

Csabay and Wicked Gaining Momentum



For immediate release

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Friday night at the Canadian Finals Rodeo has historically been noted for seeing important changes in the leaderboards coming to the halfway point of the six performance event.

And the defending barrel racing champion, Nancy Csabay from Taber, Alberta, effected one of those changes as she rode her talented mare, Wicked, to a flawless 14.754 and the go-round win. Csabay, who needed a huge performance at the Pro Rodeo Canada Series Final a month ago in Calgary just to qualify for the CFR, has a first and two thirds to date and is now less than five thousand dollars back of the leader, Callahan Crossley. The Hermiston, Oregon cowgirl captured third place in the round with a 14.689. Season leader Kirsty White took home the second place cheque to stay in second place overall.

“I thought I’d tipped that first barrel,” Csabay admitted as she talked about her winning run. “But I didn’t look back; I just rode hard. I knew that second barrel was coming up in a hurry.

”It didn’t hurt that her mount loves this building and this rodeo as much as her owner.

“Wicked is absolutely on fire, maybe even more than last year,” Csabay noted. “Usually she’s pretty calm in the alley before the run but this year she’s dancing a little bit out there. She’s feeling it.”

That could spell bad news for the rest of the field but Csabay is clear that no matter what happens, winning is not the most important thing. “Don’t get me wrong,” the 2015 Top Gun Award winner (for being the top money earner of the CFR), smiled, “I love to win but it doesn’t define me. To me it’s all about just loving what you’re doing, riding forward and having fun. We love this building, this city and this rodeo.”

In the bareback riding, eleven guys were very cognizant of the fact that two-time and reigning champion, Jake Vold was threatening to have the bareback riding title locked up by the halfway point of the Canadian Finals Rodeo.

And they decided to do something about it. It was the Manitoba superstar, Orin Larsen, who grabbed the \$12,324 first place cheque in round number three with a spectacular 87.25 point ride on the money machine called Mucho Dinero from the Wayne Vold bucking stock firm. Season leader Caleb Bennett from Tremonton, Utah took back some of the ground he had lost to Vold in the first two performances with an 86.75 score on the Calgary Stampede buckler—Reckless Margie.

Vold added an 86.5 on another Stampede horse, You See Me, to finish third in the round. He still sits atop the leaderboard with \$59,234, \$7,000 ahead of Bennett and the Airdrie cowboy leads the average as well to remain in a comfortable spot after three of the six performances comprising the Canadian Finals Rodeo.



The Cassidy family domination of the 2016 CFR steer wrestling competition continued during the Friday performance. With Cody the season leader holding serve and brother Curtis having moved to second place on the leaderboard, the brothers continued to do what they have done so well and for so long as they split the round with identical 3.7 runs. Between the two they have sixteen Canadian titles and there's a better than average chance that one of the two just might add another in 2016.

The team roping also featured a tie for top spot. The two time champion McCarroll brothers from Camrose and the American duo—Russell Cardoza (Terrebonne, Oregon) and Dustin Bird (Cut Bank, Montana) both put together lightning fast 4.0 second runs to split top money before a full house at Edmonton's venerable Northlands Coliseum. Less than seven thousand dollars separate the top six teams in the event.

The saddle bronc riding race tightened up in this third round of the CFR as Clay Elliott was spectacular on the Calgary Stampede bronc - Stampede Warrior. Elliott's 86.75 earned him the twelve thousand dollar plus first place cheque but just as importantly, the leader going into the round, Dustin Flundra, was disqualified for missing out the award winning gelding Pedro from the Wayne Vold string. As a result, Flundra fell to third behind Elliott and first round winner, Jim Berry. To complicate things further, all three of the leaders have a no score to deal with, meaning that none are factoring into the aggregate payoff for the moment.

The tie-down roping go-round winner was Sexsmith, Alberta cowboy, Lee Rombough, who posted an 8.0 run for the top cheque. The three time CFR qualifier moved up the overall leader ladder to third place with season earnings of \$32,000, just \$3000 behind leader and fellow Albertan, Al Bouchard and \$1800 back of 2014 champion, Matt Shiozawa who has the advantage of being solid in the average while the two Alberta cowboys both have a no time to contend with.

The Friday night bull riding saw a tough pen of bulls dispatch seven of twelve riders but Tim Lipsett rode his way to the winner's circle with a technically solid performance aboard the Calgary Stampede's previously unriden, Night Moves. Lipsett's effort earned him 86 points and the big payday.

It was the rookie's first successful ride of the Finals and enabled him to scramble back into contention with an overall sixth place total of \$27,725, still \$25,000 back of leader and back to back champion, Dakota Buttar from Kindersley. Buttar bucked off his third round draw, Outlaw Buckers' Chip Shot.

Second generation talent, Dawson Hay claimed first place in the novice saddle bronc riding with his 76 point ride on Calgary's Sergeant Whitney. It was Langenburg, Saskatchewan's Danny Vandenameele in the novice bareback riding for the second night in a row—this time around he collected 69 points on the Kesler horse, Alley Trail. And in the steer riding the littlest guy, Carter Sahli, made the biggest ride—a 76.5 to win a round that saw all six young contestants ride their steers.

The night also saw the 2016 Cowboy of the Year named and it was the now-retired bullfighter, Scott Byrne who received the Ross Contway bronze, Troy Fischer buckle and Fellowship of Christian Cowboys leather-bound Bible that go to the recipient.

Byrne was a CFR -selected bullfighter 14 times in an amazing career that spanned two decades and saw him as the cowboy lifesaver at virtually every top rodeo and bull riding event in Canada.



The 2016 Hall of Fame inductees were honoured as well. They were contestants, Dan Lowry, Bob Hartell and the late Dave MacDonald; Builder Vic Stuckey (deceased) and rodeo animals, Painted Smile, the Kesler bucking horse and Confusion, the Harvey Northcott bull.

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 approves over 50 events annually with a total payout exceeding \$5.1 million. Join us for our premiere event - the 43rd edition of the Canadian Finals Rodeo (CFR) November 9-13, 2016 in Edmonton, Alberta at Northlands Coliseum. 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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