



Pro Rodeo Canada

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Pro Rodeo Canada
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Doubling Down in Luxton and Falkland!

Some contestants took advantage of the B.C. rodeos to 'double down'. In fact, there were duplicate winners at both Falkland and Luxton in three events!

One of those was the team roping, where Longview's Don DePaoli and Travis Nickolson of Medicine Hat claimed first place at both shows. Call it 'beginner's luck' or 'experience counts', but the brand new combination was a winning one.

DePaoli, who's into his third decade as a pro cowboy, was mulling over his header options when the call came from Nickolson.

"We decided to go out to B.C. together and see how things went," said DePaoli. Although they had roped together a handful of times at jackpots, there was no time to practice as a team. Turns out, they didn't need that.

They journeyed to Luxton first.

"We were in the first performance, and the second team out. You've just got to go and try and do your thing."

They did just that in 6.1 seconds, a run they were pleased with for their debut. Young Jesse and Tyler Popescul of Glentworth, Saskatchewan matched the time, to split first. Since they all shared stock trailer space on the ferry, it made for a cheery ride back to the mainland, especially since DePaoli's wife, Suzanne, also placed in the barrel racing.

At Falkland, the ropers were the last team out, what they needed to do was clear.

"You know you can't make 'just a run'. You've got to be in position, and try not to think about the clock, or safety up. We made a good run, and it was quick enough."

4.9 seconds was definitely quick enough to take top prize on their own, and the two picked up \$1185. apiece for their weekend's work, which moves them into the top five for Canada in the standings.

"If it goes like this, it will work out really good," grinned DePaoli, about his new partnership with Nickolson. "We'll definitely be roping together over the July first run."

The other two double winners were Canadian champion Lisa Lockhart (Oelrichs, SD), who collected \$2240 for her two fast runs; and Montana bull rider Nevada Newman. He won Luxton with an 87 point ride on Big Stone Rodeo's Renegade, and took first at Falkland with an 86 on Northcott's Town Tough.

His haul was the biggest of all, at \$2945.

Other contestants who placed at both shows included young Kirk Robinson of Innisfail, a third generation roper. He won Luxton in 9.8 seconds for \$1254, and was fourth in Falkland, for a 9.4 and \$803. Texan Timber Moore was the fastest roper at Falkland, and second at Luxton, to round up \$2356 altogether.

Ho-hum, another weekend, another saddle bronc victory for Rylan Geiger, who made it four in a row, with an 85 point ride on Big Stone's Big Jim to win Luxton. He didn't win first at Falkland, but he did still catch a \$53 cheque there. The title at that rodeo was shared between his brother Kyreon, and Jake Brown of Eckville. Brown was third at Luxton as well, for a \$2273 weekend.

Bowden's Ky Marshall did a lot of groundwork towards qualifying for the All-Around race, by getting a cheque in both the bareback riding and tie-down roping at Luxton, and in bareback riding at Falkland. He just needs one more roping cheque to make it official. Meantime, Curtis Cassidy is well on his way towards a High Point qualification, after taking first place in the steer wrestling at Falkland with a zippy 3.3 second run, and finished third in the Luxton roping.

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South of the line, three-time Canadian saddle bronc champion Dustin Flundra notched his first big U.S. win of the year, taking first at Redding, CA with an 84 point ride on a horse called Friendly Fire, for \$4133. Also at Redding, steer wrestler Straws Milan collected \$1590 through the rodeo, and another \$1000 at the inaugural Wrangler Champions Challenge. Other weekend winners were bareback rider Luke Creasy, first at Payson, AZ (\$1110), 4th at Vernon, TX (\$428), and 5th tie at Las Vegas (\$453); tie-down roper Murray Pole, who finished second at Las Vegas in 8.5 seconds, for \$2413; and Morgan Grant, who placed in Carthage (\$363 SW, \$551 TDR) and won the steer wrestling in 3.9 seconds (\$964) in Jacksonville, both Texas rodeos.

The next stop on the Canadian pro rodeo tour is this weekend in Bonnyville, for three performances May 24-26.

For more information,
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