



## Schiffner Not Quite Done Yet

Two Canadian bull riders—one an icon in the twilight of a Hall of Fame career, the other on his way to stardom—battled to a draw at the recently concluded K-Days Rodeo, the sport's richest one header event.

Scott Schiffner, who announced his impending retirement just days before the Edmonton event, and Brock Radford, the third generation talent from Dewinton, Alberta, posted matching 87 point scores to split the K-Days bull riding and pocket \$11,620 each at the lucrative second-year rodeo.

Radford added a second place cheque at the Manitoba Stampede, outlasting both his bull and monsoon-like conditions to add another \$1952 for a profitable \$13,572 week that carried him to top spot in the Canadian standings.

For Schiffner, the win was something of a relief after the frustration of bucking off five bulls at Calgary. "I have to admit I was a little discouraged after the Stampede with the whole world watching but I really felt I could still do it."

The Strathmore, Alberta rancher/competitor who will be stepping away from the competitive side of rodeo at the completion of the 2018 season had struggled through the early months of the season before finding the form that has characterized his brilliant career. The Edmonton win will likely—and fittingly—allow the two time Canadian Champion to ring down the curtain on that career with an 18th CFR appearance, thus extending the record for CFR appearances that he already holds.

The bull Schiffner rode at Edmonton, Girletz's Cuckoo Kong, was one he'd had twice previously. "The first time he bucked me off," Schiffner recalled, "and then I rode him the last time I had him so this was the rubber match. I wasn't thinking about whether it was a great ride or not, I was just concentrating on hearing the whistle, something I hadn't done in a while."

And while the money at rodeo's richest one-header was welcome, Schiffner was equally thrilled at the parting tribute from Northlands, longtime home of the CFR where Schiffner had enjoyed so many of his greatest moments. He was presented with one of the seats from the Coliseum.

"I don't know where it's going to go yet but it will be in a prominent place in our home for sure," Schiffner promised. "It's pretty amazing to think that Gretzky and Messier, people like that got one, so it means a whole lot to me and my family."

As for the rest of the season, the win alters Schiffner's plans only slightly. "I said at Calgary that I'd go to Edmonton, Medicine Hat and Strathmore for sure but now I think I'll go to the last couple of tour rodeos as well—Dawson Creek and Armstrong. And if that gets me to the Finals that's great."

It seems only right that the last chapter of the Schiffner saga may well be written at the same time as the opening stanza for the CFR's new home at Westerner Park in Red Deer.

Bullriding co-champion, Brock Radford was thrilled to spit the win with his longtime hero.

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“Scott’s unreal,” Radford stated. “He blows my mind. He’s more than a great bullrider—he’s an ambassador for our sport and a terrific family man. He does amazing things every day and splitting this with him is something I’ll remember forever.”

For Radford, the tricky part will be juggling a schedule that will allow him to qualify for Red Deer, then compete at the World PBR Finals the following week. “I’m trying to get my rodeo count in for the CFR. It would be pretty cool to win a Canadian title, then head down to Las Vegas for the PBR World Finals. Those are my two goals for sure.”

Meanwhile the muddied steer wrestling standings are only slightly clearer after the weekend. Heading into the weekend’s action, only fifteen hundred dollars separated the 4th place man from the 15th place competitor, with several more just outside that window. What that means is there are several bulldoggers who are still in the hunt for CFR berths as the season begins to wind down.

A couple of guys who can breathe a little easier after the Edmonton, Morris and Kennedy run include Cody Cassidy who split 2-4 at K-Days (where, by the way, you had to be 3.9 seconds or faster just to get a cheque) for a sizable \$8000 boost to his earnings total, Craig Weisgerber who was 3.8 at Morris for a \$2300 win, Kody Dollery, the Montana dogger who moved into contention courtesy of an \$8700 weekend and Ben Ramey who placed at all three weekend stops for a \$7000 injection into his earnings total to also move into the CFR conversation. 2012 champ, Clayton Moore, Bridger Chambers, another of the Montana steer wrestlers and two time title holder, Tanner Milan, all aided their CFR cause as well.

The race for the twelve CFR spots will be interesting in all events but particularly so in the log jam that is the steer wrestling season leaderboard.

For complete unofficial results from the K-Days Rodeo, the Manitoba Stampede and Moose Mountain Pro Rodeo, check out rodeocanada.com

A very busy week of rodeo action kicks off with The Medicine Hat Stampede, July 26-28, Bonnyville Pro Rodeo July 27 and 28, the Hardgrass Bronc Match at Pollockville and the Bowden Bareback Challenge, both on the 28th and the Bruce Stampede July 29th.

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### **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. The organization holds the Grass Roots Final September 27-28 at Stampede Park in Calgary, Alberta and their premiere event - the Canadian Finals Rodeo (CFR) - at the ENMAX Centrium, Westerner Park in Red Deer, Alberta, October 30 - November 4. Follow the CPRA on Twitter and Instagram @prorodeocanada, ‘Like’ Canadian Professional Rodeo Association on Facebook or online at RodeoCanada.com.

### **For more information:**

Barb Poulsen  
Communications and Media  
Canadian Professional Rodeo Association  
Mobile: 403 625-9225  
Phone: 403 625-2797  
Email: media@rodeocanada.com

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