



Canada Night in the Bareback Riding

It was just a matter of time.

You knew that Orin Larsen would eventually make the kind of rides that are his trademark. Tonight in go-round number 4 at the Wrangler National Finals Rodeo, the 28 year-old Manitoba bareback rider did just with his first WNFR 90 point ride on Frontier Rodeo's Night Fist. The reigning Canadian Champion pocketed the \$26,230 first place cheque and moved into second place in the world standings, less than \$8,000 behind season leader Clayton Biglow.

"Anytime you see a Frontier Rodeo horse beside your name you dang sure get excited about it; even the guys in the locker room were excited for me," Larsen noted. "I was kind of mad at myself after these last two rides when I wasn't really at my best. My brothers (Tyrel and Kane) texted me and told me to just do what I came here to do and have fun. So I came in here tonight with a different mindset and I'm pretty happy with the way it turned out."

Canadian fans had still more to cheer about as Cadogan bareback rider, Clint Laye gave the Canucks a 1-2 finish in the round as he matched up with Outlaw Buckers' American Thumper for 88 points and a \$20,730 payday. Larsen is splitting 9/10 in the average with Laye occupying 7th spot.

2016 World Champion Zeke Thurston has gone to the lead in the 2019 world standings. The Big Valley, AB sensation who captured his first Canadian title just over a month ago was 83.5 points on Silver Spur Rodeo's Best Hope. The third place cheque of \$15,653, combined with a first and second in the earlier rounds moved Thurston a full \$15,000 ahead of regular season leader Ryder Wright who has been blanked through the first four go-rounds.

Rookie NFR saddle bronc riding qualifier, Dawson Hay, Wildwood, Alberta, failed to make the horn on Hi Lo ProRodeo's Toma Jo while the Calgary Stampede's Xena Warrior made it two for two against Hudson Hope, BC cowboy, Jake Watson. The horse also tossed the two-time WNFR hand in the first round of the CFR.

Two time WNFR Montana bull dogger, Bridger Chambers, enjoyed his first 2019 go-round win with a 3.6 second time. The 2018-19 Canadian Finals Rodeo qualifier jumped from ninth to fifth in the world standings and maintains seventh spot in the average. Helena, Montana's Ty Erickson continues to hold down the world leader position; the five time WNFR qualifier helped his cause Sunday night with a 3.7 second run - good for a share of 2/3 and an \$18,192 payday. Canadian Champion Scott Guenthner clocked a very respectable 4.4, which once the dust had settled, was good for a split of sixth with Dakota Eldridge. Guenthner is sixth in the world and eleventh in the average.

Four-time and reigning Canadian Tie-Down Roping Champion, Shane Hanchey, posted a 7.5 second run en route to his second go round win. The 2013 world titleist extended his lead atop the world standings but a no-time in the second round means the Sulphur, Louisiana talent is forced to do his damage in the go rounds. And that's what he'd been doing with two wins and a second in the other three rounds.

2019 Canadian Champion Team Ropers Matt Sherwood on the header side and Hunter Koch on the heeling side turned in a 5.0 time to finish just one hole out of the money. The good news is that the duo is second in the big-paying average and have won over \$25,000 each through four rounds to date.

Sherwood, the two time World Champ celebrated his 50th birthday during the course of the 2019 season while his rookie partner is just 22 years-old, making them the epitome of the “veteran and the kid.” The two first paired up at the Tucson Rodeo back in January and they have enjoyed tremendous success ever since. Chad Masters, Cedar Hill, TX and Joseph Harrison, Overbrook, OK earned the round win with a 3.7 second run. A pair of Texans lead the World Standings, Clay Smith and Jade Corkill, after four rounds.

Canada’s lone representative in the bull riding, Jordan Hansen, bucked off Barnes PRCA Rodeo’s Pure Gangster in Round 4. The go round win went to All Around leader Stetson Wright who was 91 points on Painted Pony Championship Rodeo’s Holy Holly while Strong City, Oklahoma five time World Champion, Sage Kimzey, continues to lead the world standings after a fourth place finish in the 4th go-round. Kimzey’s lead over Wright sits at \$87,000 as he moved past the \$300,000 plateau and closes in on a sixth gold buckle.

WNFR rookie Emily Miller and her nine year old gelding, Chongo, took advantage of the top position on the ground to post a rapid 13.64. This makes four consecutive money-making runs and the second go-round win for the Weatherford, Oklahoma cowgirl. With \$88,843 in Finals earnings to date, Miller has moved to number one spot in the World and is first in the average. For the second night in a row, four time Canadian Champion Lisa Lockhart finished out of the money. The Oelrichs, South Dakota barrel racer has slipped to second in the World and third in the average.

For complete WNFR results, see www.prorodeo.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, AB, November 3-8, 2020 and will oversee the Finning Pro Tour Finals September 6 in Armstrong, BC and the Maple Leaf Circuit Finals December 2-5 at Canadian Western Agribition in Regina, SK. Follow the CPRA on Twitter and Instagram @prorodeocanada, ‘Like’ Canadian Professional Rodeo Association on Facebook or online at RodeoCanada.com.

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