

Pro Rodeo Canada



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Berg Shines at Drayton Valley

It's difficult to determine when you become a 'veteran' on the pro rodeo trail. Is it age? The number of years you've been on the trail? Or is it just a 'feeling'?

"There's a different feel," agreed saddle bronc rider, Justin Berg when asked about his approach to the 2015 Pro Rodeo Canada season. "Time sure flies. I've been around here for the better part of a decade and I'm realizing when a guy's in his prime, you better start really taking care of business."

Berg is off to one of his better starts in his nine years in the Canadian Professional Rodeo Association after winning the inaugural Drayton Valley Pro Rodeo at the Drayton Valley, AB, Omniplex this past weekend. The 28 year-old was 84.5 points on a C+ Rodeo horse called *Casino Royal* on Sunday afternoon to win \$1,448.

"I've been on him three or four times before," recalled Berg of his knowledge of the 17 year-old, bay gelding. "The first time I had him was right when I started and he was really nice. The next two times, he was pretty hard but he gave me a chance to do good today."

The cheque from Drayton Valley pushed the Wainwright, AB, cowboy's season earnings to \$2,741, good enough for a top five spot in the Canadian saddle bronc standings.

"I'm pretty happy with the start," said the five-time CFR qualifier. "I believe putting in more work and being better prepared is really going to help me this year. I'm excited."

The only other lead change during the final performance in Drayton Valley came in the bareback riding where four-time Canadian champion, Dusty LaValley posted an 87.5-point score on C+ Rodeo's *Strawberry*.

"That's a great horse," offered LaValley, who has now won two cheques from his first three rodeos of the season. "He was out the first night with Cole Goodine and I had the privilege of watching that ride on video so I knew what to expect. It has lots of timing."

The 33 year-old, Bezanson, AB, cowboy's other cheque came from the Camrose, AB, Spring Classic Rodeo last weekend. He's now won \$1,819 to start the season.

"I was rusty in Camrose but it felt really good today," suggested LaValley, who has planned a limited schedule in 2015. "If I knew I could win everywhere, I'd enter more. But with a family and starting a new business, I have to be selective. I'll probably get to 30 rodeos."

Kirsty White became the first CPRA competitor to reach the \$6,000 mark in 2015 season earnings after her victory in Drayton Valley. The Big Valley, AB, barrel racer turned the cloverleaf pattern inside the Omniplex in a time of 13.798-seconds during Thursday's slack to pick up the first place cheque worth \$1,999.

Other winners from the weekend included tie-down roper, Al Bouchard (7.6-seconds, \$1,708); steer wrestler, Straws Milan (4.0-seconds, \$1,816); team ropers, Murdock Keith/Riley Warren (4.4-seconds, \$1,319 each) and permit bullrider, Travis Maguire (87.5-points on Double Tree Rodeo's *Crowbar*, \$1,490).

Next up on the CPRA schedule is the Stavely Indoor Pro Rodeo in Stavely, AB (May 7-9).

Find complete results at www.rodeocanada.com

About the Canadian Professional Rodeo Association: The Canadian Professional Rodeo Association (CPRA) with its headquarters in Airdrie, Alberta, is the sanctioning body for professional rodeo in Canada. The CPRA endorses over 50 events annually with a total payout exceeding \$5.1 million. Join us for the 42nd edition of the Canadian Finals Rodeo (CFR) November 11th-15th, 2015 in Edmonton, Alberta at Rexall Place, our association's premiere event. For more information please visit RodeoCanada.com or call (403) 945-0903. Follow us on [Twitter](#), or like our page on [Facebook](#), and watch the action on [YouTube](#) throughout the year.