



2018 CFR Contestants Announced

With the first performance of the Canadian Finals Rodeo kicking off in just two weeks, the Canadian Professional Rodeo Association, in partnership with Westerner Park and the Red Deer and District Chamber of Commerce are excited to officially announce the qualifiers of CFR '45.

Leading the impressive list of athletes from both sides of the 49th parallel is reigning Canadian barrel racing champion, Carman Pozzobon. The Savona, B.C. cowgirl not only emerged as the barrel racing season leader, but she topped all contestants in overall season earnings - \$44,078 - which gives her the right to wear the much coveted Back Number 1 into the Enmax Centrium October 30. Pozzobon, who also earned her first Wrangler National Finals qualification this year, will be riding her two time Barrel Horse of the Year, Ripn Lady.

Dublin, Texas cowboy, Richmond Champion, bested the field in the bareback riding. The two time CFR qualifier earned \$41,133 in just 18 Canadian rodeos. Nanton, Alberta's Clay Elliott leads the saddle bronc riding brigade. The 2016 Canadian champion will take \$40,849 into the six-performance Red Deer final. Heading up the twelve steer wrestlers is Scott Guenther from Provost, AB. The five time CFR qualifier will be gunning for his first Canadian title as he won a see-saw battle with two-time champion, Tanner Milan, for season leader honours. Guenther will carry \$38,714 into the first performance. Maple Creek, Saskatchewan bull rider, Jared Parsonage, parlayed a strong finish to his season into the number one spot among bull riders (\$37,580) heading to Red Deer. Despite missing a couple of weeks of the season with a leg injury, the four-time CFR qualifier is totally healthy and ready for the year end showdown.

And in the tie-down roping, 23 time world champion, Trevor Brazille from Decatur, Texas, earned an impressive \$31,771 in only seven Canadian rodeo appearances to claim the season leader saddle. While his rodeo count is less than the required number to qualify him for the Canadian Finals Rodeo, the amazing veteran proved, once again, why he is considered one of the all time greats.

It was a wire-to-wire win in the team roping event for a pair of southern Alberta cowboys. Tristin Woolsey (Nanton) was the heeler and Denver Johnson (Strathmore) the header as the two won \$31,137 and \$28,130 respectively in capturing the season leader team roping awards.

Stettler, Alberta's Riley Warren, leads the contenders for the high point title. The two event talent has \$41,511 and a \$7000 lead over second place man Kyle Lucas; while in the all around category, there is now, officially, a race that will be decided in Red Deer. Montana's Luke Gee holds a slender \$2400 lead over second-place man, Jacob Gardner from Dawson Creek, BC. However, Gee has not qualified for CFR '45 while Gardner, the 13th man on the bull riding roster, learned this week that he draws into the field of finalists due to Brock Radford having to sit out due to injury.

In the young guns' events, Colton Ouellette is the number one novice bareback rider as the Meadow Lake, SK cowboy earned \$7,662 during the 2018 campaign. Cooper Thatcher returns for his second CFR appearance, this time as season leader. The (Australian born and raised) Wildwood, AB hand

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brings \$6,328 with him to CFR. And in the steer riding, Mayerthorpe, AB's Dusty Golden held off challenger, Tristen Manning, to remain as number one gunner with \$8,154 in earnings.

The 2018 Canadian Finals Rodeo runs from October 30 to November 4 at the Enmax Centrium, Westerner Park in Red Deer, Alberta.

For a complete list of 2018 CFR qualifiers and the much anticipated back number roster, head over to www.rodeocanada.com

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 in late September 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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