



## Canada Night Was Memorable For More Than Just Canadians

On Canada Night, it didn't take the Canadians long to make their presence known.

After the Canadian National Anthem was performed by stock contractor Wayne Vold, and entertainers Nicki Flundra, Madison MacDonald and Piper Yule wowed the 18,000 fans jammed into the Thomas and Mack Arena, it was time to rodeo.

And while there was excitement throughout the night and great performances from several of the Canadian competitors, on this night they saved the best for the last.

Just moments after Utah bull rider Stetson Wright who leads the All-Around standings was 93.5 points, five time World Champion Bull Rider Sage Kimzey went a half point better with a spectacular 94 point ride on a Bull of the Year - Powder River Rodeo's SweetPro's Bruiser. There are those WNFR moments that people will talk about for years and that ride will be one of them as a great bull and one of the greatest bull riders of all-time both brought their A game and brought the Thomas and Mack crowd to their feet. Kimzey has ridden seven of eight and sits at a mind boggling \$390,000 in season earnings with two rounds and the average still potentially to be factored in. But this one was special.

"This is a matchup I've been looking forward to for a long time," the 2019 CFR qualifier admitted. "I've watched Bruiser grow up in rodeo and I knew one day we'd go head to head. But when I looked down during the ride and saw my left foot alongside my riding hand I knew this was the moment of truth. It was either going to be one of the great moments in bull riding history or just another buckoff."

And he was right. On Canada night, on Retro night, it was Sage Kimzey's night.

2016 Canadian Champion Jordan Hansen from Ponoka, Alberta was unable get by a tough draw, Harper and Morgan Rodeo's Hot and Ready.

The north of 49 carma was very much in evidence in the bronc riding as the all-Canadian matchup of Jake Watson and the Calgary Stampede's outstanding Stampede Warrior resulted in 89.5 points for the round win, Watson's second in four nights and the 4th go round win in a row for Canadian bronc riders. The win boosted the Hudsons Hope, British Columbia cowboy's WNFR winnings to \$83,616, moving him to fifth in the average and seventh place overall.

"It's pretty cool to win Canada Night on a Canadian horse," the soft spoken cowboy acknowledged. "I knew there'd be a lot of people cheering for me. This is our night and that's kind of how we go at it." 2018 PRCA Bronc Riding Rookie of the Year, Dawson Hay checked in with an 86.5 point 4/5/6 split and world standings leader Zeke Thurston was 84 points in the round. Though Thurston was out of the money, he maintained his \$16,000 lead over Ryder Wright. The difference, however, is in the average where the 2016 world title holder sits fourth with Wright a distant twelfth with just two rounds remaining.

Cadogan, Alberta's Clint Laye was the second man out in the bareback riding and put together an 86 point ride on Beutler and Sons' Bar Talk to split sixth place in round eight while Manitoba cowboy Orin Larsen was just out of the money with an 85.5 point effort on Stace Smith Pro Rodeo's Mr. Harry. Meanwhile, at the top of the board the number one man, Californian Clayton Biglow extended his lead and is getting close to "can't be caught" territory as he was 90 points (or better) for the fourth time this week, this time on Frontier Rodeo's Showstomper. The gap between Biglow and the second place Larsen is now \$62,000

and Biglow also leads the money-machine-Average with Larsen fifth in that stat. And the Canadian horses insisted on their day in the sun as well with Northcott-Macza's Spilled Perfume dispatching Steven Dent before the horn and Kesler Rodeo's Candy Smile carrying four-time World Champion Kaycee Field to a split of second and third with 87.5 points.

In the team roping, there was a split at the top of the board. Kaleb Driggers and heeling partner Junior Nogueira posted a 4.3 seconds and that time was matched by 2018 CFR qualifiers Brenten Hall and Chase Tryan. Clay Smith and Jade Corkill continue to lead the world while 2019 Canadian Champions Matt Sherwood from Pima, Arizona and Hunter Koch of Vernon, Texas put up a 5.1 that was out of the money and dropped them one spot to third in the average.

There was a three way split in the tie down roping. Tyler Milligan, Riley Pruitt and Cooper Martin were the trio at the top of the board with 7.5 second runs, while reigning and four time Canadian Champion Shane Hanchey of Sulphur, Louisiana continues to lead the world in a race that can best be described as wide open.

The steer wrestling race remains a battle mainly between defending Champion, Tyler Waguespack, Gonzales, Louisiana and Helena, Montana's Ty Erickson. While neither man placed in Thursday night's round (Erickson was 5.9 and Waguespack was 4.9) both competitors are in good shape heading into the last two performances. Erickson sits second in the World with \$185,414 to his credit, and sixth in the average. Waguespack is third overall (\$177,925) but continues to hold down first in the Average (which pays \$67,269 for first). Oklahoma cowboy, JD Struxness, is the world leader with \$190,136 but is well off the pace in the Average. Mississippi bull dogger, Will Lummus, secured the Round 8 win with a rapid 3.6 second run. Canadian, Scott Guenthner, who has \$46,102 in WNFR earnings to date, finished out of the money with a 4.9. The two time Canadian Champion is eighth overall and ninth in the average.

Hailey Kinsel-Lockwood bettered her chances for a second consecutive world title with a 13.54 second run from third position on the ground - good for her second WNFR round win. The Cotulla, Texas newly-wed has \$114,076 in Finals winnings and sits fifth in the World Standings with \$262,943, and first in the Average. Close behind Kinsel is Oklahoma cowgirl, Emily Miller, who despite not placing since Round 4, is hanging on to third place ranking overall and second in the Average.

For complete WNFR results, see [www.prorodeo.com](http://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](http://RodeoCanada.com).

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