

Berry Weathers the Storm



For immediate release

EDMONTON, AB (November 9, 2016) - Jim Berry has been close before.

But the eight time Canadian Finals Rodeo qualifier has never won the Canadian title. The Rocky Mountain House bronc rider took a step in the right direction in the opening round of the 43rd CFR with an 84 point ride on C5 Rodeo's Rock Star.

"I wasn't exactly craving that one," Berry admitted with a grin. "I'd seen him before and he definitely wasn't my pick out of that pen."

The pen Berry was referring to was the eliminator pen (the toughest broncs of the week) and that group of horses took a toll on the best saddle bronc riders in Canada bucking off or disqualifying seven of the twelve finalists.

"That takes the pressure off for sure," Berry said of his opening night performance, but the veteran bronc rider isn't getting ahead of himself. "I'm not thinking at all about a championship—not yet. If you look after the basics, the big picture will look after itself."

Berry has been known as one of the most consistent competitors throughout the years and 2016 was no exception. "I was pretty happy with my year," he commented. "I know if I draw the right horses I can make pretty good rides. I like those bigger, stronger horses. I'm not as good at dressing up the nicer horses some of the other guys can because they are just so talented."

The \$12,324 winner's cheque took Berry to the season lead with \$39,583 and a \$6400 lead over three time Canadian champion Dustin Flundra.

When Scandia, Alberta's Al Bouchard, captured the Canadian title in 2009, it marked the last time a Canadian won the Canadian tie down roper championship

"I was nervous," Bouchard admitted after taking the go-round win with a 7.7 second run. "The funny thing is I've roped 91 calves at the CFR so I shouldn't be nervous. I knew that calf and I knew he'd be a little off the pace so I took one swing more than I usually do because I knew he'd be good on the ground."

Bouchard's gritty performance—he's had to battle ligament damage in his roping and tying (right) hand over the last part of the year--earned him the \$12 thousand plus first place cheque . The sixteen time CFR qualifier went to the head of the class with \$35,642, \$7400 better than regular season leader Logan Bird who earned \$4424 on night number one with a 3/4 split.

As for the long Canadian drought in the tie down roping, Bouchard was philosophical. "There are lots of Canadian guys that rope good enough to win; it just hasn't happened much lately. I mean I start every year thinking I'm going to be the Canadian champion but to tell you the truth I'd love to see my travelling partner win it." That partner is Rimbey cowboy Dean Edge who is at his tenth CFR and picked up a fifth place cheque in the opening round of the CFR.

When Strathmore's Scott Schiffner won his first Canadian bull riding title in 2001, Lonnie West was

five years-old. Tonight the twenty year-old 2015 Rookie of the year topped a field that included Schiffner as he put together an 87.5 point ride on Outlaw Buckers Bomb Shell. West, who hails from Cadogan, Alberta was a spectacular 87.5 for his effort, to edge two time and reigning champion, Dakota Buttar, who was just a half point back of West aboard C% Rodeo's Neon Magic.

And there was drama in the barrel race tonight as Callahan Crossley from Hermiston, Oregon took top spot in the round with a time of 14.645 seconds despite having limited control of her horse for the last part of the run as the reins ended up on one side of her gelding, Brownie's neck as she rounded the third barrel and headed for home.

Other first round winners included Ponoka's Levi Simpson and Arrowwood cowboy, Jeremy Buhler who bested the field in the team roping with a 4.5 second run. The duo who have already made rodeo history by being the first all-Canadian team roping pair to qualify for the Wrangler National Finals Rodeo climbed to second place in the season standings just \$6,000 in arrears of season leaders Brett Buss and Klay White, the first cousins, who split 3/4 in the round.

Two time steer wrestling champion, Tanner Milan of Cochrane, got his CFR week off to a good start with a blistering 3.6 in the steer wrestling while 2014-15 bareback riding titleist, Jake Vold, got his quest for the three-peat underway with a round-winning 84.25 on the Kesler bareback horse, Garden Party.

In the novice events, it was Sherwood Park's Kolby Wanchuk who took top honours in the novice saddle bronc riding with a 78 point ride to extend his lead in that event with Maple Creek, Saskatchewan hand, Lane Link the top gun in the novice bareback riding with a 75 point ride that moved him to less than \$700 back of season leader Tanner Young.

And the boys steer riding was split between Nanton's Quentin Taylor and Youngstown' cowboy, Dixon Tattrie who both posted 80 point rides.

For complete results go to www.rodeocanada.com

It was an exciting day in Edmonton for more than one reason as the Canadian Professional Rodeo Association and Northlands announced a joint venture that will see \$200,000 being designated to go back to the association's rodeo committees beginning with the 2017 CFR.

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 approves over 50 events annually with a total payout exceeding \$5.1 million. Join us for our premiere event - the 43rd edition of the Canadian Finals Rodeo (CFR) November 9-13, 2016 in Edmonton, Alberta at Northlands Coliseum. Follow us on Twitter, Instagram and Snapchat at @prorodeocanada, like Canadian Professional Rodeo Association on Facebook, or online at RodeoCanada.com.

For more information:

Barb Poulsen

Media Relations, CPRA

Mobile: 403 625-9225

Phone: 403 625-2797

Email: media@rodeocanada.com

