

## Veteran rodeo competitor chasing third Canadian title

By GARRY ALLISON  
Herald Sports Writer

EDMONTON — Greg Butterfield of Ponoka went into Wednesday night's opening sudden-death performance at the seventh annual Canadian Rodeo Finals in fourth place in the year-end steer wrestling standings.

After Wednesday's opening show, however, he is now in the lead in the chase for his third Canadian steer wrestling championship.

Butterfield, one of three members of the Ponoka family (along with brother Blake and cousin Craig) in the dogging event at the finals, put

his animal down in the winning time of 5.6 seconds. He pockets \$1,198.62 for his fast run.

"The eldest of the Butterfield clan did not have a clean run, but as he said, 'I won it anyway.' Butterfield's steer was one of many that 'dog fell' Wednesday, with one or two legs tucked under its mid-section, instead of being stretched out straight.

"The ground is deep and the steers are folding up a bit," Butterfield said. "The legs tend to hang under in deep dirt and you get a dog fall. I think the ground will firm up a bit though as the rodeo continues.

"Times were a little slow, but the first performance at any rodeo in the timed events isn't as good as it is when you move into the final days. They'll shape up by Saturday and Sunday.

"The steers are darn sure running. The pens look fairly even but I'll bet an eight-second run wins tonight's performance. Tonight's steers have never been used and they are wild and honky."

Joe Chomistek of Scandia and Ron Ostrum of Carlsland were tied in second behind Butterfield with 5.7-second runs.

Steve Dunham of Turner Valley, the defending Canadian bareback king and year-long leader in the event, won the opening go round in the rigging event Wednesday.

Dunham garnered 79 points on Verne Franklin's Indian Sign to outdistance Jim Dunn of Balzac and Frank Baier of Ponoka, with identical 77s.

Winners of each go round receive \$1,198.62 while second spot pays \$448.96, third \$229.32 and fourth \$149.86.

Attendance Wednesday at the Edmonton Coliseum was 4,402, approximately 500 less than opening day last year.

Walt Hyland of Salmon Arm, B.C. outdistanced his brother Mel, a two-time world cham-

panion, to win the saddle bronc riding.

Will spurred out a 79 on a Vold bronc called Brasso Datsun while Mel was second with 73 points.

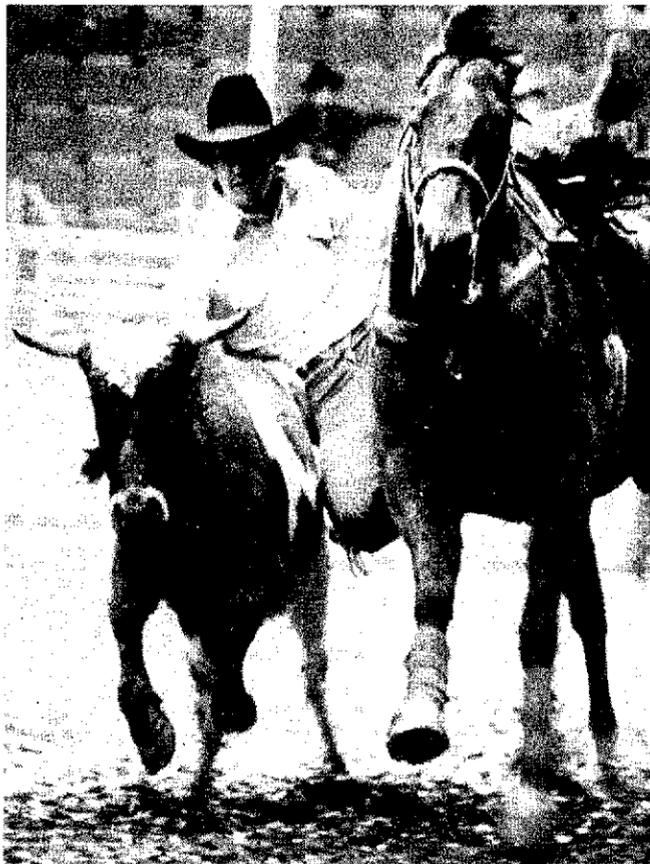
A pair of calf ropers from the world's top 20 listings, and both from Innisfail, Tom Eirikson and Larry Robinson, dominated their event. Eirikson won the go round in 10.3 seconds while Robinson was next at 10.6. They were the only two under the 11-second mark.

Francis Church of Calgary, a peppery former Canadian champion, narrowly won the barrel racing Wednesday night with a 15.777-second run, edging out Lethbridge's Mary Lynn Walter at 15.791.

Bruce Johansen of Strathmore garnered 77 points on a Vold bull called Bunny to win the opening round of bull riding.

Three boys are tied for the lead in the novice saddle bronc riding with 65s — Larry Adams, Guy Gottfriedson and Keith Stewart — while Kelly Crouch of Rocky Mountain House won the boys' steer riding with a 74.

Complete rodeo results appear on page D4.



GREG BUTTERFIELD HAS EARLY LEAD IN STEER WRESTLING EVENT

## Behind the chutes

EDMONTON — Ted Bly, former Cardston cowboy now making his home in St. Albert, holding a home-town reunion behind the timed-event chutes

... father-in-law Fred Gladstone, brother-in-law Jim Gladstone and friend Bill Reeder all trying to find out how Bly likes Northern Alberta ... Pearl Mandeville, barrel racing queen of days gone by, one of many rodeo and non-rodeo people still talking about the money owed them after the James Garner movie folded a few weeks ago

... Bud Van Cleave of Taber, calf roping flagman at the finals, getting a final clothes inspection before the start of the show by Liz Kesler ...

Tom Bews, former Canadian cowboy of the year not entered in this year's finals, drove Tom Glass' championship chuckwagon outfit in the grand entry ... grand entry, and announcer Bob Tallman's opening spiel, took 17 minutes

... nine girls, none from Southern Alberta, were in the race for Miss Rodeo Canada 1980 ... Joan Tardell of Calgary was selected as the rodeo queen ... Greg Kesler of Magrath has 21 of his bucking broncs and bulls at the finals ...

... his father Reg has 30 of his animals at the finals ... that's more than any other stock contractor in Canada ...

there were no barriers broken or barrels tipped over in the timed events ... and only one hareback bronc rider, Billy Lave, bucked off ... the finals continue tonight with an 8 p.m. performance and will wind up Sunday afternoon with a 2 p.m. show.

## Southern Albertans earn points on first night of Canadian rodeo finals

EDMONTON — Southern Alberta competitors did not fare too badly Wednesday night at the opening performance of the seventh annual Canadian Rodeo Finals.

Of the eight entrants from Lethbridge and area, three —

## Top rookie off to slow start

EDMONTON (CP) — Cliff Williams had a tough opening round Wednesday at the Canadian Finals rodeo but is confident his showing will improve.

Williams, the Canadian Professional Rodeo Association's rookie of the year, took 17.4 seconds to rope his calf — one of the slowest times amongst the 10 competitors.

"I think most of those people will be here another night," he said, referring to the crowd of 4,402. "I'll just have to show them I'm not as clumsy as I looked."

The 20-year-old native of Madden topped all Canadian calf ropers this season in money earnings with \$11,430.

Tom Eirikson of Innisfail won the opening round in calf roping with a time of 10.3 seconds.

Joe Chomistek of Scandia, and Mary Lynn Walter and Tom Ivins of Lethbridge — picked up points in the race for the overall championships in their events.

Points are awarded to the top four finishers in each event on a 40-30-20-10 basis. The contestants with the most points at the end of six performances will be the Canadian in their respective events.

Walter wound up second in the barrel racing with a run of 15.791, while Ivins took fourth spot in the steer wrestling with an 8.7-second effort. Walter picks up 30 points while Ivins receives 10.

Chomistek, the year-round leader in the steer wrestling, tied for second in his event with a time of 5.7 seconds to earn 25 championship points.

In calf roping, the Cardston duo of Bill Reeder and Jim Gladstone, both former Canadian champions, drew kicking calves and wound up out of the money with 14.4 and 13-second runs respectively. Joy Duce of Granum was 15.887 in the barrel racing while her sister Jerri Phillips took 16.383 seconds, also placing out of the money.

Greg Schlosser of Nanton scored 69 points in the bull riding but finished up tied for fifth.

## Steer wrestler likes sudden-death idea

EDMONTON — Canadian professional cowboys are in the midst of their seventh annual sudden-death finals at Edmonton and Greg Butterfield of Ponoka is one of many pro boys who like the sudden-death concept.

He particularly likes the new sponsors' added money at the finals and also supports the Canadian Rodeo Cowboys Association in their dealings with the Calgary Stampede, a show that turned to team rodeo and the North American Cowboys Association two years ago, shutting out the pro boys.

"I'd rather win the championship here than in year-long competition," the 1977 and 1979 Canadian steer wrestling

champion said. "The best guys in the business are here and if you can beat them, you're good enough to be the champion."

"Sudden-death is good for rodeo."

Butterfield expressed a lot of confidence in the future of pro rodeo and in the CRCA board of directors. He also was more than pleased with the \$500 bonus that Copentago-Skoal has added for the winner of each performance in a major event at this year's finals.

Butterfield went on to point out that pro rodeo cowboys, thanks to the new sponsor, could win more than twice as much money at the finals than they did last year. Copentago-Skoal is adding an extra \$22,000 to the finals purse.

supported the CRCA decision. "I want to go back to Calgary — but only if we can negotiate a good deal for both parties."

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