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RILEY WARREN MAKING A MOVE DURING THE CANADIAN PROFESSIONAL RODEO ASSOCIATION'S "EAST RUN"

"I'm trying to get my sights on season leader more than the last person to make it I hope."

Tie Down and Team Roper Riley Warren is starting to become a familiar face at the Canadian Finals Rodeo, but the Stettler Cowboy is hoping for more than qualifying by the skin of his teeth.

Warren can be described as easily one of the most laid-back competitors on the rodeo trail, but any cowboy would be nervous to squeeze in the biggest event of the year in the bottom couple seats. After qualifying for the 2015 CFR in 11th spot in the Tie Down Roping and 12th in the Team Roping, this is something Warren knows all too well.

This year, the talented roper is fighting to ensure that doesn't happen again, and after a rocking July, he's one step closer to that goal.

"I should be getting pretty close to having the finals made but I'd like to maybe go in at the top of the pack this year, or close to it anyways. I'm just trying to keep making good runs and they'll pay me what I deserve," said Warren.

Pay they did, Warren has now collected cheques at six out of eight rodeos so far this month, with the largest chunk of his earnings coming from this past weekend. Warren placed third at both the Bonnyville Pro Rodeo and the Cowtown Pro Rodeo in Maple Creek, Saskatchewan before going on to become the 2016 Manitoba Stampede Tie Down Roping Champion to earn a total of \$4,350.07.

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After enjoying a fairly successful early spring, Warren had begun to slip down in the standings, so the wins may be enough to put the cowboy at ease, that is, if he had the ability to be nervous.

"I guess it is sort of a lot of pressure, but it shouldn't be," said Warren who gave the impression that being nervous had never occurred to him, "You just have to keep trying to make the best run you can and when you draw a good calf and you have a chance hopefully you can use them and win on them."

What is known as the CPRA's "East Run" is a time of year when cowboys put on the miles to make it to events held in Eastern Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba. This time of year the rodeo season no longer seems infinite, and Warren says the many miles on your truck can mean a successful entrance in to the Canadian Finals Rodeo.

"They're nice rodeos, it's a fair bit of driving to go out to Morris but it's worth it I think if you're trying to make the finals," said Warren.

As the roper climbs back up the standings ladder, he laughs about the possibility of learning what it's like to head in to the finals in a top spot.

"I haven't been at the top enough to know," Warren chuckles, "Hopefully I can stay close to the top now, so I'll let you know how it feels later."

There were two competitors on the weekend that took home first place cheques at two rodeos. Bareback Rider Linden Woods won the Moose Mountain Pro Rodeo in Kennedy, SK with an 83 point ride aboard A63 "Gold Dust" from Big Stone Rodeo and also won the Cowtown Pro Rodeo with 79.5 points on C5 Rodeo's 100 "Good Times" for a total of \$2,005.21.

Steer Wrestler and Resistol Rookie candidate, Brendan Laye, also won two rodeos this weekend; his 3.3 second run in Kennedy earned him \$1,383.90 and a time of 4.4 seconds also landed him the first place cheque of \$1880.94 at the Bonnyville Pro Rodeo.

Lynette Brodoway also had a great weekend on the rodeo trail, winning a total of \$3035.02 in the Ladies Barrel Racing with a second place finish in Morris and first place at Bonnyville.

The CPRA also had a special event last week as the town of Oyen hosted the White Lightening Dodge Cowboy Crunch bull riding. Zane Lambert won the long round and placed second in the short round to ultimately win the championship and \$4,455.79.

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It's a rich weekend coming up in the Canadian Professional Rodeo Association season with over \$230,000 in added money up for grabs! Two Wrangler Canadian Professional Rodeo Tour Rodeos will take place this weekend; Medicine Hat Exhibition and Stampede July 28 to 30 and the Strathmore Stampede, which alone has nearly \$150,000 in added money, July 29 to August 1. The Bulls for Breakfast special bull riding event will take place in Camrose, July 28 and 31 and you can enjoy the 103rd Annual Bruce Stampede on July 31. For a complete CPRA rodeo schedule and list of results go to www.rodeocanada.com.

About the Canadian Professional Rodeo Association

The Canadian Professional Rodeo Association (CPRA) with headquarters in Airdrie, Alta., is the sanctioning body for professional rodeo in Canada. The CPRA sanctions over 50 events annually with a total payout exceeding \$5.1 million. Follow us on Twitter, Instagram, and Snapchat at @prorodeocanada, like Canadian Professional Rodeo Association on Facebook, or online at RodeoCanada.com.

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