



## Pro Rodeo Canada

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Pro Rodeo Canada  
May 13, 2013  
For immediate release

### Early Birthday Present For Graves

"It was just a straight up good bull dogging run."

And the man who made it would be just the guy to judge that kind of run, having made a ton of them enroute to two World titles, five Canadian championships and a Calgary Stampede \$100,000 win.

Lee Graves wrestled his steer in 3.9 seconds at the Stavely Indoor Rodeo to claim the top cash prize of \$2291.72. "It was a tough bulldogging at Stavely," Graves commented. I drew a good steer and was able to use him. And that's 9/10 of the game."

The veteran Canadian bulldogger is still contending with injury - he spent last year recovering from stem cell surgery on his ankle and fractures in his left shoulder sustained when he crashed a dirt bike in August of 2012.

"I like to think I'm still getting better everyday. When you have broken bones and injuries from the past – and you get out of bed in the morning, they let you know.

What Graves has done to combat his injuries and maintain optimal fitness, is to head to the gym – as regularly as possible.

"The hardest thing is competing and getting to the gym when you're rodeoing... I was in California most of the winter... and was on a good regimen. If I'm in the gym and can stay in good shape, I'm competitive. Sitting in the truck takes a toll.

"I have to be diligent," Graves added. "I haven't always been that way. I've competed in the past without being diligent... and competing gets harder as you get older.

"If you're 100% sound and in good physical condition, you can step it up a bit. And I'm just about to turn 42 so my approach is a little different now," he admitted. "I still know where I want to be and what I want to do. I just need the mechanics to get there."

Graves and traveling partners Tanner and Straws Milan were headed south right after Stavely wrapped up for stops at Redding and Las Vegas.

At the other end of the arena, bronc rider, Rylan Geiger made it three in a row courtesy of an 87.5 point ride on Wayne Vold's exceptional pinto gelding, Awesome. Geiger's 87.5 edged Sam Kelts by a half point and netted Geiger a tidy \$1621.31. The win for Geiger comes on the heels of triumphs at Coleman and Medicine Hat and padded the Duchess hand's lead atop the bronc riding standings.

Other Stavely winners included former Canadian Rookie of the Year, Hanley, Saskatchewan cowboy

Dustan McPhee who topped the field in the bareback riding with his 85.5 point ride on Wayne Vold's True Grit for a haul of \$1400.24 and bull rider Jacob Stemo who collected \$1621.31 by virtue of his sensational 88.5 performance on Vold's Smoke and a Pancake.

In the rest of the timed events, another veteran, Stacy Cornet of Brant, AB, blazed an 8.1 second run to capture the tie down roping honours and take home \$1837.70, Clint Buhler and Brett McCarroll were a smooth 4.9 for \$2702.50 in the team roping and Oklahoma barrel racer, Sydni Blanchard navigated the pattern in 13.341 to take home \$1890.11

Connor Faucher continued his winning ways in the steer riding with a 77 point ride for \$485.

For complete Stavely rodeo results, see the CPRA website.

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Canadian steer wrestler Morgan Grant enjoyed a productive weekend in Texas. He was crowned All Around and Steer Wrestling champion at Mineral Wells where his 3.9 was quickest for \$1019. And he added a \$589 third place payoff at Crocket, TX, the result of his 4.8 second run.

The Canadian professional rodeo road winds its way to Falkland and Luxton, BC for May long weekend stops as the season heats up.

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