

**SPORTS**

# Thrill of Whoop-Up rodeo soon to visit Lethbridge

By GARRY ALLISON  
Lethbridge Herald

The exciting Whoop-Up Days professional rodeo is only a few days away.

There's nothing quite as thrilling as pro rodeo and the Whoop-Up Days Rodeo, which begins at 6:20 p.m. each night, July 19-22, is a big part of the Whoop-Up Days celebrations in Lethbridge.

This year's big show will combine rodeo action and chuckwagon racing for the first two nights, and then treat the fans to a horse whisperer demonstration by Brent Trout on Friday and stock dog demonstration Saturday.

The chuckwagons and special events begin at 6:20 p.m., followed by rodeo action at 7 p.m. in front of the Exhibition Grandstand.

Once again the rodeo will feature the National Finals and Canadian Finals bucking stock from the Kesler family, Greg and Duane. The stock is trucked in from the Kesler Ranch north of Magrath and will be fresh and ready for Canada's best cowboys when they arrive.

You'll have world and Canadian champion broncs, National and Canadian Finals championship animals, and some of the rankest, deepest bucking stock in the business.

The pro boys know a ride on a Kesler bronc or bull generally means a trip to the pay window, or the ground.

Match those broncs and bulls up with many of the best cowboys in Canada and you are bound to have a super show.

Veteran Bill Kehler, one of the voices of the Calgary Stampede and a long-time attraction at Whoop-Up Days, will be back behind the microphone and Calgary firefighter Dennis Hal-

## Ellis tops pro bull riding

A score of 82 and an 84, neither one of them go-round winners, still gave Clint Ellis enough points to win the Canadian Professional Bullriders title at Armstrong, B.C. last weekend.

Ellis, who took home \$1,962 for his 16 seconds of work, scored his 82 on a bull called Pongo and then, in the short go round, came through with an 84 on Willy's Orphan for a two-head total of 166.

Ellis was third in the opening go-round, behind Chris Sanderson on Insurabull with 85.5 and Merle Freeman on Fuji at 84.5. The short go went to Jeff Whitlow with an 86 on Black Willy, but his 78 in the first go round left him three points back of Ellis in the race for the championship buckle.

Whitlow wound up with 41.15 and Wade McNulty was third overall at 257, good for \$886.

Ellis, Whitlow and McNulty were the only ones to cover both of their bulls.

Sanderson wound up fourth, with \$1,226, on the strength of his opening go-round win, and Freeman was fifth, with \$942.

Both Freeman and Whitlow will be in Lethbridge next Wednesday through Saturday for the Whoop-Up Days Rodeo.

Also in for Whoop-Up Days will be the reigning Canadian Professional Bullriders champion Marty Broder-son of Vauxhall and the tour's first- year champion, Come Bouvier.

stead will handle the clowning chores, keeping rodeo fans laughing. Miss Rodeo Canada, Sheila Taylor, will also be on hand.

There'll be nine chuckwagons, in three, three-wagon heats each night, all fresh from the Calgary Stampede. The wagons all represent the Canadian Professional Chuckwagon Association.

Scheduled to run at Whoop-Up Days are the likes of Doug Irvine of Lindbergh, Alta.; the Knight boys, Jim, Wayne and Ross, all from St. Walburg, Sask.; and Larry McEwen of Lloydminster.

Chuckwagon fans will recognize names like Brian Laboucane from St. Walburg, and Ray Mitsuing of Loon Lake, Sask., both Calgary fan favourites. You'll also see well-known

Grant Preece, Meadow Lake, Sask.; Rod Salmond, from Hudson Bay, Sask. and the Tournier boys, Leo and Luke, from Duck Lake, Sask.

It promises to be a thrilling two days of racing.

Another new look this year, at least for the cowboys, is the fact the rodeo chutes have been permanently cemented into the infield and a new announcers booth has been built.

Rodeo admission is \$7 when purchased on the grounds, but if you buy your ticket as you enter the grounds it is only \$12, which includes the \$6 grounds admission, a \$1 saving.

General admission to the grounds is \$6 for adults, \$5 for seniors and those 11 to 17 years of age. Children under 10 free.

Parking on the grounds is only \$3.



**RISING STAR:** Jordan Poytress displays his kicking ability while Schalk Van Der Merwe of the Lethbridge Rugby Club looks on during a rugby camp session at Palliser Field on Thursday.  
HERALD PHOTO BY DAVID ROSSITER

## Rugby camp offers young a chance to learn game

By CAMERON YOOS  
Lethbridge Herald

Selection camps are a time honoured practice for many sports, with elite players chosen to represent cities or regions at various high-calibre tournaments.

The Lethbridge Rugby Club has managed to put a new spin on the selection camp process, however, as a number of southern Alberta youngsters have selected rugby as the sport of choice for a portion of their summer holiday.

"We just wanted to open it up, and make rugby more accessible," says Andrew Walmsley, coach of the Fort Macleod EP. Walshe girls' high school team, and one of the volunteers for the week-long camp at Palliser Field.

"It's non-contact, which allows them to develop their skills," adds Walmsley. "In New Zealand, they play non-contact rugby, from the age of four until they are eight years old."

It's a similar belief that Canadian minor hockey has, with body contact not permitted until a certain age. It obviously works, with Canada a strong hockey power, and New Zealand one of the world's best at rugby.

Helping the endeavour is Lewis Williams, a native of New Zealand, who is director of operations at the local rugby club this year, and Schalk Van Der Merwe, a player with World Cup experience with Nabibia. Williams is coaching the LRC this

year, Van Der Merwe is playing with the local second division team, and both have played major roles in the summer camp.

A total of 17 youngsters who signed up have been at the field for six hours a day, five days this week. The camp ends today.

"They are having a blast," says Walmsley. "It is a little less than we hoped for, but it's the first year we have run anything like this. It's an idea we've had for a couple of years, and actually Toby Boulet (coach at Winston Churchill) had a lot to do with it. Then the club paid for Lewis to come here, and we're looking for things that he can do for the club."

Williams and Van Der Merwe went to local schools this spring to promote the camp, which focuses more on various skills needed in the sport like ball handling and passing, rather than contact drills and complicated rules. As well, the camp volunteers have broken up the days with water slides and other activities needed to beat the heat.

"Most of the kids have older brothers and sisters who played high school rugby," says Walmsley of the kids at camp, who range from eight to 15 years of age, and includes two girls.

"We're trying to build things up, have some kind of feeder system. I know a lot of parents have a kind of trepidation about rugby, and the physical play, but now we have a junior program that is enjoying a lot of success."

## Weishoff scores an 80, but may miss final round

CALGARY (CP) — Matt Weishoff was the only bareback rider who broke the 80-point mark Thursday at the Calgary Stampede, but his Day 7 victory may not be enough to keep him in the hunt for the big money.

"It doesn't look good," Weishoff said. "I was only 75 on my first one so I probably won't make it back."

In 12 years of pro competition, Weishoff has never made it to the final four. His disappointing 75.5 on Blizzard in Go 1 means his drought will continue.

"Drawing good is a real big part of it," he said. "If you draw good then you've got a chance of winning. If you don't, then you don't have much of a chance."

Like many cowboys at the rodeo, Weishoff is competing injured. "I tore a ligament in my knee and I've been trying to nurse it along, but there's not much time to do that now so you've just got to grin and bear it," Weishoff said.

The American rider injured his knee at the beginning of June but has still been competing non-stop since. Weishoff is ranked 39th in the world, a position that doesn't please him.

"I was moving up pretty good this spring, but the summer hasn't been

too good yet, but there's still a lot of rodeoing to do yet," Weishoff said.

Another winner on Thursday was Molly Swanson in the barrel racing event, putting her in top spot in the cumulative results.

"I'm excited. This is the best feeling right now," said Swanson, who also won Day 2. "I'm thinking about points for the NFR. This is huge. It means more money and will make the rest of the year easier."

The 24-year-old deserves a break after having to retire her favourite horse last year.

"We raised Pecan and I've made the national finals four years in a row with her," Swanson said. "We're trying to make the finals on several horses this year because Pecan is crippled."

The 13-year veteran has never made the final four, but she's made the sudden-death showdown "all but two or three times" since she was 11 years old.

This weekend will be a family affair as Swanson's father Chuck is making the trip north to watch his daughter compete. Swanson will probably be able to put her father up in a nice hotel since she's already won the \$250 day bonus twice, plus \$2,228.20 for placing fourth in Go 1.

## Miners sweep past Sparkies

GREAT FALLS, Mont. — Lethbridge Miners kept their hopes for first place in their division alive with a sweep of the Great Falls Sparkies in Montana American Legion A conference action Wednesday.

Miners won the opener 14-7 as Craig Paskal earned the victory with five innings of work. He gave way to Kevin Gregus, who pitched the final two innings.

Gregus and Paskal also led the way at the plate. Gregus was 3-for-5 with three RBI and two stolen bases. Paskal was also 3-for-5 with two doubles and two RBI. Justin Hardy was 3-for-4.

Miners then doubled the Sparkies 4-2 in the second game behind the pitching of Cory Brown, who went six innings, giving up six hits.

Gregus came on in the seventh for the save, striking out the final two batters with runners on second and third and one out.

Gregus led at the plate going 4-for-4 with three stolen bases while Brandon Maglerowski was 2-for-4.

The victories improves the Miners' record to 18-4 with four games remaining. Those games will be doubleheaders Saturday at Malta and Sunday at Havre.

## Lure of fifth Olympics too great for Joyner-Kersee

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — The chance to compete in a fifth Olympic Games was enough to lure Jackie Joyner-Kersee, arguably the greatest female athlete of her time, out of her two-year retirement.

The 38-year-old winner of five Olympic medals, three of them gold, will compete in the long jump preliminaries Friday in the U.S. Olympic Track and Field Trials.

Joyner-Kersee, appearing alongside her husband and coach, Bob Kersee, at a news conference Thursday, said she enjoyed retirement immensely and never missed the competition. But she and her husband knew that she has enough left to make it to the Olympics one more time.

"It's to have the opportunity to make five Olympic teams," she said. "It's a test of my discipline and desire."

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