



Cole Blazes Way to Pincher Creek Win

The significance of the moment was not lost on Harley Cole.

The grin on the Okotoks bulldogger's face after his winning 3.6 second run at the 25th anniversary edition of the Pincher Creek Pro Rodeo told the story.

"These guys are all such good steer wrestlers," Cole acknowledged immediately after his run, "so anytime you're able to do something like this, it feels pretty good."

The \$1427 injection into the Cole bank account (he added fifty bucks with a split of 8th at Cranbrook Pro Rodeo) keeps the 2013 CFR qualifier very much in the conversation as he vies for a second CFR appearance in a crowded field that had only \$3500 separating 10th and 20th place in the steer wrestling standings heading into the weekend's action.

"This time of year every run means a lot," Cole admitted, "so I'm really happy to get this right now."

And while the win certainly helped the 34 year-old veteran dogger, several of the guys battling for those final few qualifying berths also cashed cheques on the weekend which keeps the picture very fuzzy going into the final few weeks—and last seven rodeos—of the season.

Consider that seven of the ten guys sitting between 11th and 20th in the standings all made money on the weekend and it's clear that the race will go down to the wire—and maybe the Grass Roots Final in Calgary September 27 and 28—before the CFR steer wrestling lineup will finally be determined.

The picture is a little clearer for a few competitors in other events after big time weekend performances. Texas barrel racer Angela Ganter topped the field at both of the weekend CPRA stops to pocket \$2314 and make a nice move up the season leaderboard to seventh place with just under \$17,000 won to date. Ganter's weekend means there's a better than average chance that the family will be represented at the CFR for the third year in a row. Daughter Jackie was on the CFR roster in both 2016 and 2017.

And in the team roping, the Ellensburg, Washington brother combination of Riley and Brady Minor virtually punched their ticket to a second consecutive CFR as they too picked up wins at both Cranbrook and Pincher Creek and at the same time met the (15 minimum) rodeo count required for CFR eligibility. The brothers were a blazing 3.9 seconds at Pincher Creek for a \$1318 (each) payday, then added \$1076 with a 5.2 second effort at Cranbrook. The twin-win weekend boosted the perennial WNFR qualifiers to third place in the Canadian team roping standings.

Canadian Professional Rodeo Association

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This week will see CPRA action at the Smithers, British Columbia Bareback Riding event August 23 and at the Okotoks Pro Rodeo August 24-26 at its new location at the Millarville Rodeo grounds.

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.

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