



Hot Hands

Airdrie, ALTA – July 31, 2017 - If you're looking at how best to define the term—"career year"—you need look no further than Layton Green's 2017 season.

And by the way, the same strategy might apply to the term "career month." In July, the Meeting Creek, AB bronc rider climbed on 12 horses at CPRA sanctioned rodeos. He was first on six of them, (Ponoka long go and Final, Teepee Creek, Morris, Medicine Hat and Bruce) split one-two on another (Pollockville long go) and was second on four others. Factor in a couple of average wins (Ponoka and Pollockville) and you have a cool \$43,547 month for the soft-spoken twenty-three year-old.

Add in a second place \$25,000 cheque and go-round money at the Calgary Stampede, and his PRCA earnings during July, and you have, well, a career month.

His spectacular July has the talented second generation cowboy already at \$58,295 (unofficially) in Canadian season earnings. With a couple of months of regular season action and the CFR yet to go, it looks very possible that Rod Hay's long-standing single season earnings record of \$101,646 (2005) might fall victim to Green's juggernaut run.

Among the most recent of Green's spectacular rides was a 90 point effort at Saturday afternoon's final performance of the Medicine Hat Stampede. Green re-connected with Kesler Rodeo's Gone Country (the two had met in the long go at Ponoka for an 85.25 win). This time the pair combined for 90 points and another victory.

"He was a lot better with me in Medicine Hat," Green noted. "He was shorter and jumped higher and bucked harder. He was phenomenal.

"I wasn't exactly thinking it might be 90 (points) but when it feels that good, the way that ride did, you sort of think, 'I wonder how many points they're going to give me'."

Of his amazing month Green said, "When you're rolling like this, you just want in to keep going. I want to just keep having fun and not change anything."

Enjoying his first day at home in more than a month, Green admitted the time off was welcome. "At Cheyenne I was sore and tired. We'd had about seven 20-hour drives in a row and we decided to turn out of Joseph and relax a bit. That really helped when I got to Medicine Hat and Pollockville (where he split the long go, was second in the short go—91.5 points on another old friend—Calgary's Stampede Warrior for 91.5 points, and won the average) and then Bruce (another win). My shoulder felt way better and I was really ready to go at Medicine Hat."

With a CFR berth virtually assured and an NFR roster spot all but locked up, Green is looking forward to a slightly more relaxed schedule this fall. "The last couple of years I've gone so hard trying to get to Las Vegas but this year maybe I'll try to take a couple of days to go hunting and just take it a little easier."

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In the meantime you can understand why Green is looking forward to the possibility that August just might start off as well as July ended. His first stop—High Prairie. And the horse he'll be getting on—Gone Country—one more time.

"I can't wait," the number one bronc rider in Canada chuckled.

Another season leader who has been a picture of consistency is Rexburg, Idaho bull rider Garrett Smith. He currently occupies the number one spot in the Canadian standings and is number two in the world behind three time champion Sage Kimsey.

Smith is quick to point out that qualifying for the CFR was a goal from the beginning of the season. "My brother Wyatt had been to the Canadian Finals in the steer wrestling a few years ago (2012) and he told me how great it was so it's definitely been on my mind this year."

The three time National High School All-Around Champion (a record) has been lights out all season, only recently relinquishing the season lead in the world standings to Kimsey. "Making the NFR last year and getting on a bit of a roll there really gave me a lot of confidence for this."

That confidence and the 22 year old's tremendous talent were in evidence at Medicine Hat as Smith padded his lead atop the Canadian standings with an 86 point performance on X6 Ranch's Black Sugar. "I didn't know that bull at all," Smith admitted, "but they told me he'd fake one way and go the other and that's exactly what he did. It felt really good."

Smith plans to get to five or six more CPRA stops before Edmonton and will be "all over the place" down south as he pursues his dual goals—Canadian and World titles.

For complete weekend results go to rodeocanada.com

This week sees cowboys and cowgirls making their way to the High Prairie Elks Pro Rodeo August 1 and 2, the Camrose Bulls for Breakfast event, August 3-6, the Strathmore Stampede and Heritage Days, August 4-7 and Grimshaw's North Peace Stampede August 5 and 6.

About the Canadian Professional Rodeo Association

The Canadian Professional Rodeo Association (CPRA) with headquarters in Airdrie, Alberta 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 September 29-30, 2017 for our 4th Annual Grass Roots Final (at the Agrium Western Event Centre, Stampede Park in Calgary, Alberta) and for our premiere event - the Canadian Finals Rodeo (CFR) November 8-12, 2017 at Northlands Coliseum in Edmonton, Alberta. 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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