



## Canuck Bronc Riders Dominate Round Nine

The Canadian saddle bronc riders might be wishing every night could be Friday the 13th. All three qualifiers from north of the 49th parallel placed in round 9 with reigning Canadian Champion and 2016 World Champion Zeke Thurston of Big Valley, Alberta marking an outstanding 91 points on Vold Rodeo Co.'s Sun Glow to add to his already considerable World leader earnings. Wildwood, Alberta WNFR rookie, Dawson Hay, put up 88 points for second place money while British Columbia cowboy, Jake Watson added a fifth place cheque with an 83.5 point effort. Tonight's round win makes the fifth round win in a row for the Canadians and the sixth overall (three by Thurston) at this year's Finals. With just one round to go, the second generation superstar has topped the \$304,000 mark in season earnings and holds a commanding \$43,000 lead over second place man and 2017 World Champion Ryder Wright. The Big Valley talent also occupies 4th place in the average standings while Wright is out of the average after what has been a tough week for the Utah man.

Thurston was as proud of the fact that all three Canadians won money on this night as he was about his win. "We all travel together and I was really happy we all qualified to be here. We kicked butt all season and we're doing it here as well. Dawson struggled a little at the first of the week but I just told him to ride broncs, that's what got us here and he looks pretty comfortable now. And Jake's won two rounds and we all know how good he is."

2016 Canadian Bull Riding Champion Jordan Hansen picked up a third place \$15,653 cheque with a tremendous 88 point performance aboard Silver Creek Pro Rodeo's Chaos Ghost. It was the Ponoka cowboy's third placing of the week and moved him over the \$45,000 plateau in WNFR earnings.

"I feel it's been something of a sub-par week for me here," Hansen commented. "I started the week well but kind of went through a cold spell until tonight. It was nice to get this one rodee."

The round win went to Crockett, Texas cowboy Boudreaux Campbell with a 91 score while WNFR rookie Daylon Swearingen rode the Calgary Stampede's 2018 Canadian Bull of the year, Night Moves, to a 90 point second place finish. And Sage Kimzey, who stands on the brink of being crowned World Champion for the sixth consecutive time, was bucked off for just the second time of this Finals.

The steer wrestling got real interesting on Friday the 13th and will go right down to the final round for a winner to be declared. Helena, Montana cowboy, Ty Erickson helped his cause Friday night with a rock solid 3.6 second run. The injection of the \$26,231 first place cheque moved the six time WNFR qualifier to first place in the World and fifth in the Average. Tyler Waguespack took a no-time and though he still sits fourth in the world standings fell from first to eleventh in the average with the miss. J.D. Struxness who had taken over the lead 24 hours earlier broke the barrier to be 13.3 in round nine and now sits second in the world but like Waguespack is well back in the average at 13th spot. Stetson Jorgensen and Tyler Pearson are both contenders to overtake Erickson in what will be a dramatic final round.

Another race that tightened up on the second last night of the 2019 WNFR was the Team Roping where Kaleb Driggers and Junior Nogueira blazed their way to a 3.6 and the first place \$26,230 cheque. The go round win moved Driggers to second place in the world standing while Nogueira, the 2017 All-Around Champion of the World, has moved to number one in the heeling standings. 2019 Canadian Champions Matt Sherwood and Hunter Koch took a no-time and fell all the way to ninth in the average.

Jake Brown of Cleveland, Texas posted an 89.5 on J Bar J's Blessed Assurance to win round nine in the

bareback riding. Prior to Friday night, Brown had cashed only one cheque, a \$2200 split of 6th in go round seven. Clayton Biglow turned in an 88.5 score on Vold Rodeo's Mucho Dinero to split ¾ in the round. The Californian sits first overall with a \$79,000 cushion over his nearest pursuer, Canadian Orin Larsen. Both Larsen (85.5 points) and fellow Canadian Clint Laye (83 points) were out of the money in the Friday night go-round.

The tie-down roping round 9 win belonged to Stephenville, Texas hand, Marty Yates who posted a 7.0 second run, his fastest this week (and fastest of this Finals so far) and his second round win of the week. The six time WNFR qualifier sits third in the World but is out of the Average standings. Louisiana roper, Shane Hanchey, remains atop the World standings with \$209,927 overall but the reigning Canadian Champion is down in the Average in seventh spot. Nebraska roper, Riley Pruitt is second with \$203,599 and is fifth in the all-important Average. Three additional competitors, Haven Meged, Tyson Durfey and Tuf Cooper, who sit first, second and third respectively in the Average, could also take a run at the 2019 World title, depending on how the final round unfolds.

Weatherford, Texas barrel racer, Stevi Hillman enjoyed her second payday of the week and she did so in style with a 13.56 second run - the fastest of the Finals to date - good for the round 9 win. Defending Champion and World leader, Hailey Kinsel-Lockwood, continued her bid for a second World title as she turned in a 13.64 for second place on the night. The Cotulla, Texas cowgirl remains the overall standings leader and moved up two spots from fifth to third in the Average.

### **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.

### **For more information:**

Barb Poulsen  
CPRA Communications and Media  
Phone: 403 625-2797  
Mobile: 403 625-9225  
Email: [media@rodeocanada.com](mailto:media@rodeocanada.com)

## **Canadian Professional Rodeo Association**

*Proud home of*

