



Manning and Pozzobon - A Friendly Rivalry

It was a nice moment. Friday night at the Medicine Hat Stampede is always one of the special rodeo performances of the entire year, and this one was no exception.

Canadian Champion barrel racer Carman Pozzobon had made her run and taken the lead. She'd been asked to stay close to the arena outgate to complete an interview and was standing with Shelley Manning while 14 year old Taylor Manning (Shelley's daughter) was making her run.

"I always root for Taylor," Pozzobon acknowledged. "And she had almost a perfect run. I knew it would be close and I wasn't surprised when she beat me. And I was okay with it, because it meant she'd have to do the interview," she grinned.

Taylor's time of 17.467 seconds (two one-thousandths of a second faster than Pozzobon) held up to win the Finning Tour stop, netting the teenage talent \$3125.

"My horse, Matlock, came from Grant and Rayel Little," said Taylor. "He's been really good again this year. And it was awesome to beat Carman when it was so close... she's super nice."

The ten year old gelding, Good Little Nick (by As Good As Nick Gets out of Fols Dream Of Cash) carried Taylor to her first Canadian Finals Rodeo appearance in 2017. The Medicine Hat win, coupled with a second place finish at Bonnyville (\$1335), moved the Edson, AB native (unofficially) to second spot in the 2018 Canadian standings with over \$21,000 won.

With a CFR berth all but clinched, for both Taylor and twin brother, Tristen, who sits second in the steer riding standings, it may be the first time that a set of twins has qualified for the CFR in the same year.

Meanwhile for Pozzobon, the season is playing out almost exactly according to plan.

"I was hoping to do well enough at the big rodeos down south - early in the season - to be able to stay in Canada for the most part, from this point on," the Canadian Champion noted. "I'll go to about six close ones in the U.S. and spend the rest of my time up here."

With three goals in mind, another trip to the CFR, a first-time appearance at the Wrangler National Finals Rodeo and a return to The American, everything seems to be falling into place for the Savona, BC cow-girl and her eight year old buckskin mare, Ripp'n Lady (Ripp).

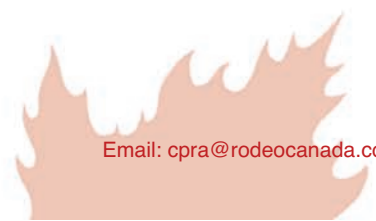
Pozzobon holds a comfortable \$12,000 lead in Canada, and sits solidly in tenth place in the World standings.

"Ripp gives me a chance to win at every rodeo. We're getting more consistent and I've figured out the things I need to help her with... and at the same time, she helps me."

The 32 year old horse trainer is especially excited about the new home for the CFR. "I love change. And I actually think we can do better (in Red Deer) than we did in Edmonton because I don't think the run to first barrel will be as long in this building (Westerner Park's Enmax Centrum). That will be easier for Ripp and me."

Canadian Professional Rodeo Association

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2016 Canadian Champion Saddle Bronc rider, Clay Elliott, has been on a tear of his own in the month of July. The 24 year old Nanton, Alberta cowboy continued that success with a big win at the Hard Grass Bronc Match in Pollockville. Elliott "40 percented" the field - winning the long go with an 89 point ride on The Calgary Stampede's UMBER BUBBLES then spurring out a spectacular 92 point effort on Calgary's Special Delivery to edge last year's reserve World champion, Brody Cress, of Hillsdale, WY.

The win capped a streak that began July 4 with a win at Red Lodge, Montana - and solid placings at Livingston, MT and Cody, WY the same day. The second generation cowboy went on to enjoy a "Final Four" appearance at the recently concluded Calgary Stampede then posted a big win at Edmonton's K-Days Rodeo for \$13,000 and another win at Helena - all leading to Sunday's big performance at Pollockville.

Of the second year bronc riding event, Elliott noted enthusiastically, "The Hard Grass Bronc Match is outstanding. It felt like I knew half the people who were there plus it had a really cool atmosphere. With Alpha Bull producing it, it was a pretty hyped up show and really good for the spectators.

"We got to pick our horses for the final," Elliott explained. "And I got to pick first. We'd been talking on the way there - about the one to have in the short round, and I really wanted to see Special Delivery under saddle. Sometimes bareback horses making the switch don't handle the halter that well but he was just darn good to ride -- really nice."

The successful four week run has vaulted Elliott (unofficially) to first place in the Canadian standings and eighth in the World.

For complete results for all five recent Alberta events - Medicine Hat, Bonnyville, Pollockville, Bowden and Bruce - go to www.rodeocanada.com

Rodeo action remains fast and furious for CPRA competitors. The High Prairie Elks Pro Rodeo runs July 31-August 1; Strathmore Stampede is slated for August 3-6 and Grimshaw's North Peace Stampede takes place August 4-5.

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.

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