



1.5 Million On the Line in Finning Pro Rodeo Tour

Rodeo Canada's Finning Pro Tour is back for 2019 bigger and better than ever. The lucrative program has expanded to feature eleven rodeos for 2019 with an expected payout of over 1.5 million available to Canadian Professional Rodeo Association contestants - including the Tour Finals which will see double the payout of last year.

The Tour kicks off at the Grande Prairie Stompede May 30-June 2 with stops across western Canada over the course of the season. The final Tour rodeo takes place on the Labour Day weekend at Armstrong, British Columbia's IPE and Stampede, with the Tour Finals set for September 1 (also in Armstrong) where athletes will compete for \$12,000 per event. New rodeos on the 2019 Tour include Grande Prairie, Alberta; the Teepee Creek Stampede (Teepee Creek, AB) July 12-14 and Regina, Saskatchewan's Pile O' Bones Rodeo August 2-4.

The Finning Pro Tour rodeos are also PRCA and WPRA approved, which means the tour is expected, once again, to attract world class contestants from across North America. And, for the second year, for those fans who cannot attend in person, FloRodeo will be live-streaming all Finning Pro Tour events.

CPRA President, Terry Cooke is excited about the year ahead. "We're really happy to see Finning back on board as our title sponsor... and to have FloRodeo making the action available to a wider audience." Cooke went on to say, "We've got a terrific line-up of CPRA events overall and a Pro Tour that's one of the biggest to date - in terms of added money and number of rodeos. And, with twice the payout at the Finals, we should see some great competition for rodeo fans to enjoy."

Cooke is not the only one looking forward to this year's Pro Tour.

For Abilene, Texas barrel racer, Angela Ganter, (who placed at several 2018 Tour events and ended up 4th overall) one stop on last year's Finning Pro Tour was especially memorable.

"I love this tour and I went to all of their events last year including all the way to Morris, Manitoba," Ganter recalled with a chuckle. "The morning of the day we were up it was beautiful but just before the rodeo one of the committee people came around and said a really bad storm was on its way. We hunkered down in our trailer and sure enough just before the barrel race the storm hit and it was pouring. But somebody came by and said the ground was still okay and I needed to do something there so I went and ran in the rain. I got completely soaked. I've never been that wet in the shower. But we ran and we placed. I guess that's one I'll remember. But it's a great tour with really good money and I plan to go to them all again this year. It's a big part of my strategy to get back to the CFR."

Finning Pro Tour standings are based on points awarded to ten places in each go-round and aggregate at one-go rodeos and multi-go rodeos. All contestants will receive 25 points for competing. Pro Tour finalists will earn double points for each placing and the Finals is included in the rodeo count for CFR.

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Another competitor who is excited about the 2019 edition of the tour is three time Canadian bareback riding champion, Jake Vold.

"The Finning Pro Tour is huge for us and a big step forward for contestants on both sides of the border," Vold noted. "It's great news that the Tour is getting bigger again this year and that more rodeos are stepping up to be part it. It's a real incentive for all of us wanting to get to the Tour Finals as well as to both the CFR and the WNFR. This just makes rodeo up here in Canada an even bigger deal."

For contestants to be eligible to enter the first Tour stop - Grande Prairie Stompede - memberships must be purchased by 4 pm MST May 2, 2019.

2019 CPRA FINNING PRO TOUR DATES

Grande Prairie, AB	May 30 - June 2
Wainwright, AB	June 20 - 23
Ponoka, AB	June 25 - July 1
Williams Lake, BC	June 27 - 30
Teepee Creek, AB	July 12-14
Morris, MB	July 18 - 21
Medicine Hat, AB	July 25 - 27
Regina, SK	August 2 - 4
Strathmore, AB	August 2 - 5
Dawson Creek, BC	August 9 - 11
Armstrong, BC	August 28 - 31
Tour Finals (Armstrong, BC)	September 1

For further details about the Finning Pro Tour and all CPRA events, go to 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 55 events annually with a total payout exceeding \$5.7 million. The organization holds their premiere event - the Canadian Finals Rodeo (CFR) - at Westerner Park in Red Deer, Alberta, October 29 - November 3, 2019 and will oversee the Finning Pro Tour Finals September 1 in Armstrong, BC and their inaugural Maple Leaf Circuit Finals November 27-30, 2019 at the Canadian Western Agribition in Regina, Saskatchewan. Follow the CPRA on Twitter and Instagram @prorodeocanada, 'Like' Canadian Professional Rodeo Association on Facebook or online at RodeoCanada.com.

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