



September 26, 2009

## NEWS RELEASE

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### Stampede's 4-H Rodeo attracts Alberta youth

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CALGARY – Learn to do by doing. That's the 4-H motto, and that's the way Kimberley Tammaro found refinement in the rodeo ring.

Tammaro, 18, of De Winton, Alta., won the senior barrels event aboard Charis on Saturday afternoon under the Big Top during the first day of competition at the 12<sup>th</sup> annual Calgary Stampede Invitational 4-H Rodeo.

Many a rodeo career has begun at the Stampede's 4-H youth invitational affair, presented by the ECL Group of Companies and Lammle's Western Wear & Tack, and Tammaro is already a veteran at the annual fall event.

"I've been riding since I was just tiny," said Tammaro. "And I've gone into tons of amateur rodeos. Yeah, I was here when I was little, too. I was one of the young kids, having fun."

This weekend marks the first taste of rodeo action for many of the 95 young contestants, who hail from across Alberta, represent 30 4-H clubs across the province and are aged 9 through 20.

"It's a starting point," says Sharon Yeast, Calgary Stampede agricultural program coordinator. "The kids are here to compete, and they want to win, no doubt about it, but they're also here for the experience and the opportunity. This is an introductory point, and from here they can move on to the Wrangler (junior high) and high school rodeo events."

Tammaro and Charis blazed around the three-barrel cloverleaf pattern in 15.79 seconds, nosing out Taylor Werk of Bowden, Alta., aboard Billy, by 0.02 seconds for top honours in senior barrels, for contestants aged 15 through 20.

"It's the strongest relationship I'll probably ever have," says Tammaro of her partnership with Charis. "She's my baby. She goes everywhere I go. I high-school rodeoed off her, and I'm just starting college (at Olds College), and I'm going to be college rodeoing on her, too."

Nicole Lausen, of Carseland, Alta., took home the red ribbon in intermediate barrels, for contestants aged 12 through 14, completing the course on Freebie in 16.35 seconds. Sundre's Desirae Jackson and Frosty were runners-up in 16.39 seconds. Jaclyn Pickerell of Altario, Alta., took the barrels event for juniors (ages 9 to 11) on Ace in 17.67 seconds; Valeska Bak of Cayley, Alta., and Awesome finished second in 18.01.

Kathleen Nester of Cessford, Alta., won the senior thread-the-needle event – which involves negotiating a tight corridor, circumscribing a pole at the end of the course, and returning down the same corridor – in 10.85 seconds aboard Echo, her seven-year-old mare. Carlynn Stout of High River and her mount Billy were second in 11.18.



"I've been watching the Stampede for years," said a beaming Nestor, 17. "Even to come here and compete in this building has been pretty sweet."

The intermediate thread-the-needle winner was Red Deer's Morgan Haryett, aboard Snap (8.92), about a half-second ahead of second-place Laramie Hlus of Innisfree, Alta., riding Rain (9.56). Top junior honours went to Coralee Shantz of Okotoks aboard Sprite (10.05); runner-up was Nicole Tremblay of Cayley on Tiny (11.49).

Werk and Billy later won the senior pole-bending event – head-to-head runs involving slalom racing and straight-out speed – in 20.74 seconds, ahead of second-place Mackenzie Miller of Dalemead, Alta., and Apachee (21.38).

Lausen and Freebie snared their second win of the day by claiming the intermediate pole-bending title (19.83). Pickerell and Ace matched that feat by winning the junior pole-bending class (22.41). Kelsey Hallett of Big Valley, on Misty, was intermediate runner-up (20.05); Shantal Smith of Blackie, Alta., on Jets King Boy, placed second among juniors (23.59).

With the timed events wrapping up Saturday, the rough stock events – breakaway roping, goat tying and cow roping -- will take centre stage under the Big Top on Sunday afternoon, beginning at 1:30 p.m.

Daily schedules are split up into educational and performance components, with mornings devoted to sports medicine training and clinics to help novices prepare some of this weekend's events.

"A lot of these kids have never swung a rope, and don't know how to get off a steer that's bucking," says Wayne Waddell, chair of the Stampede's Invitational 4-H Rodeo committee. "And the sports medicine clinics are especially important. They help prepare the body (with strength, conditioning and flexibility tips) for the rigors of these events."

"We hope, first of all, that the kids have fun, and also that this event inspires some of them to go further into the world of rodeo."

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The Calgary Stampede is a volunteer-supported, not-for-profit community organization that preserves and promotes western heritage and values. The Stampede contributes to the quality of life in Calgary and southern Alberta through its world-renowned 10-day Stampede, year-round facilities, western events and several youth and agriculture programs. All revenue is reinvested into Calgary Stampede programs and facilities. For more about the Stampede, visit [www.calgarystampede.com](http://www.calgarystampede.com).



September 27, 2009

## NEWS RELEASE

### Rough stock events wrap up Stampede's 4-H Rodeo

CALGARY – Advice like this really helps Jeremy Boulding come out of the chute with confidence.

Boulding, 17, of Big Valley, Alta., won the senior cow riding class Sunday afternoon as the Calgary Stampede's 12<sup>th</sup> annual Invitational 4-H Rodeo, a two-day event presented by ECL Transportation and Lammle's Western Wear & Tack, wrapped up under the Big Top.

Boulding has won a few buckles in the category before – including his first Stampede title three years ago, as an intermediate-aged rider – but some morning advice from former Canadian rodeo star Dave Shields, during a 45-minute cow riding clinic for 4-H competitors, paid some immediate dividends.

"That definitely does make a difference," said Boulding, whose winning ride of 74 points aboard a grumpy steer beat out Calgary's Jordan Mitchell (70) for the red ribbon. "He's had a cow riding clinic every year I've been here, and I get something out of it every time . . . it's all about confidence, balance, focus, sticking with it.

"I feel like I've progressed a lot. Actually, I'd like to go to his place (Shields is an instructor and co-founder of Ridin' High Rodeo Schools) to get some more help. He definitely knows what he's talking about."

Shields, who qualified for 10 Canadian Finals Rodeos from 1979 to 1990, will receive the Canadian Pro Rodeo Hall of Fame's Legendary Achievement Award next month in Calgary. Shields says he's all too happy to present rough stock clinics at the Stampede's annual 4-H Rodeo for youth.

"I love the sport of rodeo, and if I can help the kids get a good start at it, that means something to me," said Shields. "The safety aspect is huge. If kids get a bad start at this, then they quit. But if they can be taught how to get on and off properly, and not get hurt, then they'll want to do it again."

Nearly 100 competitors from across Alberta, aged 9 through 20, congregated over the weekend under the Big Top for prizes and ribbons in barrels, pole bending, thread-the-needle, cow riding, breakaway roping and goat tying events. However, the educational component of the 4-H Rodeo is equally important, says Norma Ansloos, chair of the Stampede's 4-H committee.

"The clinics are always a big hit, because they allow the kids to do things that they don't necessarily get in their own 4-H clubs at home," said Ansloos. "We've got some excellent clinicians working with the kids that are all involved in semi-pro or professional rodeos, so they've got a lot of knowledge and experience to train these kids to become future competitors further on.

"We do follow provincial 4-H guidelines for an invitational rodeo," added Ansloos, "which is why the educational side of it is so important."



Rough stock events – cow riding, breakaway roping and goat tying – wrapped up the two-day event on Sunday afternoon, with Calgary's Katie Baker winning the senior breakaway roping event (for competitors aged 15 to 20) by snaring a calf in 7.1 seconds.

Baker is no newcomer to roping, but the same couldn't be said for Twist, her eight-year-old Palomino quarter-horse gelding.

"Actually, it was his first time roping, so it was pretty impressive," laughed Baker. "Kind of a fluke, I guess . . . the calf turned around, and I caught him on the way back."

Railey Tremblay, of Cayley, Alta., and Tiny, an 18-year-old quarter-horse gelding, won the senior goat tying event in a time of 11.8 seconds, more than two seconds ahead of the nearest competitor, Calgary's Chad Cena, who stopped the clock in 14.2 seconds.

"You have to be quick with your hands," said Tremblay. "There's a lot of little shortcuts you can do . . . and it depends on the draw you get, too. Some just lie down, but some will fight."

Keenan Reinhardt of Calgary won the intermediate cow riding event (ages 12 to 14) with a score of 72, three points better than runner-up Bailey Hlus of Innisfree, Alta. Hlus did claim victory, though, in intermediate breakaway roping, snaring a calf in 6.9 seconds.

Kelsey Hallett of Big Valley, riding Missy, claimed the intermediate goat tying event in a time of 12.2 seconds, 0.6 seconds quicker than Anna Gunn of Calgary, riding Rosie.

In all, 30 4-H clubs from across Alberta were represented at the Stampede's 12<sup>th</sup> annual Invitational 4-H Rodeo.

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