



CPRA Announces 2019 Award Winners and CFR Contract Personnel

The Canadian Professional Rodeo Association is proud to recognize its 2019 Award recipients.

A number of repeat winners highlight the list - decided by votes cast by the top 20 contestants in all major events, novice contestants and CPRA contract members.

Among them the four-legged superstar, 242 Get Smart, was named Saddle Bronc Horse of the Year for the fifth time in his brilliant career. The 17 year-old Northcott-Macza gelding was previously honoured in 2010-11, 2016 and 2017. Get Smart is the horse that bronc riders dream of drawing - especially on rodeo's biggest stages like the CFR and WNFR. The Wyatt Earp son has carried cowboys to countless big cheques and bigger buckles. Along the way the talented bay has broken a few hearts too.

A man who has described many of Get Smart's rides, as just one part of his own outstanding career, is being honoured as Canada's Announcer of the Year for a record ninth consecutive time. Brett Gardiner, commentator, teacher, husband and dad, brings his unique voice and style to every rodeo performance. And his combination of painstaking preparation and amazing knowledge of the sport have won the admiration of audiences, rodeo athletes and his peers, everywhere he goes.

Additional repeat winners include Comedy Act of the Year, Dennis Halstead, recognized in this category for the ninth time in another standout career that has had audiences laughing across North America and as far away as Australia. Duane Kesler, of Kesler Championship Rodeo, was named Stock Contractor of the Year for the second year in a row. Kesler stands at the helm of one of the legendary family stock contracting businesses, now four generations strong, that has produced outstanding rodeos on both sides of the 49th parallel dating back several decades. Another member of the family, rodeo secretary Judy Kesler, was honoured with her second Janet Vold Memorial award.

Steer Riding Contractor of the Year once again was Duane Ashbacher (Lazy 2 Rodeo). Dress Act of the Year went to Full Throttle Trick Riders featuring repeat winner Shelby Pierson and first time honoree, Piper Yule.

Other rodeo stock that were singled out in 2019 were Bareback Horse of the Year, 118 Stevie Knicks, also from the Northcott-Macza firm; Bull of the Year, 222 Blackstone After Party from Outlaw Buckers Rodeo Corp.; Curtis Cassidy's Steer Wrestling Horse of the Year, Tyson, who was saluted for the second consecutive time; and Logan Bird's TJ, Tie Down Roping Horse of the Year, an award the grey also won in 2016. Barrel Racing Horse With the Most Heart was awarded to Justine Elliott's Blondys Starlight (Blondy), while the Bonnett brothers saw their team roping mounts honoured, Logan's Tieto as Heading Horse of the Year and Keely's Cruz as Heeling Horse of the Year.

Also announced today were the Canadian Finals Rodeo personnel who were voted to their positions for the 2019 CFR in Red Deer.

Timers Maxine Baird (31 times) and Brenda Vold (15 times) head up the crew that will be front and centre as part of the CFR production that runs October 29 to November 3 at Westerner Park in Red Deer, AB. The bullfighters once again are Brett Monea, enjoying his 9th CFR appearance, Scott Waye his sixth and Ty Prescott, his third while the pickup men will include the veteran Gary Rempel making his 21st CFR appearance and Tyler Kraft, making his first. Jason Resch (7 times CFR pick-up man) will serve as alternate.

Look for a follow-up announcement naming additional key CFR personnel once they are finalized.

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, 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, SK. Follow the CPRA on Twitter and Instagram @prorodeo-canada, 'Like' Canadian Professional Rodeo Association on Facebook or online at RodeoCanada.com.

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