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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GILBERT CLAIMS FIRST CPRA WIN AT THE DRAYTON VALLEY PRO RODEO

DRAYTON VALLEY, ALTA
– Colby Gilbert is making a good showing this year after her first Canadian Professional Rodeo Association win at the Drayton Valley Pro Rodeo. Gilbert collected a first place cheque of \$1,978.70 unofficially after her 13.344 second run.



*Colby Gilbert's winning run at the Drayton Valley Pro Rodeo
Photo Credit: Covy Moore Photo*

This may be her rookie year but she is no stranger to the rodeo world. Gilbert's father, Steven Gilbert, is a past CPRA Steer Wrestler and Mother, Andrea Udal, is a Canadian Barrel Horse Incentive Champion, but now she's ready to make her own mark in the rodeo world.

“[My mom] got me in to the CCA rodeos young and I've been going to those since 2008,” said Gilbert of her successful start in rodeo, becoming the Canadian Cowboy's Association Rookie of the Year and Finals Champion in 2014.

The 21-year-old has already had a good start to her season, filling her Semi Pro Card requirements by placing at the Medicine Hat Broncs and Honky Tonks Rodeo and then gaining her first win just three weeks later at Drayton Valley.

“It was great, I kind of went in a little nervous, I knew it was fast and tough. We went there for the weekend and got the horses in the arena for a while because I am on a younger horse and she worked outstanding. I got out and I thought ‘holy man that just happened really fast’,” said Gilbert.

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Gilbert's horse "Streakin Ta Corona", otherwise known as "Famous", may be young but already has a resume of accomplishments behind her. The now six-year-old mare, owned by Corny and Maria Wiebe, was ridden by Gilbert's mother last year and won the title of 2015 Canadian Hi Point Futurity Champion.

"Now I'm going to start hitting the trail, CFR is always a goal and rookie of the year would be great. I'm just taking it one stride at a time, on a young horse you never know what will happen but she's sure proving herself pretty great so far," said Gilbert.

In between blazing fast runs, the fourth year nursing student spends her time working on her degree, something she hopes will be a good fit for her rodeo schedule in the future.

"It's kind of why I chose nursing, because it's so flexible and I can work anywhere. I would love to head down to Arizona eventually and work down there and hopefully it meshes well with the rodeo career," said Gilbert.

That budding professional rodeo career seems to be ready to bloom this season after Gilbert's win on the weekend. The Maple Creek, Saskatchewan cowgirl says she's excited about her horse's performance so far and adds that the mare seems to perform even better in outdoor pens so she hopes to continue her winning ways once the rodeos head outside.

Another competitor that was on top of his game this weekend was Jesse Popescul who took home the Ron Harden Memorial Hi Point Award. Popescul placed third in the Tie Down Roping to collect \$1,390.26 and after a fourth place finish in the Team Roping, collecting \$809.34, the Glentworth, Saskatchewan cowboy took home the highest total paycheck of the weekend with \$2,199.40 unofficially.

"I just want to thank the Drayton Valley Pro Rodeo Committee for putting on a great event and putting up these awesome awards. It seems like it's always a bonus to have success in two events at the same place. I just feel fortunate that things worked out," said Popescul.

Other competitors topping the leaderboard this weekend were: Logan Hodson, who placed first in the Bareback Riding with 85 points on Duffy Rodeo's "Blue Jeans" for \$1,264.86. Scott Guentner came in hot off the American rodeo trail to win the Steer Wrestling at his first rodeo back on Canadian soil with a 3.6 second run, winning \$1,859.32.

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Braidy Davies and Chase Simpson topped the team ropers with their 5.0 second run to collect \$1,329.63 each, making that three cheques in a row for the multi-time CFR Qualifiers. Another competitor that is no stranger to the CPRA leaderboard is Blackfoot, Idaho's Clint Arave, who bested his Tie Down Roping competition with a 8.5 second run and a \$1,880.94 cheque.

There were also some ties on the leaderboard this weekend with Sam Kelts and Layton Green topping the charts with 83 points on C+ Rodeo's "Unleashed" and Duffy Rodeo's "Broken Nose" respectively to win \$1,260.45 each. In the Bull Riding there was a trifecta of 86.5 point scores from Scott Schiffner on "Hookums", Jordan Hansen on "Blue Wing", and Zane Lambert on "Little Aylmer", all from the Duffy Rodeo herd. Each bull rider collected a \$1,109.95 cheque.

Find complete rodeo results at www.rodeocanada.com

Next up on the Canadian Professional Rodeo Association schedule is the Stavely Indoor Pro Rodeo May 5th to May 7th.

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.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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