

Bronc Riders Bank Big Bucks



Pro Rodeo Canada
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They're *baaaack*...

Canadian saddle bronc riders Todd Herzog and Sam Kelts – both of whom had to overcome significant injuries in 2011 – showed a return to their CFR form on the weekend.

Kelts suffered a severe concussion at Fort Madison, Iowa in September while Herzog's 2011 season didn't start until late July last year (at Airdrie Rodeo) following a hip injury incurred at San Antonio several months earlier. Millarville's Sam Kelts posted wins at both CPRA rodeos over the weekend while Todd Herzog (Penhold, AB) collected the sizeable winner's cheque at Rod Hay's Wildwood, AB Bronc Bustin'

Kelts' wins came aboard Northcott's number 725 at the Leduc Black Gold Rodeo (83.5 points and \$1937) and Calgary Stampede's Nutty Champagne at the Hand Hills Lake Stampede Champagne (84.5 points and \$940). "I had a colt at Leduc but he really bucked and the horse I had at Hand Hills was real good," Kelts explained. "I felt like I had been riding okay before this weekend, but now my consistency is getting back to where I want it to be."

Herzog rode Outlaw Buckers' 530 Quittin Time to 83.5 points to win the first go at Wildwood (earning an automatic berth in the final), followed by Outlaw Buckers' 555 Rockstar in the short go for 81.5 points and a total of \$4380). "My short go draw was a young horse but he just kept getting stronger throughout the ride," Herzog noted. "The hip isn't 100% but it's just something I have to keep working my way past every weekend."

Jim Berry wound up second at Wildwood with \$3160. All three cowboys will make major moves upward in the Canadian standings. Third at the Wildwood event was Rylan Geiger. (\$2361). The 'rough stock only' also featured novice saddle bronc riding where Brady Dinwoodie earned the win and \$936. The junior steer riding winner was Chance Barrass (77.5 - \$340).

Other champions at the Leduc Rodeo included bareback rider Ty Taypotat, Regina, SK, who rode Northcott's Gladiator to 84.5 points and \$1706. In second was Taypotat's traveling partner, Clint Laye (82 points, \$1401). Many time Canadian Champion, Curtis Cassidy (Donalda, AB) won the steer wrestling event with a 3.3 second run – good for \$2157. Steven Turner and Trygve Pugh shared second (3.7 seconds, \$1858/each). Ontario cowboy, Morgan Grant roped in 8.3 seconds to win the tie-down event and \$2378. Stacey Cornett was 8.3 seconds – good for second spot and a \$2068 cheque. Drayton Valley's Ramona Nash won the Leduc barrel racing title with

her 13.312 second run (\$2218). Texan, Lee Ann Rust was second (13.325 seconds, \$1,886). The bull riding champion was the young Meeting Creek, AB cowboy, Garrett Green who rode Northcott's Pay'n Rent for 87 points and \$2,127. Devon Mezei earned second with an 86.5 point ride (\$1,747). Rocky Ross and Marty Lilloco (Botha and Stettler, AB respectively) roped in 4.1 seconds to top the team roping entry earning \$1,486 each. Levi Simpson and John Robertson were 4.3 seconds – good for second place and \$1,293 each. Layton Green won the novice saddle bronc riding (79, \$493) and Ryley Gilbertson was the novice bareback champion (75, \$400).

Among the additional Pro Rodeo Canada titlists at the 96th Hand Hills Lake Stampede were bareback rider Jake Vold (Ponoka, AB) who rode Calgary Stampede's Labyrinth to 85.5 points and \$1015. Season leader, Matt Lait, added to his earnings with an 85 point ride and \$761 – good for second place. Dustin Walker, Vanscoy, SK, earned the steer wrestling win with a 4.6 second run (\$1394). Dallas Frank dogged his steer in 4.7 seconds (\$1213). Childress, Texas roper, Stetson Vest topped the tie-down field, roping his calf in 8.5 seconds for a \$1,184 cheque. Chad Johnson was second with an 8.6 second run (\$1,029). Stephenville, Texas cowgirl, Lee Ann Rust added to her second place finish at Leduc with a 16.377 second run and the winner's cheque of \$1,164. CFR qualifier Benette Barrington-Little (Ardmore, OK) was 16.385 seconds to win second and \$998. Strathmore bull rider Scott Schiffner rode Calgary Stampede's Bull Durham to 85 points and \$1022 for the bull riding win. Jordan Hupp (Stephenville, TX) was second with 84.5 points (\$846). Camrose, Alberta's Brett and Cody McCarroll roped in 5.6 seconds to earn the team roping title and \$1285 each. Brothers, Clint and Jeremy Buhler posted a 6.1 to win \$888 apiece, their second placing of the weekend. Layton Green, once again, topped the novice saddle bronc roster with his 69.5 point ride (\$555). Dylon Bilton won the novice bareback title (64 points, \$369) and Cameron Brown, the junior steer riding championship (\$76.5, \$417).

Next on the Pro Rodeo Canada schedule are: Rocky Mountain House and Lea Park/Marwayne Rodeos June 8-10 and Brooks Rodeo June 8-9.