

CANADIAN PROFESSIONAL RODEO ASSOCIATION

2005 CANADIAN STANDINGS

Standings up to and including Shaunavon, Estevan, Morris and Kennedy

ALL-AROUND		
1	Jeremy Harden, Big Valley, AB	\$11,450
2	Dalton Kraft, Medicine Hat, AB	9,814

HIGH-POINT		
1	Lee Graves, Calgary, AB	\$28,409
2	BJ Zieffle, Consort, AB	20,355

SADDLE BRONC		
1	Rod Hay, Wildwood, AB	\$85,619
2	Rod Warren, Big Valley, AB	28,930
3	Scott Breesee, Ponoka, AB	14,435
4	Sam Kelts, Millarville, AB	12,755
5	Levi Harbin, Peers, AB	11,682
6	Kyle Daines, Innisfail, AB	10,059
7	Todd Herzog, Penhold, AB	9,992
8	Dustin Flundra, Pincher Creek, AB	9,787
9	Jeremy Harden, Big Valley, AB	9,773
10	Dustin Thompson, Brooks, AB	9,626
11	Kyle Thomson, Black Diamond, AB	8,677
12	Ross Kreutzer, Maple Creek, SK	7,846
13	Lance Mulvahill, Dawson Creek, BC	7,589
14	Billy Richards, Cochrane, AB	5,515
15	Alan Bandy, Wainwright, AB	5,162

BAREBACK		
1	Davey Shields Jr., Bashaw, AB	\$78,393
2	Kyle Bowers, Brooks, AB	23,833
3	Luke Walker, Vanderhoof, BC	14,853
4	Don McLeod, Hanna, AB	14,205
5	Roger Lacasse, Mirabel, QC	12,305
6	Reid Rowan, Medicine Hat, AB	11,496
7	Travis Whiteside, Longview, AB	10,247
8	Dusty LaValley, Debolt, AB	9,437
9	Troy Tattrie, Youngstown, AB	7,348
10	Alan Dacyk, Calgary, AB	5,597
11	Michael Solberg, Sunnynook, AB	5,034
12	Jason DelGuercio, Maple Creek, SK	4,833
13	Gaetan Bernard, Alix, AB	3,939
14	Monty Koopman, Medicine Hat, AB	3,188
15	Neal Deitz, Milo, AB	2,974

BULL RIDING		
1	Chris Hansen, Caroline, AB	\$76,359
2	Tyrel Jensen, Taber, AB	36,087
3	Tanner Girtetz, Cereal, AB	22,193
4	Luke Ellingson, Weyburn, SK	21,698
5	Jordie Campbell, Bindloss, AB	19,013
6	Scott Schiffrer, Stettler, AB	16,484
7	Todd Hemmerling, Edson, AB	16,077
8	Garth Oldfield, Milo, AB	15,313
9	Denton Edge, Marwayne, AB	14,202
10	Côme Bouvier, Empress, AB	13,414
11	Karson Legault, Val Marie, SK	13,402
12	Justin Volz, Charlie Lake, BC	12,608
13	Jason Finkbeiner, Wardlow, AB	11,842
14	Brett Thompson, Medicine Hat, AB	11,314
15	Cole Collins, Fort St. John, BC	11,160

TIE-DOWN ROPING		
1	Alwin Bouchard, Scandia, AB	\$61,423
2	Cliff Williamson, Madden, AB	15,925
3	Jeff Chapman, Airdrie, AB	14,666
4	Marty Becker, Cardston, AB	13,905
5	Shawn Williamson, Mankota, SK	12,203
6	BJ Zieffle, Consort, AB	11,811
7	Steve Lloyd, Quesnel, BC	11,221
8	Jimmy Gunsch, Thorsby, AB	10,527
9	Blair Stroth, Elkwater, AB	9,951
10	Mark Nugent, Water Valley, AB	9,541
11	Chad Johnson, Del Bonita, AB	8,908
12	Joe Lucas, Carstairs, AB	8,857
13	Dalton Kraft, Medicine Hat, AB	8,383
14	Bruce Dunham, Indian Head, SK	7,801
15	Guy Smith, Elnora, AB	7,671

STEER WRESTLING		
1	Lee Graves, Calgary, AB	\$23,128
2	Baillie Milan, Cochrane, AB	20,959
3	William Beierbach, Maple Creek, SK	18,125
4	Tanner Milan, Cochrane, AB	15,657
5	Todd Maughan, Calgary, AB	15,503
6	Cody Cassidy, Donald, AB	15,214
7	Todd Woodward, Magrath, AB	14,786
8	Alex Cripps, Williams Lake, BC	12,508
9	Mark Roy, Dalemead, AB	10,063
10	David Gibson, Innisfail, AB	9,644
11	Justin Guenther, Consort, AB	9,516
12	Luke Laskosky, Viking, AB	9,154
13	Curtis Cassidy, Donald, AB	9,102
14	Joe Butterfield, Red Deer, AB	9,053
15	Matt Pasco, Ashcroft, BC	8,547

Please visit www.rodeocanada.com for individual rodeo results and Canadian standings.

Modern workout methods help

By DIANNE FINSTAD

The Ponoka Stampede came along at a good time for bull rider Jason Finkbeiner. He was testing out a new approach to preparing for his ride, and he needed a change in fortune. Both came together, and the Wardlow, Alta. competitor left Ponoka with a jacket, buckle, just over \$7,000 in earnings and sweet revenge.

In the bull riding finals, only three qualifiers made the whistle. Finkbeiner was one of them and he claimed the championship after marking 86 points on Chin Music for a 169 point total on two.

"He was one I wanted because he'd bucked me off so fast before," Finkbeiner recalled. "I had him at Edmonton a couple years ago, and I was off, you couldn't even count how fast, it was bad.

"He was good today, just right there out to the left. He really kicks good, he's strong, and just the one you want. He's good to ride, and if you mind your business, you'll stay on."

This isn't the first time Finkbeiner has won Ponoka. He also took the title in 2002, but admitted this win marks a turnaround for his year's 'business'.

"I felt all right. I've been having quite a little (heck) before coming into here, the last two or three weeks. I haven't been drawing the best bulls, and when I did draw two good ones this weekend, I fell off them. I haven't done much, so it was good to come out and win here. She's turning around now."

If you got a glimpse behind the chutes just before the rodeo, you might have noticed Finkbeiner engaged in some unusual activity. With some brightly coloured elastic cords, and some expert advice from a new face on the rodeo scene, the three-time CFR qualifier was busy getting his muscles loose and his heart rate up before tightening his bull rope. It's all part of the program Mark Barrett of Strong Cowboy Strength and Conditioning introduced to Finkbeiner and some of his fellow cowboys.

"He's been working with us, and has got us on a training program. We've got a little program that we do before we get on that gets our cardio up, and gets our mind going with our muscles.

"I've probably been on it for three weeks or so. It's not something you just start, and see the results right away. We've been working pretty hard at it, and it's starting to pay off. I feel awesome right now, healthy as can be, and having fun."

By the time Sunday night's finals rolled around, several of the other bull riders weren't feeling quite as healthy.

Cochrane, Alta.'s **Beau McArthur** won the long round with an 88 on Grey Power, feeling like he was finally back on

the right track. He'd been struggling to overcome a serious skull and facial injury suffered at the horns of Kesler's Shiver 'n' Shake, back in 2001.

"It's been a long time coming, just healing up, and with the mind games," said McArthur after his high point ride. "It'll click once in a while, but it never clicks like it did when I was 18."

McArthur had been drawing good bulls, and was looking forward to Williams Lake later in the weekend, where he'd drawn a bull they were 91 points on earlier in the rodeo.

However, he didn't come out of that ride quite so successfully. Once again, it was his face and head that bore the brunt of the injury, so McArthur wasn't able to take his final bull in Ponoka.

Caroline's, Alta.'s **Chris Hansen** was



Mike Copeman photo
Jason Finkbeiner is on a new strength training program that has already shown positive results.

taken to hospital in Ponoka after getting knocked out and stepped on by his bull. And following his early dismount in the finals, **Justin Volz** was in extreme pain, with groin problems flaring up again.

One of the steer wrestlers competing at Ponoka also needed some medical attention.

Ryan Guest of Lloydminster, Sask. and **Lee Graves** of Calgary, Alta. were tied coming into the finals, and both made 4.4-second runs. They wound up splitting first overall with a three-run total of 14.9 seconds, netting them each in the neighbourhood of \$4,600.

The only difference was that when the runs were over, Graves could still walk. Guest needed crutches, after blowing into his right knee.

"Right in the middle of the run, just when I had him over my hip, I could feel it pop," described Guest. "I thought, well, I went this far. If a guy could tough it out for two more seconds, and get 'er done. It really eases the pain (to win). It was something I really wanted to do, so it's good.

"I've actually been really fortunate, never had any knee trouble. I've been at this for fifteen years, and I've been lucky. You see all these guys wearing braces, and you think, hah, that'll never happen to me.

"We'll see how long it lasts. Maybe it's not bad."

In fact, Guest had torn his ACL and MCL ligaments and is scheduled for sur-

Finkbeiner capture Ponoka bull riding victory

gery in late August. The injury will end his season as a bulldogger, but he plans to finish the season in the tie-down and possibly the team roping.

And there was a familiar face to the Ponoka Stampede fans collecting some major cash in the saddle bronc riding.

"It's a good day to be me," grinned **Rod Hay**, after winning the final round with an 86 on the Big Country horse War Cry.

His total of 165 points tied him with South Dakota's **Jacob Costello**. Hay picked up \$6,285 from his third Ponoka Stampede victory, and he is quick to share the credit with the horse.

"That's an outstanding bronc. It was probably the draw to have today," stated Hay. "She had her 'A' game on, and it was touch and go. I tried to do everything right, but ones like that, you've got to do it right for eight seconds.

"I was nowhere near solid anywhere, anytime, in there. But a horse like that, the only way to do it is to gas and go, as hard as you can. You've got to do it right or she'll buck you off. Give me a chance, that's all I want. It's just basic bronc riding, but you've just got to do it real good."

In the barrel racing, it was **Rayel Robinson** who capitalized on a big lead she had going into the finals of the 69th edition of the Ponoka Stampede. Her initial run of 17.09 seconds was a full two tenths faster than the next best one in the field, and that's light years ahead in barrel racing terms. So that gave Robinson some time to play it smart with her final run, and even though it wasn't nearly as fast, at 18.00 seconds, her 35.09-second total was still best of the bunch, earning her \$8,030 of the Stampede's rich payoff.

"I just came into today, wanting to be a little safe, because she'd had such a good first run," Robinson explained. "The ground just wasn't quite the same as it was when I was here at the beginning of the week. Running at the bottom of the ground today probably made a difference, so I was just happy to have a nice, clean smooth run."

Lady Perks' owner Grant Little of Ardrossan, Alta. was ecstatic to see the horse become the new arena record holder with her first run time, pointing out with futurity and rodeo winnings, the horse has probably earned close to \$70,000 in just over a year.

Robinson's plan at the start of the season was to try and be qualified for the Canadian Finals by this weekend, so she could give the horse some time off.

"Yeah, I think I'm definitely on track. This was just a nice surprise to be able to win a rodeo this big. This allows me to go home, give her a break after Calgary, and with young horses, they just need a bit of a rest. Hopefully we'll be ready for Edmonton."

This isn't the first time that Robinson has laid claim to the Ponoka Stampede barrel racing championship. She blushed, and wasn't eager to disclose when the last one was. But she finally 'fessed up.

"Actually in 1989," she laughed. "I won it on a five-year-old, and I'm actually training one of her colts for next year as a futurity horse."

After making it to the finals, and finishing fourth in the saddle bronc riding aggregate, **Jeremy Harden** picked up a much-needed \$4,171, as well as the all-around honours at Ponoka. It was just the boost the Big Valley, Alta. cowboy needed after a tough few months.

"It's awesome," he said with a big grin. Harden didn't even start entering rodeos this season until Innisfail, after finding himself in a cash crunch.

"I got in a wreck with my truck this spring. I had to pay for a new tranny. I bought a Volvo semi, and insurance wouldn't cover the transmission," he explained. "I ended up having to go home and work. I missed like 15 rodeos, and I was soured up. I was not very happy. But I went back to work and got some money together, and started entering again, and it feels even better to come back and win. It's good to be on the road again."

The Ponoka Stampede committee presented its prestigious Bill Kehler Memorial Award for dedication to, and promotion of, the sport of rodeo to longtime rodeo reporter **Dwayne Erickson**. He received a treasured gold Ponoka Stampede ring. Not only has Erickson been the sport's most dedicated rodeo reporter for decades, he was also a close friend and travelling partner of the late Bill Kehler. It's a choice for a recipient that certainly would have pleased "Billy K".

Two American competitors who spend a lot of time during the summer coming up to Canada to rodeo cashed in at the Ponoka Stampede.

Bareback rider **Will Lowe** picked up his first Stampede championship and \$9,239 after he did all the winning he possibly could.

Lowe won the long go with an 86 on Kesler's Skyreach, and then came back on Vold's Awesome for an 89 to win the finals, and claim the aggregate as well.

The tiny Texan figured his finals horse truly lived up to its name. "The horse just really bucked. You didn't really know exactly what she was going to do next, but I just kept gassing it and having fun," he said with a grin. "I spurred over her neck right when the buzzer sounded. But she just didn't give up, and kept bucking the entire time. She made you work pretty hard, but those are the ones that are fun, when you can jump out of there and be a pile on them."

Then he added with a twinkle, "You could tell before hand that she was going to buck. She kind of had it in her eye."

"I've made the short round here every year. Ponoka's always been great to me. The horses always buck here and it's always a good rodeo. It's one of those way up on my list. I love coming up here to Ponoka, and I'm just glad I have the opportunity to come up to Canada."

Blair Burk is another big Ponoka fan. The Oklahoma looper made it back to the finals in good shape, and then stuck on a rapid 8.4-second run to come out on top with a 29 second total on three runs, picking up \$5,943 along the way. The famous long score run is always a challenge for man and beast, and Burk was pleased with the way 'Old Roanie' worked for him all rodeo long.

"I was in the middle of the pack and had a good calf," Burk explained about his final run. "They had already tied him in nine. I just wanted to get a good start, and I had the first run on my horse. He really worked good. He ran hard. The calf kind of faded off to left, but he let me keep him standing up. Then you can be a lot faster. I just got to him, and tried to tie him down, and not make any mistakes. It ended up being good for us today."

Burk also split Airdrie with **Joe Lucas** the same weekend, for another two thousand Canadian dollars. This marked the second Ponoka championship for the ten-time NFR qualifier, and this time he also won the high-point award since he competed in the team roping with traveling partner **Jeff Chapman**.

"I try never to miss Ponoka. The committee up here, they do such a great job with the rodeo. They give us two head back to back in one day, which gives everybody a chance to come up here and get a run. These calves are really good—they prepare them well."

WEEKEND WINNERS

Sponsored by Billy Bob's

PONOKA STAMPEDE
PONOKA, AB

JUNE 28-JULY 3, 2005

AGGREGATE WINNERS

SB ROD HAY/JACOB COSTELLO, 165, \$3,686

BB WILL LOWE, 175, \$3,590

BR JASON FINKBEINER, 169, \$3,881

TD BLAIR BURK, 29.0, \$2,997

SW RYAN GUEST, 14.9, \$2,997

LBR RAYEL ROBINSON, 35.09, \$4,216

For complete results, see the scoreboard on page 20

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On the cover: Davey Shields Jr. rode the Calgary Stampede's pride a joy, Grated Coconut, for 95 points, the \$50,000 bonus and a new Canadian record at this year's Calgary Stampede. Photo by Mike Copeman

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