



92 Points the Order of the Day in Round 5

Jake Watson had a break-out night in the fifth round of the saddle bronc riding at the Wrangler National Finals Rodeo. The Hudson's Hope, British Columbia two time finalist matched up with the outstanding Burch Rodeo's Lunatic From Hell for a whopping 92 score, the highest of his career and his first WNFR round win.

"I didn't know what I'd be on the scoreboard but I'm really happy with the way it turned out," Watson noted. "I had a bad mark-out last night so I was really trying to concentrate on that. Everybody's kind of been on the same page with missing horses out and buckoffs so hopefully we'll have a riding contest the rest of the way." The 26 year-old sits 7th in the average and 8th in the world standings.

Big Valley, Alberta cowboy Zeke Thurston combined with Rosser Rodeo's Flood Tide for 82 points but finished out of the money. He sits 4th in the average and maintains a \$10,000 advantage over Utah's Ryder Wright who picked up his first cheque of the week with 85 points for fifth in the round but sits well down in the all-important average.

WNFR rookie Dawson Hay (Wildwood, Alberta) bucked off C5 Rodeo's Kitty Whistle.

The bareback riding at the Wrangler National Finals Rodeo has been, in a word, spectacular. And round five was maybe the best to date.

Season leader Clayton Biglow extended his lead atop the world standings with a 92.5 score on Pickett Pro Rodeo's Scarlett Belle. His score was just a half point off the arena record he set one year ago. Second in the round went to Tilden Hooper with a 92 point ride on C5 Rodeo's much decorated Virgil, the former World, Canadian and WNFR champion bareback horse. Reigning Canadian Champion Orin Larsen, coming off a 90 point go-round win 24 hours earlier, was a point higher with a 91 score to claim the \$15,653 third place money. And to round out the quartet of 90 plus scores, Caleb Bennett, the Utah hand who has been to several Canadian Finals Rodeos, checked in at 90 points to win 4th place on the Canadian Bareback Horse of the Year, Northcott-Macza's Stevie Knicks. And amazingly, four time World Champion Kaycee Field's 88.5 was seventh in the round and out of the money.

Larsen remains in second place overall, \$18,000 behind Biglow but the Clements, California cowboy holds a big advantage over the Manitoban as Biglow sits second in the average with Larsen back in 9th spot.

In the team roping, Chad Masters and Joseph Harrison went back to back with another go-round win on Monday night. The Cedar Hill, Tennessee header and his heeling partner from Marietta, Oklahoma were second in both the average and the world standings. Clay Smith and Jade Corkill continue to lead the world standings while Canadian titleists, Matt Sherwood and Hunter Koch saw their championship hopes take a big hit as they took their first no time of the finals.

It's simple really. After a no time in the second go-round, 2013 World Champion and four time Canadian Champion Shane Hanchey has to be huge in the go rounds in order to have a lead that can't be overtaken by the guys who are sitting well in the average come Championship Saturday. Since that miss, the Sulphur, Louisiana roper has been first, second and on Monday night, his 7.9 was good for third, leaving him first overall as rookie Ty Harris, (San Angelo, Texas) a CFR qualifier this year, won the round with a 7.4. Hanchey stayed ahead of second place man, Haven Meged, another 2019 CFR cowboy, by \$33,000. And

anyone who thinks Hanchey has too steep a mountain to climb, needs to look no further than CFR 46 at Red Deer, a month ago, when he got off to a slow start, then shot the lights out in the late rounds to claim his fourth Canadian championship.

Round five steer wrestling was a challenge for several competitors, but the last man, Kyle Irwin, Roberts-dale, Alabama, dropped his steer in 3.7 seconds to earn his first round win at this Finals. Overall leader remains Helena, MT's Ty Erickson, though the five time WNFR qualifier is well down in the average. Two time world champions, Hunter Cure and Tyler Waguespack, hold down second and third respectively in the World Standings with Waguespack leading the average and Cure in fourth spot. Provost, Alberta's Scott Guenther struggled - posting a 6.4 to be out of the money.

The oldest barrel racer of this year's Finalists, Dona Kaye Rule from Minco, Oklahoma, posted a spectacular 13.56 second run on the top of the ground to garner her second round win and third paycheque of the 10 day Finals. Fellow Oklahoman, Emily Miller, despite finishing out of the money Monday night kept the barrels standing and still sits first in the World and crucial average.

And in the bull riding, Rochelle, Georgia WNFR rookie, Daylon Swearingen ended an 0 for 4 slump as he topped the field with an outstanding 92 point ride on Big Stone Rodeo's War Cry. Koby Radley marked a 90.5 for second spot - good for \$20,730 - which will help the Louisiana bull rider maintain first in the average. Five time World Champion, Sage Kimzey picked up a share of 3-4 with an 89 point ride. The Strong City, Oklahoma talent continues to hold his commanding World lead and is second 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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