



## WORLD'S TOP WESTERN SPORTS ATHLETES SHINE AT WCRA'S DEBUT RODEO IN LAS VEGAS

**LAS VEGAS** – Round 1 of the all-new WCRA Rodeo Showdown matched all the billing and hype: when the dust settled on day one, the world's best rodeo athletes stood atop the leaderboard. Saturday afternoon's event opened two-days of intense competition and a new format with more than \$400,000 on the line.

Top bull riders, steer wrestlers, team ropers, saddle and bareback bronc riders, barrel racers and tie-down ropers all descended upon Sin City to compete in the first WCRA (World Champions Rodeo Alliance) event.

### **BULL RIDING:**

Six of the eight bull riders competing, including three World Champions, covered their bovine counterparts. In a tie for first place, fellow Brazilians, **Claudio Montanha Junior** (current PBR World Number 1) and **Jose Vitor Leme** (2017 PBR Rookie of the Year) both recorded 87.75-point scores. Montanha Junior rode **Catfish John** while Leme rode to the eight aboard **Living Large**. Reigning PBR World Champion **Jess Lockwood** and 2016 World Champion **Cooper Davis**, as well as four-time PRCA World Champion **Sage Kimzey** also made the eight, though Kimzey's score didn't qualify in the top four to move on.

### **Place - Name - Hometown - Stock - Score**

1st Claudio Montanha Junior - Ribeirao Dos Indiox, Brazil - Catfish John - 87.75  
1st Jose Vitor Leme - Ribas do Rio Pardo, Brazil - Living Large - 87.75  
3rd Cooper Davis - Jasper, TX - Shelley's Gangster - 87.50  
4th Jess Lockwood - Volborg, MT - Fire and Smoke - 87

### **STEER WRESTLING:**

The steers didn't stand a chance against the defensive linemen at Saturday afternoon's event. Alabama cowboy **Kyle Irwin** threw his steer the fastest, bringing the several hundred-pound steer onto his back in just over four seconds (4.22). Irwin won the round, but not far behind was 27 year-old Ty Erickson with a 4.49 second time. Of note, Irwin, Erickson and Pearson all rode to their Top 4 finish aboard "Clint" a horse belonging to Dean McIntyre.

### **Place - Name - Hometown - Score**

1st Kyle Irwin - Robersdale, AL - 4.22 seconds  
2nd Ty Erickson - Helena, MT - 4.49 seconds  
3rd Olin Hannum - Malad, ID - 4.64 seconds  
4th Tyler Pearson - Louisville, MS - 5.41

## TEAM ROPING:

The only brotherly duo of the night **Riley** and **Brady Minor** were consistent and fast – two qualities fans have come to expect in top team roping athletes. Their time of 5.21 seconds was just .29 seconds in front of second place. Of note, 23-time World Champion Trevor Brazile is the only athlete to return for Round 2 in two categories: team roping and tie-down.

### Place - Name - Hometown - Score

- 1st Minor/Minor - Ellensburg, WA - 5.21 seconds
- 2nd Smith/Eaves - Broken Bow, OK /Lonedell, MO -5.40
- 3rd Brazile/Skelton - Decatur, TX/ Llano, TX - 8.32
- 4th Proctor / Saebens - Pryor, OK / Nowata, OK - 9.88

## SADDLE BRONC:

Wyoming's **Brody Cress**, aboard the horse "Julia," put up an impressive score of 87.0 that was well out in front of the rest of the competition. The young gun's ride went nearly the length of the arena and gave the crowd a great show with his classic riding style.

### Place - Name - Hometown - Stock - Score

- 1st Brody Cress - Hillsdale, WY - Julia - 87
- 2nd Cort Scheer - Elsmere, NE - Bullet Proof - 84
- 3rd Jacobs Crawley - Stephenville, TX - Faded Charm - 83.5
- 4th Ryder Wright - Milford, UT - 81.5

## BARREL RACING:

**Lisa Lockhart** breezed past the competition with a 13.805 in Round 1 of the WCRA Rodeo Showdown in the iconic Thomas & Mack. The 11-time WNFR qualifier was the only competitor who broke the 13-second mark. Up and comer Hailey Kinsel was second with a 14.013 ride.

### Place - Name - Hometown - Score

- 1st Lisa Lockhart- Oelrichs, SD - 13.805
- 2nd Hailey Kinsel - Cotulla, TX - 14.013
- 3rd Nellie Miller - Cottonwood, CA - 14.208
- 4th Syndi Blanchard - Pueblo, CO - 14.277

## TIE-DOWN ROPING:

Texan **Marty Yates** took Round 1 with a mere 0.1 second lead over World Champion **Trevor Brazile**. Yates completed his run with an 8.01 time while Brazile came through with a 8.11. Of note, three of the top four finishers in Saturday's tie-down roping were previous WNFR world champions (Brazile, Smidt and Cooper).



### **Place - Name - Hometown - Score**

1st Marty Yates - Stephenville, TX - 8.01  
2nd Trevor Brazile - Decatur, TX - 8.11  
3rd Caleb Smidt - Bellville, TX - 8.25  
4th Tuf Cooper - Decatur, TX - 9.36

### **BAREBACK:**

The top four finishes in Saturday's bareback competition were extremely close in points as Utah's Caleb Bennett took the Round 1 win aboard "All Pink" for 86 points.

### **Place - Name - Hometown - Stock - Score**

1st Caleb Bennett - Tremonton, UT - All Pink - 86  
2nd J.R. Vezain - Cowley, WY - Beyond Bugs - 85  
2nd Richmond Champion - The Woodland, TX - Blessed Assurance - 85  
4th Mason Clements - Santaquin, UT - Jumping Lizard - 84.5

The WCRA Rodeo Showdown at Helldorado Days concludes tomorrow at 1:45 p.m. PST with all scores wiped out and the top four athletes from each event getting a fresh start in Round Two. Round Three will immediately follow with the top two athletes from each event competing for \$25,000. Tickets range in price from \$10 to \$100 and are available by calling PBR Direct at (800) 732-1727 or visiting [UNLVtickets.com](http://UNLVtickets.com). For complete information about the WCRA Rodeo Showdown at Helldorado Days, please visit [www.pbr.com](http://www.pbr.com).

### **ABOUT WCRA**

WCRA is a professional sport and entertainment entity, created to develop and advance the sport of rodeo by aligning all levels of competition. In association with PBR, WCRA produces major rodeo events, developing additional opportunities for rodeo industry competitors, stakeholders and fans. To learn more visit [worldchampionsrodeoalliance.com](http://worldchampionsrodeoalliance.com).