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Hansen Hot in Las Vegas

Jordan Hansen has been on a big-time roll. The Ponoka, Alberta bull rider made it two for three at the Wrangler National Finals Rodeo in Las Vegas with a sensational 90 point effort on Bridwell Pro Rodeo's Jive Turkey to win the second place \$20,730 cheque in round three action. The 2016 Canadian Champion has taken the lead in the average with his 179.5 points on two and has climbed to fifth in the world standings.

Hansen has ridden an amazing eight of his last nine bulls in rodeo competition for an unheard of 89 per cent riding percentage. His early success at the Thomas and Mack Arena comes on the heels of his riding all six of his bulls at the CFR to capture the average title and finish second to champion Edgar Durazo. Koby Radley of Montpelier, Louisiana was 92 points to win the round on Big Stone Rodeo's Spotted Demon while CFR third place finisher, Sage Kimzey remains in the overall bull riding lead as the Strong City, Oklahoma superstar pursues his sixth consecutive world title.

It was a big night for Canada in the saddle bronc riding as well. Newly-crowned Canadian titleist Zeke Thurston put together an 89.5 point ride on the Calgary Stampede's 13 year old stallion, Shadow Warrior, for second in the round, moving the 2016 World Champion to third in the average and to within \$600 of season leader Ryder Wright in the world standings. However, Wright is well back in the very lucrative average standings. First time WNFR qualifier Dawson Hay (Wildwood, AB) collected his first cheque of the Finals (\$15,653) with a solid 88.5 point third place finish on J Bar J's In the Lu while Jake Watson, Hudson Hope, BC, enjoyed an 87 point trip on Frontier Rodeo's Delta Force for a 5-6 split and \$5500. Chase Brooks combined with three time Canadian Champion saddle bronc horse, Outlaw Buckers' Lunatic Party for 90 points to claim top money in the round.

2010 Canadian Champion tie-down roper, Tuf Cooper, of Decatur, Texas, put the pressure on early in Round 3 with a 6.9 second winning run - the fastest so far at this WNFR. The three-time World Champion and 2017 All-Around cowboy pocketed the \$26,230, his first Finals payoff to date. Defending Canadian title hoder, Shane Hanchey, clocked a 7.1, earning second place (\$20,730) which moves the Sulphur, LA roper to first in the World, just \$300 ahead of rookie sensation and CFR qualifier, Haven Meged of Miles City, MT. Rookie Ty Harris, fresh from a solid showing at his first CFR, enjoyed his first-ever WNFR cheque; the San Angelo, Texas cowboy clocked a 7.3 for a share of 3-4 and \$13,326.

Saturday night saw the bareback riders take on the eliminator pen. Four time WNFR qualifier, Tanner Aus, Granite Falls, MN, persevered to win the round with 90 points on Frontier Rodeo's Full Baggage to take home his first cheque of this year's Finals - \$26,230. Canadian Champion Orin Larsen covered his horse but finished out of the money as did Clint Laye of Cadogan, Alberta.

Hunter Cure of Holiday, TX topped the round in the steer wrestling with a speedy 3.8 second run. The first place cheque is the first of this Finals for the two time World Champion and four time CFR qualifier. Ty Erickson continues to lead the World standings. Canadian Champion Scott Guenthner threw his steer in 7.4 seconds to end up well out of the money.

In the team roping, Tyler Wade and Cole Davison took their second victory lap in three nights with a spectacular 3.7 second run. Tonight's success moves Wade to third in the World standings and Davison to fourth. Clay Smith continues to hold down first in the World heading standings and 2016 All Around Champion Junior Nogueria leads the heelers. Reigning Canadian Champions, Matt Sherwood and Hunter Koch posted a 5.1 in the round for a sixth place cheque. The pair sit fourth in the average.

Amberleigh Moore was quickest of the night in the barrel race. The Salem, Oregon cowgirl turned in a blistering 13.62 second run for the win. Meanwhile, four-time Canadian champion, Lisa Lockhart of Oelrichs, South Dakota, Hailey Kinsel-Lockwood, Nellie Miller and Emily Miller continue to duel it out at the top of the world standings.

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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