WNFR. On a night that saw all three Canadian bronc riders cash some chips, the 23 year old Hudson's Hope, BC cowboy stuck an 83.5 point ride on the three time Canadian champion saddle bronc, Get Smart from the Northcott Macza firm. Watson, who barely squeaked into 15th place to qualify for his first WNFR, split 2/3/4 in the round, for a \$15,794 payday. He's climbed all the way to first place in the average and 7th in the world standings with over \$143,000 won. Watson split the round with world leader and defending champion, Jacobs Crawley and Jake Wright who was aboard the Calgary Stampede's Waning Moon. Another Stampede bronc, Tiger Warrior, ended the perfect run of first time finalist Allen Boore who was 6 for 6 before tonight's encounter with the Grated Coconut son.

Reigning Canadian champion Clay Elliott put together an 81 point effort on Stace Smith's Pretty Boy for a fifth place \$6769 cheque while Zeke Thurston, who won round six, teamed with Burch Rodeo's Angel Slings for 6th place in the round and \$4230.

Orin Larsen followed up his 2/3 split and first cheque of the Wrangler National Finals rodeo in Tuesday's sixth go-round with a split of sixth place in round seven to add a \$2215 cheque to the \$18 thousand plus he collected the day before. The Manitoba product, who came to the WNFR in second place, was 78 points on Rafter G Rodeo's Ankle Biter. Meanwhile the blazing pistols of Jake Vold cooled slightly on this night. The Ponoka cowboy who had won the previous three rounds was out of the money in round seven as he managed a 76 score on Beutler and Son's Nod Big .Com Wonderland. Vold remains in second place in the average and fourth in the world.

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The California man and Canadian Finals Rodeo qualifier, RC Landingham won the round with an 84.5 on a horse called Scarlet Fever while Tim O'Connell continues to enjoy a commanding lead atop the bareback riding leaderboard. On the stock side where going into round seven, \$240,000 had been won on Canadian horses and bulls, the Calgary Stampede's Trail Dust carried Texan Richie Champion to 79 points and a fifth place cheque for \$6769.

Defending average champion, Dakota Endridge won the round in the steer wrestling with a 3.4 second time. Leading the world after seven rounds is Louisiana cowboy Tyler Waguespack with \$204,000. Mary Burger came to Las Vegas leading the world and the 68 year old grandmother continued her storybook year as she and her tremendous gelding, Mo, posted a 13.58 to win the round and consolidate her lead for the world title. Canadian champion Matt Shiozawa of Blackfoot, Idaho won his first round of this WNFR with a 7.3 second run one night after he suffered the misfortune of having his rope break to force a no time.

And in the bull riding, all eyes were initially focused on Sage Kimzey and his quest for a third world title. But former world champion, Shane Proctor, has become one of the big storylines and tonight he made it seven for seven as the Washington cowboy was part of a three-way split of first with 85 points. Joining Kimzey in the Winner's Circle were Garrett Tribble and Cody Rostockyj.

About the Canadian Professional Rodeo Association

The Canadian Professional Rodeo Association (CPRA) with headquarters in Airdrie, Alberta is the sanctioning body for professional rodeo in Canada. The CPRA approves over 50 events annually with a total payout exceeding \$5.1 million. Join us for our premiere event - the Canadian Finals Rodeo (CFR) - in early November each year in Edmonton, Alberta at Northlands Coliseum. Follow us on Twitter, Instagram and Snapchat at @prodeocanada, like Canadian Professional Rodeo Association on Facebook, or online at RodeoCanada.com.

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