



## Richardson on a Roll

“Pretty darn good right now, thanks!

That was Matt Richardson’s answer to “Hey, how ya doin?” on the heels of the Olds bulldogger’s current winning streak.

The third year pro just recorded a \$2865 weekend, first as part of a 4.5 second four-way split of top spot at the Kananaskis Pro Rodeo, then with a blistering 3.5 second run that had the Olds College grad winning first outright at the Camrose Spring Classic Pro Rodeo.

The productive weekend coupled with a win at the Medicine Hat Broncs and Honky Tonks earlier in the month has the former intercollegiate champ comfortably in third spot in the Canadian standings.

“I took five months off after the end of last season,” Richardson noted. “I didn’t feel like I was able to bear down the way I should have at the end of last season. So I blanketed my horses and turned them out with a round bale and played hockey and worked all winter.”

The Alberta Junior Hockey League alumnus headed to northern BC and spend an intensive week practicing with Clayton Moore and traveling partner Stephen Culling before kicking off his season at Medicine Hat.

“Being around winners—guys with great attitudes, that helps a lot,” Richardson added. “And the win at Medicine Hat was huge for my confidence.”

With over \$4100 in the bank, it should come as no surprise that the 6’1” 225 pound athlete has his sights set squarely on the CFR that this year will be taking place just a half-hour down the road.

With his 20 year-old dogging horse, Worm, who he acquired from Brock Butterfield, and a solid hazing horse from Leon Laye, the likeable central Albertan looks poised to make some big-time noise in 2018. And that means he just might be feeling “pretty darn good right now, thanks,” a few more times as the season unfolds.

Richardson wasn’t the only guy sporting a big grin after the Kananaskis/Camrose weekend. CFR bull rider Zane Lambert swept the weekend events with a spectacular 89 point effort at the Kananaskis event on Kesler Championship Rodeo’s Ivy League for a \$1237 payday and added a solid 87.5 point ride on Outlaw Buckers’ Bandera for \$1466. The \$2703 total will vault the Ponoka talent to first place in the crowded bull riding standings.

And while the weekend featured some first time winners - bareback rider, Jacob Stemo (85 points,

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\$1308), barrel racer Brett Wills (13,393 seconds, \$2199) and steer rider Tristen Manning (77.5 points, \$368)—all at Camrose; and steer rider Derrien Ferrence (66.5, \$500) at Kananaskis—one smooth moving veteran was making sure the kids didn't get all the money. Water Valley roper Mark Nugent, who won both the Rookie of the Year and Canadian titles in 1987, topped the tie down roping field at Kananaskis with a 9.1 run for \$1837, then picked up a 5/6/7 split at Camrose for another \$710.

Next up on the CPRA schedule is the Drayton Valley Pro Rodeo May 4-6.

For complete results check out [rodeocanada.com](http://rodeocanada.com)

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### **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. The organization holds the Grass Roots Final September 27-28 at Stampede Park in Calgary, Alberta and their premiere event - the Canadian Finals Rodeo (CFR) - at the ENMAX Centrium, Westerner Park in Red Deer, Alberta, October 30 - November 4. Follow the CPRA on Twitter and Instagram @prorodeocanada, 'Like' Canadian Professional Rodeo Association on Facebook or online at [RodeoCanada.com](http://RodeoCanada.com).

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