

Short Sports

Garry Allison



Sleepless life for cowboys

DENVER — Mamas, don't let your babies grow up to be cowboys — unless they can get buy with three or four hours of sleep a night.

And some of that shuteye has to come sitting up in the cab of a pickup truck travelling down the highway.

Even at the rodeo, a short night is the order — cowboys are up early to feed, water and exercise horses, even after celebrating the ride or run of the day before, or trying to forget the same run.

There's an awful lot to see in the big city for a country bronc rider, from the entertainment and Shotgun Willie's to the relative tranquility of a cowboy dance at the hotel.

Usually the only non-partiers, besides Ted Wilson and I, were the ones who were up in the next day's performance.

It's amazing how Ted and I could remain on the straight and narrow with some of the bad influences in our presence.

But, within the good times, there was the seriousness of rodeo.

The North American Finals here, in my opinion, didn't draw as well as it should have for the entertaining show it presented. They were always short of a capacity house.

The bulls were superb — but I did feel cheated when all 12 finalists bucked off Saturday night.

Saturday's final show was a good one and kept the approximately 8,000 fans entertained — as it should have.

Marlon Draper threatened my existence if I didn't mention team roping — there, I did it.

Seriously, the team roping was of a very high calibre Saturday night and a number of good runs were turned in over the entire performance.

The Chinook Rodeo Association contingent did fairly well in all events, with Marlon leading the way. But Lane Berry, Monica and Bob Wilson, and Monty French also gave a good account of themselves. No one in the Chinook association embarrassed themselves and all had chances for go-round money, except in the bareback and bull riding.

I was disappointed with the bareback riders. Going in, I thought this would be the Chinook's strongest event; however, bad luck and tough broncs undid that thought. The bulls were simply too strong for all 75 competitors as no one managed to ride three.

Judging was erratic and it all came down to one judge, not Raymond's Duke Helgeson — he did an excellent job judging the stock.

But, when only two out of 250 bronc riders get caught for not spurring their horses out, someone isn't watching.

All in all, it was a good show and a good experience, giving me an insight into the cowboys' life on the road, which I'd always heard about but had never seen first hand.

Denver rodeo roundup

Champion means to turn pro

He's soft-spoken and almost gentle — unless it's a steer he's dealing with.

Big Rod Lyman of Great Falls, Mont. is murder on steers, mean enough in fact to make himself the new North American steer wrestling champion.

Lyman, 22, dropped his steer in 4.2 seconds Saturday night at the championship finals to win the short go-round and the three-head average with a 12.92-second total.

"I really feel good, real excited," the 6-foot-2, 245-pound champion. "I drew the right cattle here and had Dan Cross hazing for me on Bob Schall's horse."

"I'll join the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association next year. I hate to predict how long I'll do, but I'll try hard and hope the good Lord looks after me."

Lyman, who won the steer wrestling at Raymond two years ago, earned \$2,943 at the Finals here, plus another \$336 in jackpot steer wrestling.

He's only been rodeoing three years, passing up a promising football career at Montana State because he and coaches didn't agree on his continuing in rodeo.

Lyman, nicknamed "Acce" by travelling partner Schall, has earned more than \$70,000

bull dogging this year in Alberta, Montana, Washington, Idaho and Colorado at 88 rodeos.

Despite his size and strength — he used to lift weights religiously while playing football — Lyman is exceptionally fast. Stories about the "speedy giant" whipping other cowboys in 40-yard sprints. He can motor 40 yards in 4.6 seconds.

He says Schall has been an asset to his career, but "I learned a lot off self-motivation, more or less."

"I came here hoping I'd win — I had an awful good feeling about it."

Barrel racer exits winner

DENVER — A Nebraska barrel racer will leave the North American Rodeo Commission as a champion.

Diane Weigel of Amelia, Neb. had a three-run total of 46.14 seconds to win the North American Finals on her last run before turning professional.

Weigel, 23, said this was her last NARC final and she wanted to give it her best shot.

"I expected to be in light, I like to run here," she said.

Her mongrel horse, J.R. — she has no idea about its breeding — is 10 years old. She has been riding and training him for five years.

"It takes a lot of hard work and practice to train a barrel horse," she said. "If a horse isn't cut out to be a barrel horse, no matter what training you give it, you won't make it into a barrel horse."

Deb Greenough of Fromberg, Mont. won the bareback championship, earning 230 points on three head.

The calf roping title went to Chip Gatlin of Harleton, Tex. with 32.08 on three calves.

Australian Steve Gibson was "quite pleased" to win the NARC saddle bronc championship with 230 points on three horses.

He spent 26 hours on a plane and \$1,400 to get to the Finals, where he earned \$4,186.

Mark and Tim Fanning stretched three steers in 23.23 seconds to take the team roping title home to Bartlesville, Okla.

Frank Blackshire of Castle Rock, Colo. won the bull riding with 160 points, riding two of three bulls.

Billy Galino of Nebraska was named all around champion. He competed in team roping and calf roping.

All 12 bull riders bucked off Saturday night in the short go-round and the championship had to revert back to the two-heat total.



Hill Spring team ropers Monty French, left, and Marlon Draper

Hill Spring cowboy comes close to titles

DENVER — He may not be a North American champion, but a Hill Spring cowboy came closer to winning three championships than any other Canadian.

Marlon Draper, representing the Chinook Rodeo Association at the North American Rodeo Finals here, finished fourth in the all around race, sixth in the saddle bronc riding and ninth in the team roping with partner Monty French.

Draper took home \$1,006 (U.S.) after three performances of rodeo and in jackpot team roping.

By the luck of the draw, he wound up with one of the weakest horses in the saddle bronc finals Saturday and his 73 left him with a 220 total on three head.

"The stock was pretty good, except my last one, which was the poorest I had," Draper said. "He was the poorest horse out in the finals, but all broncs have their bad days I guess."

"I'm happy with what I did — I'm just glad to pay my expenses."

"I came with the attitude of giving it

my best shot and I knew if things worked, I could win some money."

Draper and French went into the finals in 12th spot in the team roping and moved up to ninth with a fourth-place 9.02-second run in the short-go-round.

"That wasn't too bad considering we made \$110 on a steer we were lucky to get a chance to rope," Draper laughed.

"Monty told me if I broke out again I'd get fired."

The pair picked up 15 seconds in penalties in the second go-round for missing one heat and Draper's break of the barrier.

They were 11.58 seconds on their first steer.

Stories by
Garry Allison

Finals go-round winners

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| First Go-Round Winners | Finals Winners | 34.08, 6 Casey Cox, Town Creek, Ark. 35.74 |
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Cardston's Monica Wilson tours the barrels

Behind the chutes

DENVER — Monty French trying to convince people if a person holds his right arm straight out so it can't be pushed down and at the same time runs his left hand over a horse, that, when he finds a sore spot on the horse with the left hand, the right arm is then able to be pushed down. . . . Stores here doing a booming business the final day of the rodeo as people stocked up on souvenirs and gifts for those back home. . . . Denver is 5,280 feet high with 500,000 and two million people in the immediate metro area. . . . The rodeo featured 110 contestants a night with a 10-minute pageant, clown acts and a bull fighting competition, and ran off in two hours and 15 minutes. . . . Bob and Monica Wilson, Lola Chaboyer, and Ethel and Lane Berry headed home prior to Saturday night's finals when it was determined Lane had placed 13th and failed to qualify for the short go-round. . . . Cowboys were lined up within minutes of the end of the rodeo for their pay cheques. . . . The Northwest Cowboys Association won the unofficial overall team championship. . . . Rod Lyman of Great Falls, new North American steer wrestling champion, telling Hill Spring's Marlon Draper he should be happy he was paid in "long money" and not "short" Canadian dollars. . . . Crowd response at the final performance was overwhelming from the first bareback rider through to the final bull rider. More than 8,000 were on hand. . . . Four of the final 12 can chasers knocked over their barrels and none of the 12 bull riders managed to stay aboard for the full eight seconds. . . . A Paddle Prairie, Alta. stock contractor, Rudy Ostrum, was presented a plaque for owning the best bareback bronc at the finals, Smoke Screen. . . . Sod Buster, owned by Jim Mosbucker of North Dakota was named the top saddle bronc. . . . Four bulls — White Shadow, Moody Blue, Pila and Coors Cow Country — tied for bull of the finals honors.

Taber teams share honors at volleyball tournament

Taber high schools shared the glory at the Southwestern Alberta Volleyball Association post season tournament during the weekend in Taber.

Taber St. Mary's Auroras captured the girls championship while the boys title went to Taber W. R. Myers Saints.

Auroras defeated Winston Churchill Griffins in two straight games to win the championship. They took the first game 15-12 and followed up with a 15-6 victory. They advanced to the finals with a 15-17, 15-12 victory over mid-season tournament champion Picture Butte Sugar Queens while Griffins came back to defeat W. R. Myers 12-15, 15-10, 15-9.

In boys action, Myers defeated Winston Churchill Bulldogs 15-8 and 16-14 in the championship game. Myers advanced with a 15-3, 15-3 drubbing of Vulcan white Bulldogs defeated LCI Rams 10-15, 15-5, 15-1.

Trophies were handed out for regular season division winners. Picture Butte Sugar Kings and Sugar Queens topped the west division while LCI Clipper Queens and Winston Churchill Bulldogs won the east division. The south division championship went to Catholic Central Citizens.

Sugar Queens also took home the team sportsmanship trophy while Taber St. Mary's Auroras and Claresholm Cobras shared the honor for the boys.

Each division also handed out its all-star honors. The girls east division team consisted of Alison Ivan, Michie Schatz and Judy Tajanar of St. Mary's, Sonia Tron and Dawn Adachi of Churchill, Pam Young and Andra Salmon of LCI.

Elaine Ayukawa, Jodi Bednar and Pam Shimek were named from Picture Butte to the west division team, along with Shannon Spencer and Blythe Bryant of Nobleford, Bobbi Harris of Fort Macleod F. P. Walshe and Suelen Deurloo of Claresholm.

South division included Margie Gal, Barb Kort, Maria Heilman and Jackie Riske of CCH and Leisel Hardy, Michele Scoville and Cheryl Bohne of Raymond.

Rob Layton, Dick Eto and Cam Shields of W. R. Myers were named to the boys east division all-star team, along with Dan Takacs and Loren Stickle of Churchill, Danny Paterson of Taber St. Mary's and Glenn Hughes of LCI.

West division all-stars included Colton Bond, Josef Morozetz and Todd Coughlin of Walshe, Jason Turnquist and Robert Brown of Vulcan and Wayne Lehte of Picture Butte.

Longview cowboy earns all-around title

EDMONTON (CP) — Erikson finished second in the steer wrestling but was out of the money in saddle bronc.

Dale Johansen of Strathmore was the big money-winner at 10th annual competition, taking home \$4,050 and the bull riding championship.

Johansen was bucked off in the final ride but nobody could catch him with his aggregate 155 points.

In Sunday's final performance, first-place in bull-riding went to Greg Schlessor of Okotoks with an 81, second was Cody Snyder of Recliff with 73 while third was taken by Dan Lowry of Valleyview with 67.

Robin Burwash of Air-die was bareback champion with 123 points and placed first in the final performance with 85.

Steer wrestling honors

went to Wayne Pederson of Amisk with a total of 125 points. Final performance placings went to Verne Smith of Calgary with a 4.2-second clocking, while Pederson finished second with 5.4 and Erikson was third with 5.7.

Novice bareback champion was Rod Bevans of Cardston with 135 points. Michael Daines of Innisfail turned in the best of the final performance with 72.

Mel Coleman of Pierceland, Sask., captured the saddle bronc championship with 120 points, just five points ahead of Jim Kellys of Millarville.

Joe Lucas of Sundre took calf roping honors with 125 points.

Carol Stewart of Raymond won the women's barrel racing championship with 125 points. The best ride of the day came



Rod Bevans

from Ruth McDougall of Nanton with 16.04.

Glen Kealey of Nanton was named boys steer riding champion with 145. He split first place for the day with Shawn Vant of Millet with 73, while third went to Brian Eshman of Okotoks with a 71.

Susan Hargrave of Medicine Hat named Miss Rodeo Canada 1984. Hargrave, a 20-year-old University of Calgary fine arts major, beat out 12 other contestants to win the title.

'Horns win pair

University of Lethbridge Pronghorn men and women enjoyed a measure of success at the Canada West volleyball tournament in Calgary on the weekend.

U of L women finished with a 2-3 record, marking the first time the team has won two matches in a conference tournament.

Pronghorns posted their first win Friday, bouncing back from a 3-0 loss to British Columbia to sweep Victoria 3-0, winning 15-6, 15-11, 15-12.

Saturday the U of L women dropped a 3-0 match to Calgary, then beat Alberta 15-10, 15-10, 15-8. Pronghorns lost their final match 3-1 to Saskatchewan.

"Our goal was to win two matches," said U of L coach Steve Wilson, "so we achieved our goal."

Wilson said the Pronghorns received consistent setting from Kathy McCune, "and Lisa Depaoli and Susan Pomreinke led strong overall performances by our hitters."

Pronghorn men, who finished in the cellar last year, won one of five matches, beating Alberta 3-0 — 15-10, 15-10, 15-6. U of L also took a game from defending national champion UBC, winning the second set 15-8 in a 3-1 loss.

U of L also lost 3-0 to Calgary, 3-0 to Victoria and 3-0 to Saskatchewan.

Kodiaks earn split

Lethbridge Community College Kodiaks earned a split in Alberta Colleges Athletic Conference volleyball action.

Friday night, Kodiaks downed Olds College Broncos three games to one. Kodiaks opened with a 15-10 win, lost the second game 15-8 and came back with 15-7, 15-12 victories to take the match.

Kodiettes were also winners Friday, beating Olds Fillies 3-0 by scores of 15-10, 15-0, 15-0.

Saturday, Kodiaks dropped a 3-1 decision to Calgary Mount Royal College Cougars. MRC won the first two games 15-5 with the Kodiaks taking the third 16-14. Cougars clinched the match with a 15-7 win in the fourth game.

Both LCC volleyball squads will be in action Friday when they take on SAIT Trojans and Helens at the LCC gym. The women's match will be at 7 p.m. with the men to follow at 8:30 p.m.

Two undefeated

Two new members of the Coaldale Super Curling League are the only unbeaten rinks after two draws.

Cliff Forry of Lethbridge and Terry Lyon of Monarch improved their records to 2-0 by recording victories Sunday at the Coaldale Granite Club.

Forry outlasted Doran Johnson 3-2 in an extra end, ending the game with a draw shot to the four-foot circle with his final rock.

Johnson, after blanking the eighth and ninth

frames, picked up one in the 10th to force an extra end.

In other games, Lyon defeated Gordon Manery 8-5, Brian MacDonald of Coaldale doubled Merle Waterfield of Lethbridge 8-4, Truck Nishimazuru of Coaldale edged Rick Tokunaga of the city 6-5, Coaldale's Don McCann beat Mike Boras of Coaldale 9-6, and Bob Coleman stopped Ron Russell 7-5 in between two Lethbridge rinks.

Sunda's draw was sponsored by Ober's Agri-Services of Coaldale.

Locals claim boxing medals