

## SPORTS

# Canada's top rodeo stars on hand for Whoop-Up Days

Whoop-Up Days Pro Rodeo runs Wednesday through Saturday at Grandstand

BY GARRY ALLISON  
Lethbridge Herald

It's Whoop-Up Days Rodeo time again, Wednesday through Saturday in front of the Exhibition Grandstand. This year's rodeo and fair activities are coming at you a few weeks early, one of the reasons being to try to entice more American cowboys to Whoop-Up Days.

While that idea didn't come to fruition, the Whoop-Up Days Rodeo is a who's who of Canadian rodeo stars.

Action begins 7 p.m. Wednesday and kicks off at the same time each night through Saturday.

One of the highlights of this year's show will be the appearance of the RCMP Musical Ride Wednesday, beginning at 6 p.m., prior to the rodeo.

The ride has been performing to capacity crowds throughout western Canada as the RCMP celebrates its 125th anniversary and the original March West.

Bucking stock of the Whoop-Up Days show, a collection of the rankest rodeo animals in North America, in complete contrast to the matched blacks of the Musical Ride, will once again be supplied by Duane and Greg Kesler of Magrath.

The two Keslers bring their combined Canadian and National Finals broncs and bulls to the Whoop-Up infield, guaranteeing the best in rodeo action. The Kesler's quality animals will be supplemented by a select number of Girtlezz bulls, many of them CFR calibre.

Among the cowboys entered at Whoop-Up Days will be world saddle bronc leader Rod Hay of Wildwood,

on Kesler's Grand Prize and the No. 3 man in the world, Glen O'Neill, of Water Valley, who has drawn Hangin' Out. Another Canadian champion and NFR competitor, Denny Hay, will be out on Hey Dude.

One of the few Americans on hand, top-ranked Jess Martin of Dillon, Mont., also has Hangin' Out, the day prior to O'Neill's ride Friday. Also watch for the likes of Guy Shapka, Skeeter Thurston and Jay and Ben Lois among the 38 bronc riders entered.

With more than 300 entries, the rodeo promises to be action-packed and even includes a slack, to take care of those not in the performances, at 12:30 p.m. Wednesday.

Leading the bareback riders will be Bill Boyd of Olds and Kenton Randle of Fort Vermillion, having their own private race for the Canadian bareback honours, both more than \$7,000 ahead of the nearest competitor. Randle has Kesler's Clover Leaf while Boyd will test Candy Mountain.

Also keep an eye on former NFR contestant Shawn Vant of Millet, teamed up with one of the top broncs in the business today, Alley Ways.

You'll also see Davey Shields Jr. in action, along with Casey French, Travis Whiteside and Darrell Cholach, last year's Whoop-Up Days champion.

With 56 bull riders entered you can't go wrong, action wise. Canadian leader Vance Keith of Entwistle will be out opening night on Kesler's Panhandle Slim and world-ranked Robert Bowers of Duchess has a Girtlezz bull called Wakita. Hot from his good showing at Calgary is Robert Bell of Houston, B.C. and he has the Girtlezz bull, Walk On.

Bulls like Black Jack Skool, Home Alone, Orange Crush and Claresholm from the Kesler string will be testing some of the best bull riders around, as

will Girtlezz bulls like White Lightning Dodge, Fatal Instinct and Tomaine.

Look for Come Bouvier of Empress, winner of the Canadian Professional Bullriders title at the Sportsplex earlier this year and top hands like Marty Broderson of Vauxhall and Scott Auclair of Grande Prairie.

The lined event contingent, led by red-hot Darren Shaw of Cardston, now leading the Canadian calf roping standings, is bound to supply some fast times and excitement.

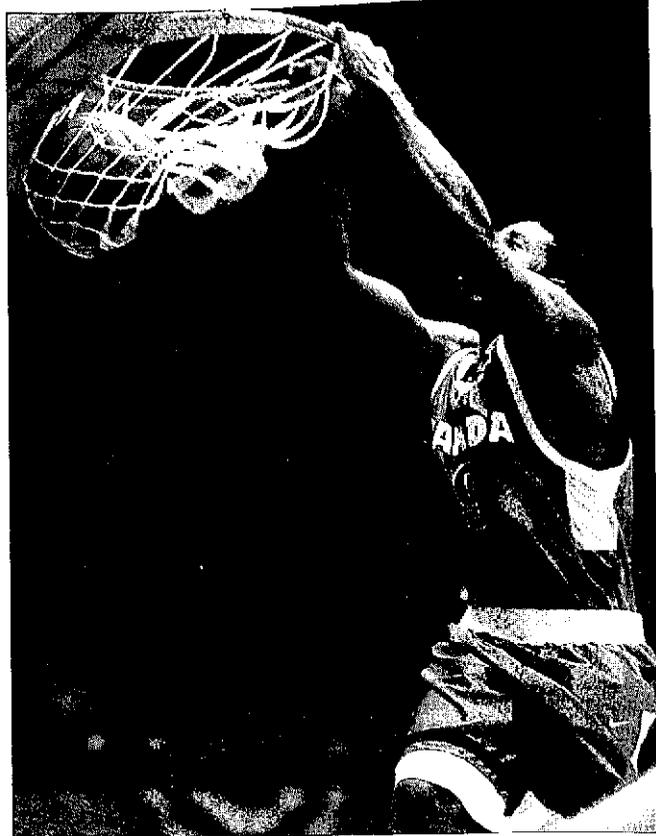
Barrel racers include Canadian leader and No. 11 girl in the world Debbie (Guelly) Itenger of Okotoks, Dawn Rude, Rayel Robinson and the hot Cardston pair of Shelley Shaw, third in Canada, and Monica Wilson, fourth in Canada and 15th in the world.

Calf ropers include the likes of Slim Creighton of Stand Off, Mervin Hofer of Spring Coulee, Greg and Curtis Cassidy, who also show up in the steer wrestling as well, and Larry Robinson, Bruce H. Robinson and the Williamson brothers, Tim and Cliff.

The doggers, 56 of them, include Canadian leader Todd Roggenst of Paynton, Sask., former world champions Blaine Pedersen of Arisik and Mark Roy of Dalnora, along with Jeff Robert and Todd Heggie, all from Raymond, and Todd Woodward of Cardston.

Novice saddle bronc riders include Wade Jensen of Cardston and Dustin Flundra of Pincher Creek, while boys' steer riders include Wacey Marr of Twin Butte, Chad Besplug of Claresholm and Lethbridge's Cary McLean.

Announcer for the four-day rodeo will be Bill Kehler and the funny man in the arena will be Dennis Halstead. Miss Rodeo Canada, Karina Tees of Clive, Alta., will also be on hand. See rodeo draw on Page A12.



AP PHOTO

CANADA SCORES: Rowan Barrett goes up for a dunk for Canada against Uruguay.

## Canadian squad rolls into second round

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (CP) — The Canadian men's basketball team goes into the second round of the Olympic qualifying tournament of the Americas with two wins after defeating Uruguay 80-62 Saturday.

Steve Nash of Victoria had 21 points, five assists and six rebounds. Todd MacCulloch of Winnipeg and Rowan Barrett of Toronto added 17 points each as Canada closed out its first-round play with a 3-1 record.

The top four countries from each of two five-team pools advance to the second round.

The United States, which beat Argentina on Saturday, leads Group A with a 3-0 record and finishes the first round today against 0-3 Cuba. Canada finishes second, with Argentina (1-2) and Uruguay (1-2) playing today for third.

In Group B are Puerto Rico (2-0), Venezuela (2-1), Dominican Republic (1-1), Brazil (1-2) and Panama (0-2).

The four teams from one group play the four qualifiers from the other, with the teams carrying forward their results from games against their respective group qualifiers.

The top four teams from the second round advance to the semifinals, with the winners qualifying for the 2000 Summer Olympics in Sydney, Australia next year.

Canada, which will carry a 2-1 record into the second round, plays the third-placed team from Group A in

the second round, starting Monday.

"Today was a big game," said Canadian coach Jay Triano of Niagara Falls, Ont. "We go into the second round 2-1 instead of 1-2 and everybody has to play the U.S. in the second round and we don't."

"Every game will be a battle and war."

Canada got off to a sluggish start in its fourth game in four days. Uruguay built an early lead before the Canadians rallied to finish the half ahead 38-34.

"I was little concerned that we got off to a slow start as far as our intensity level, but we were able to fight back," said Triano.

Once again Nash, Canada's only player with NBA experience, was the top player.

"Today, he needed to step up and he did," said Triano. "He had a great game, 3-of-6 on three-pointers, 8-of-14 overall. He took it to another level. We told him Uruguay would sag off on screens and he made the shots."

"He just controls the game, he used the clock wisely and made sure we executed down the stretch."

MacCulloch had 13 rebounds as Canada outrebounded Uruguay 38-29.

"He's been gradually playing more and becoming more comfortable," said Triano. "He hasn't played since the college season ended and all he did was work out for NBA teams. He's getting into nice groove."

## Armstrong's conservative approach works

ALBI, France (AP) — Lance Armstrong had only one goal Saturday as temperatures soared in the Tour de France — damage limitation.

With tough climbs in the Pyrenees ahead of them next week, the overall leaders sat back for the third straight day, while Italy's Salvatore Comesso charged to victory in Saturday's 13th — and longest — stage.

Two of Comesso's countrymen placed second and third.

Armstrong retained a seven-minute 44-second lead over Spaniard Abraham Olano, who was 36th in the stage. Armstrong said earlier Saturday that he was happy letting other cyclists battle it out between themselves — as long as they weren't his top rivals.

As temperatures hit 39 C, the conditions were clearly not ideal for the 27-year-old American who says he prefers riding in the cold despite his Texas origins.

The same could not be said for Comesso who broke off with more than a dozen other riders just a few miles into the stage.

"At first I thought to myself: 'There's so long to go. You're crazy, you'll never last all the way. It's impossible,'" a smiling Comesso said after the race.

"But in the end I was helped by the fact that the main contenders weren't up with us."

Comesso narrowly edged Marco Serpellini in a final sprint after a head-to-head battle that lasted more than 24 kilometres. Mariano Piccoli finished third.

It was the sixth stage on this year's Tour won by an Italian.

"Now, my next objective is to get to Paris and finish the Tour," Comesso said.

Saturday's stage was a 237-kilometre ride between Saint-Flour and Albi, a fast descent from the high plateaus of the Auvergne region to the heart of the French Midi, about 170 metres above sea level.

Today's stage is between nearby Castres and Saint Gaudens at the foot of the Pyrenees. Monday is a rest day. The Tour ends on the Champs-Élysées on July 25.



PHOTO SUBMITTED

FLORIDA-BOUND: The 84 Spitz Chargers will be attending a tournament in Cocoa, Fla. Chargers include: front row from left, Crystal Holmes, Jasmine Hansen, Keely Kavanagh, Nicole Prokop, Britany Dwornik; middle row, Brady Currie, Tamara Shuttleworth, Heather Currie, Chelsea Currie, Kelsey Kinahan, Meagan Torry, Lisa Gardiner, Vanessa Flak, Lawrence Gardiner; back row, Catherine Mantello, Lacey Schalk, Melissa Symes. Missing is Jenny Poytress.

## 84 Spitz Chargers heading to Florida for tournament

The 84 Spitz Chargers are going to Disneyland... sort of.

Five years of hard work and fundraising is enabling the Chargers to travel to Cocoa, Florida and compete in the Cocoa Expo International Nations Cup soccer tournament.

Besides the tournament itself, the Chargers have an extra day and will head to Disneyworld.

The tournament will feature teams from the United States, Cayman Islands and Argentina. American teams will be coming from Florida, Georgia and Pennsylvania. Cosmos are guaranteed four games.

The tournament is more than just competition, however. It will also be a festival of sorts.

Chargers, coached by Lawrence Gardiner and Brady Currie, leave for Florida on Wednesday and will take part in the opening ceremonies and parade Friday evening. Following the ceremonies, there will be a soccer carnival and dance party for all participants and parents.

A Kick for Cash, sponsored by Reebok, is also planned with three players from each team having the opportunity to kick for \$5,000.

All teams are asked to demonstrate their best sportsmanlike behaviour and to play to their highest level of competition.

The trip for the Chargers is just the latest of many for the Chargers Soccer Club program. Each year, the team which reaches the 15-year-old level is sent to an international competition. Last year a Chargers team travelled to Sweden.

Action at the Nations Cup will begin each day at 8 a.m. The semifinals and finals are set for July 26. Team trophies and individual awards will be presented to the top four teams in each age group.

Several local sponsors have made the trip possible for the Chargers, including Spitz (Bow Island), Avco, BDO Dunwoody, Serca Fonds Service, Wolsey Inc. and Dr. Beth Nemeth.

## 100 years of Canadian Sports begins on TSN today at 5 p.m.

Canadian sports has produced a great many champions and historic memories during the past century.

These heroes and highlights will be celebrated during a 12-part series, 100 years of Canadian Sports, premiering today on The Sports Network.

The opening hour-long episode, Forgotten Names and Unknowns, airs on TSN (Cable 16) at 5 p.m. and looks at some of the Canadian sports heroes who have faded into the pages of history.

These include greats such as champion weightlifter Doug Hepburn, boxers Jimmy McLarnin, Sam Langford and George Dixon, track and field stars Bobby Rosenfeld and Ethel Catherwood, and baseball player George Gibson, a major league catcher from 1905 to 1918.

Sunday's show also focuses on Tom Longboat, one of the world's great marathoners from the Six

Nations Reserve in Ontario, and Marilyn Bell, who made a historic swim across Lake Ontario in 1954.

The series features a sterling lineup of guest hosts drawn from the elite of the Canadian sports world. The list includes Wayne Gretzky, Kurt Browning, Catriona Le May Doan, Sylvie Frechette, Larry Walker, Rick Hansen, Donovan Bailey and Nancy Greene Raine.

The series will continue Aug. 1 with episode two, Great Moments, followed later in the month by Tragedies, Scandals and Disappointments, Aug. 21 and Innovators, Movers and Shakers, Aug. 25.

The rest of the series schedule is as follows: Sept. 10, Upsets, Comebacks and Strange Occurrences; Sept. 16, Summer Sports; Sept. 27, Personalities and Characters; Oct. 4, Heroes and Legends; Nov. 4, Winter Sports; Nov. 10, Hockey; Nov. 29, Great Teams; and Dec. 13, Spirit of Canada.

## Rugby Club sides remain undefeated with Saturday sweep

By DAVE WELLS  
Lethbridge Herald

And the beat goes on. Two undefeated Lethbridge Rugby Club teams turned in truly dominant performances at Pallsier Field Saturday.

### WOMEN

Lethbridge 52 Calgary Renegades 10  
LRC's Calgary Rugby Union Women's 2nd Division record improved to 3-0 after running roughshod over their Cowtown foes. Speedy Angie Seaman led the onslaught with three tries, for a 15-point outing. Kicker Tracy Grodzicki booted 12 points on six converts. Danielle Plourde notched two tries, while Jen Rios, Nancy England and Chelsea Donaldson added one try

apiece.

The LRC women have contested a league schedule for three years. The program is definitely on the upswing.

"We have a reasonably young team," said coach Rich Cuthbertson. "Most of our players were developed locally. Many are out of the (Southern Alberta) high school league. Others with a rugby background moved here from other parts of the country to attend the university or college."

LRC stars are making their mark on the elite scene. Rios, a Lethbridge Collegiate Institute product, is a member of Alberta's senior women's provincial team, while Vulcan County Central standout Seaman is in final stages of selection for the Alberta U-19 squad.

Cuthbertson believes his charges may well emerge victorious in the CRU 2nd Division.

"It's realistic to win it."

The mentor projects even tougher challenges down the road.

"In another year or so we'll be playing (Alberta Rugby Union) Premier Division. There's a real progression here."

### UNDER-18 BOYS

Lethbridge 48 Calgary Canucks 10  
LRC's Calgary Rugby Union Under-18 Boys' Division record moved to 2-0 after thrashing the Canucks. LRC opened the regular season with a 19-0 shutout over Calgary Irish last weekend in the Cowtown. There are six teams in the circuit.

Cory Aulenback topped the ferocious Lethbridge attack Saturday scoring 13 points on a try

and four converts. Other tries were tallied by Tony Ondrus, Greg Klippert, Braden Ontkean, Brent Banack, John Diaz, Steve Ferraro and Sam Valzebam.

LRC has worked hard at junior development over the past 15 years. The investment of time and resources appears to be paying significant dividends. Eleven members of the current U-18 outfit will play for the South in the provincial team selection game on July 24. That's especially impressive when you consider there are only 25 players on each roster.

The LRC contingent includes Aulenback, Diaz, Ferraro, Banack, Tyler Rice, Able Raath, Ryan Payne, Dustin Kliesen, Ken Seaman, Cory Seghour and Brad Clark.