



Pro Rodeo Canada
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YOUNG SASKATCHEWAN COMPEITORS ENJOY PRODUCTIVE ALBERTA WEEKEND

“I was like, Whoa!”

That was the reaction Swift Current, Saskatchewan bareback rider, Linden Woods, had when he learned he’d drawn the Calgary Stampede’s four-legged superstar, Special Delivery, for his Lea Park Pro Rodeo mount.

“I’d seen him at the big rodeos and on TV,” Woods related after learning that his 84.5 score on the 2012 Canadian Bareback Horse of the Year had held up to earn the young cowboy his first pro win. “He’s the best and the most famous horse I’ve ever been on, that’s for sure,” Woods grinned.

But it was anything but easy. It was only the seventh horse the southwestern Saskatchewan pasture hand has been on since a hang-up-wreck in January sidelined him with injuries to shoulder, elbow and hand.

“Every jump I wasn’t sure if he was gonna buck me off or if I’d be there for another one,” the 2014 CCA Bareback Riding Champion admitted.

In fact, he actually thought he hadn’t made it to the horn. “He drilled me right at eight seconds,” Woods acknowledged, “and I thought maybe he’d got me but as I was walking back to the chutes, I heard the 84.5 score and that was a lot better feeling.”

It’s no surprise that Special Delivery “delivered” for the former New Mexico Junior College rodeo athlete. The 10 year-old bay stallion was sired by six time World Champion Grated Coconut out of Zippy Delivery, one of the great money mares of all-time.

For Woods, the win (\$2155.60) is more than the biggest payday of his fledgling career. “This really boosts my confidence” and it’s that confidence adjustment that he hopes to parlay into a successful 2016 season.

Canadian Professional Rodeo Association

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Another Saskatchewan competitor was also a big weekend winner. Wood Mountain barrel racer Nicole Pana put together a winning 17.539 second run to top the field at the Brooks Kinsmen Pro Rodeo and added a 10th place payoff at Lea Park to collect earnings of \$2277.62 for the weekend's work. Pana was riding, Dreamer, her 10 year old bay mare – sired by Crimewave out of a Raise A Gambler mare.

“I've had her since she was a yearling,” Pana commented. WNFR qualifier Sabrina Ketchum ran her at the Calgary Stampede in 2014 and told me afterward, ‘Nicole, you should go pro’. I turned pro last year and missed the Canadian Finals by \$1800.”

The two weekend placings will see the 19 year-old, who has been a force on the barrel racing futurity and derby scene in recent years and finished 15th in the Canadian standings last year, take a run at the top ten in 2016.

And when it comes to consistency, rodeo fans need look no further than the brothers McCarroll. The two-time Canadian Champion Team Roping duo nailed down third place finishes at both the Brooks and Lea Park stops (5.7 seconds at Brooks and 6.5 at Lea Park) for a \$2297 haul. The solid weekend for header Justin and heeler Brett will advance the pair from the 10th place standing they occupied coming into the weekend to a spot closer to the top of the leaderboard, something the McCarrolls are very accustomed to.

Find complete rodeo results at www.rodeocanada.com

Next on the Canadian Professional Rodeo Association schedule is the Innisfail Pro Rodeo at the Daines Rodeo Ranch June 17 to 19.

About the Canadian Professional Rodeo Association

The Canadian Professional Rodeo Association (CPRA) with headquarters in Airdrie, Alta., is the sanctioning body for professional rodeo in Canada. The CPRA sanctions over 50 events annually with a total payout exceeding \$5.1 million. Follow us on Twitter, Instagram, and Snapchat at @prorodeocanada, like Canadian Professional Rodeo Association on Facebook, or online at RodeoCanada.com.

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