

**BUTTE CIVIC CENTER
OCTOBER 6-8, 2016**



The MONTANA STANDARD
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The road to the NRA Finals

The Northern Rodeo Association circuit was in full during the spring and summer months and hopefuls from throughout this part of the United States devoted their time and energy to competing.

Through the aching muscles, serious injuries, thousands of miles traveled and the entertainment of rodeo fans throughout Montana, the finish line is within sight. The best of the best from the current season will gather at the Butte Civic Center this weekend and will be attempting to end their season on top. Here is a look at the journey and the stops on the tour, as well as those who were able to rise to the top.

Conrad Whoop-Up Trail Days Rodeo

Conrad, June 4-5
Bareback riding

1. Cash Hill, 78

2. Tristan Hansen, 74
3. Skyler Erickson, 68
4. John Salois, 67

Saddle bronc riding

1. Andrew Evjene, 82
2. Dakota Munns, 75
3. Tanner Hollenback, 74
4. Shane Bird Rattler, 72
4. Jeret Angell, 72

Bull riding

1. Tristan O'Neal, 77
2. Cody Wortman, 62
3. Tyrell Toren, 60

Steer wrestling

1. Shawn Hanley, 5.1
2. Michael Hollaheer, 5.6
3. Sean Sayers, 6.0
4. Cody Wiberg, 7.8

Calf roping

1. Jade Gardner, 11.9
2. Kody Layaye, 12.7
3. Brant Davis, 13.4
4. Will Powell, 14.7

Team roping

1. Holden Garrison/Austin Rath, 5.5 seconds
2. Chase Holt/Matt Robertson, 6.2

2. Neil Tatsey/Jimmy Racine, 6.2
4. Arnie Johnson/Chad Johnson, 7.8
5. Brad Robinson/Jim Cole, 8.0

Barrel racing

1. Shelby Rasmussen, 17.69
2. Abby Knight, 17.82
3. Lindsay Kruse, 17.83
4. Deena Moeykens, 17.90
5. Cally Goyins, 18.02
5. Tandie Solberg, 18.02

Ladies' breakaway

1. Anna Callaway, 2.8
2. Shelby Rasmussen, 3.0
3. Madison Sorden, 3.5
4. Chelsea Brown, 3.6
4. Mikayla Witter, 3.6
6. Kelsie Hansen, 3.7

Junior barrels

1. Bella Fossum, 18.02 seconds
2. Paige Rasmussen, 18.06
3. Tayla Moeykens, 18.37
4. Brynna Wolfe, 18.54

Junior breakaway

1. Bella Fossum, 3.4
2. Dillon Johnson, 4.5



Cache Hill, from the University of Great Falls, will see action in the NRA Finals Rodeo this weekend in Butte. He will enter the bareback riding competition in eighth place of the season standings. Gary Marshall BMGPHOTOS.COM

3. Cole Detton, 5.4
4. Devyn Campbell, 7.6

Frontier Days Rodeo

Culbertson, June 10-11
Bareback riding

- First go
1. Tucker Zingg, 65
- Second go
1. Tucker Zingg, 64
- Total
1. Tucker Zingg, 129
- Senior men's breakaway
1. Mac LaDue, 2.1
 2. les Haugen, 2.5
 3. Kelly Eggl, 2.7
 4. John Hoven, 2.8

Saddle bronc riding

- First go
1. Tanner Hollenback, 75
 2. Andrew Evjene, 70
 3. Cole Thoreson, 67
 4. T.J. Green, 60
- Second go
1. T.J. Green, 73
 2. Thomas Russell, 54
- Total
1. T.J. Green, 133
 2. Tanner Hollenback, 75
 3. Andrew Evjene, 70
 4. Cole Thoreson, 67

Bull riding

- First go
- No qualified rides
- Second go
- No qualified rides
- Total
- No qualified rides

Steer wrestling

1. Duston Stephens, 3.9
2. Kyle Callaway, 6.1
3. Michael Gollaher, 6.8
4. Kaiden White Bear, 12.8

Calf roping

1. J.C. Crowley, 10.2
2. Tate Benson, 11.0
3. Logan Seifert, 13.2
4. Wyatt Rising, 14.0
4. Blake Eggl, 14.0

Team roping

1. Shayne Bishop/Jim Cole, 6.0 seconds
1. Casey Schindler/Roddy Not Afraid, 6.0
3. Luke Murphy/Matt Murphy, 9.1
4. Randy Not Afraid/Michael Not Afraid, 9.8

Barrel racing

1. Rayne Rice, 17.95
2. Kiana Simonson, 18.24
2. Donna Johnson, 18.24
4. Kyla Traeger, 18.38
5. Anna Callaway, 18.43
6. Megan Burns, 18.44

Ladies' breakaway

1. Anna Callaway, 2.3
2. Megan Burns, 2.5
2. Chelsea Brown, 2.5
4. Jade Benson, 3.0
5. Callie Otoupalik, 3.2

Junior barrels

1. Tayla Moeykens, 18.13
2. Bella Fossum, 18.25
3. Alexis McDonald, 18.52
4. Dillon Johnson, 18.74

Junior breakaway

1. Dillon Johnson, 5.7 seconds

Wild West Days Rodeo

Poplar, June 11-12
Bareback riding

- First go
1. Tucker Zingg, 78
 2. Mike Fred, 63
- Second go
1. Tucker Zingg, 74
 2. Mike Fred, 70
- Total
1. Tucker Zingg, 152
 2. Mike Fred, 133

Senior men's breakaway

1. Mac LaDue, 3.2 seconds
2. Harold Gerdes, 5.3
3. John Hoven, 12.4
4. Cliff Dahl, 13.2

Saddle bronc riding

- First go
1. Cole Thoreson, 75
 2. Tanner Hollenback, 72
 3. Andrew Evjene, 58
 4. Thomas Russell, 46
- Second go
1. Tanner Hollenback, 78
 2. Andrew Evjene, 71
 3. Cole Thoreson, 59
- Total
1. Tanner Hollenback, 150
 2. Cole Thoreson, 134
 3. Andrew Evjene, 129
 4. Thomas Russell, 46

NRA announces its 2016 committee awards

The judges have spoken.

It wasn't all about horses, cattle and cowboys when Northern Rodeo Association board members toured the state during the current season. Committee members kept an eye open on each of the facilities that hosted a rodeo event and came up with their picks for the 2016 Committee Awards.

In addition to board members getting to vote, the Top 15 cowboys and cowgirls in each event got a say in what they liked.

Congratulations to the winners, and may next year be even bigger and better for Northern Rodeo Association fans, participants and sponsors.

Best Ground of the Year:

Mission Mountain Rodeo, Polson

Most-improved facility:

Jefferson County Rodeo, Boulder

Gold Rodeo of the Year:

Ennis Fourth of July Rodeo

Platinum Rodeo of the Year:

Tobacco Valley Rodeo, Eureka



Jabe Anderson, of Dillon, advanced to last year's NRA Finals Rodeo in Butte as a steer wrestler. Walter Hinick, MONTANA STANDARD

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Rodeo Events Guide

Here is a guide that will take you through the rodeo, event by event so you will have a good idea of what to look for once you've settled into your seat. It will be man vs. beast, and there is no telling what can happen.

Bareback Riding

Bareback riding, developed in the rodeo arena many years ago, consistently produces form of the wildest action in the sport.

A bareback rider begins his ride with his feet placed above the break of the horse's shoulder. If the cowboy's feet are not in the correct position when the horse hits the ground on its first jump out of the chute, the cowboy has failed to "mark out" the horse properly and is disqualified.

The rider must grasp the rigging (a handhold made of leather and rawhide) with only one hand.

Optimum spurring action begins with the rider in control, and his heels at the horse's neck. He then pulls his feet, toes pointing outward, to the horse's withers until the cowboy's feet are nearly touching the bareback rigging.

A rider is disqualified if, prior to the eight-second buzzer, he touches the equipment, himself or the animal with his free hand, or is bucked off.

The rider is judged on control during the ride, and his spurring technique. The score also is based on the rider's "exposure" to the strength of the horse. Also, the horse's performance accounts for half of the potential score.

Two-time World Champion Marvin Garrett, of South Dakota, holds the record after earning \$156,733 in a single year (1995). He was inducted into the Pro Rodeo Hall of Fame in 1998.

The highest score ever achieved in this event took place in 2002 and 2003, when Wes Stevenson and Will Lowe scored 94 points, respectively.

Saddle Bronc Riding

Known as rodeo's "Classic Event", saddle bronc riding has roots that run deep in the history of the Old West. Ranch hands would often gather and compete among themselves to see who could display the best style while riding unbroke horses. It was from this competition the event was born.

Each rider must begin this ride with his feet over the bronc's shoulders, to give the horse the advantage. The rider who is able to synchronize his spurring action with the animal's bucking will receive a high score. Other factors considered in the scoring of this event are the cowboy's control through-



The bareback riding competition is anything but a smooth ride for the cowboys who compete in it. AP PHOTO

out the ride, the length of his spurring stroke and how hard the horse bucks.

Ideal spurring action starts with the rider's feet far forward on the horse's point of shoulder, sweeping to the back of the saddle, or "cattle" as the horse bucks. The rider then snaps his feet back to the horse's neck a split-second before the animal's front feet hit the ground.

Disqualification occurs if, prior to the eight-second buzzer, the rider touches the animal, himself or his equipment with his free hand, if either foot slips out of the stirrup, if he drops the bronc rein, or fails to

have his feet in the proper "mark out" position at the beginning of the ride. He is also disqualified if he gets bucked off of the bronc.

Casey Tibbs, a 1979 inductee into the Pro Rodeo Hall of Fame, is perhaps the most famous professional rodeo athlete of all time. He is best known for his saddle bronc riding prowess, capturing six saddle bronc riding titles, two all-around titles and one bareback riding championship between 1949 and 1959.

The highest score ever achieved in this event is 95, and has happened four times.

The first was in 1979, by Doug Vold.

Bull Riding

Unlike other roughstock contestants, bull riders are not required to spur.

No kidding.

It's usually an impressive enough feat just to remain seated for eight seconds on an animal that might weigh more than a ton and is as quick as he is big. Upper body control and strong legs are essential to successfully ride a bull.

The rider must try to remain forward, or over his hand, at all times. Leaning back could cause him to be whipped forward when the bull bucks. Judges watch for good body position and other factors, including the use of the free arm and spurring action. Though it's not required, spurring can help add points to a cowboy's score.

As in all other riding events, half of the score is determined by the bull's efforts, with the other half based on the rider's performance.

A bull rider will be disqualified for touching the animal, himself or his equipment with his free hand; or by being bucked off prior to the eight seconds.

Wade Leslie achieved a perfect score of 100 points in 1991 Central Point, Oregon. The bull was named Wolfman.

Calf Roping

Line bronc riding, calf roping is an event that was born on the ranches of the Old West when sick calves were roped and tied down for medical treatment.

In today's version, success in the event depends a great deal on the teamwork between a cowboy and his horse. The luck of the draw is also a factor because a feisty calf that runs fast or kicks hard can foil a roper's finest effort.

The calf is given a head start before the cowboy and his horse give chase. The cowboy ropes the calf, dismounts his horse, and runs to the animal. The horse does its part by ensuring that there the rope remains tight and without any slack.

After catching and flanking the calf, the cowboy ties any three of the animal's legs together with the use of a pigging string which he carries in his teeth until it's needed. If the calf is not standing when the cowboy reaches it, he must allow it to do so before flanking it.

When the cowboy has tied the calf's three lets, he raises his arms to signal the judge the he has completed the task. He then remounts his horse to loosen the slack in the rope. The calf must remain tied for six seconds in order for the run to be declared valid.

A 10-second penalty is added if the calf roper's horse starts too soon and breaks the

barrier at the beginning of the run.

Although calf roping requires the incorporation of several unique skills, the action is incredibly fast, with some of the best ropers being timed in the neighborhood of seven seconds.

Steer Wrestling

This event requires more than just brute strength. The successful steer wrestler – also known as a bulldogger – must be strong but it helps him to also understand the principles of leverage.

The bulldogger starts on his horse, behind a barrier. He starts his quick journey after giving the steer a head start, just like in calf roping.

If he and his horse leave too soon, they receive a 10-second penalty. The contestant is assisted by what's known as a hazer. A hazer is another cowboy, also on a horse, who runs alongside the steer in order to ensure that it runs straight. When the bulldogger's horse pulls even with the steer, the bulldogger eases his way down the side of his horse and reaches for the steer's horns. Once he has them, he must dig his heels into the dirt in order to slow the animal.

As the steer slows down, the bulldogger turns the animal, lifts up on its right horn and pushes down with his left hand in an effort to tip the steer over.

The wrestler must either bring the steer to a stop, or change the direction of the animal's body prior to throw. If he fails to do that, he will be disqualified. The clock stops when the steer is on its side, with all four legs pointed in the same direction.

Steer wrestling is also known as the "big man's event," and with good reason. At the 1997 National Finals Rodeo in Las Vegas, the average weight of all steer wrestlers was 215 pounds.

Like calf roping, this is also a very quick event.

At a rodeo held earlier this year in Butte, St. Ignatius High School senior Will Powell had a winning time of 3.8 seconds in this event.

The world record of 2.4 seconds is held by a handful of bulldoggers.

Team Roping

Quickness is the key to success in team roping, just like medical school is important to someone hoping to become a brain surgeon.

Care to know how fast? At the 1997 National Finals Rodeo in Las Vegas, the slowest round-winning team was clocked at five seconds.

In order to win money at most professional rodeos, team roping headers must accomplish a myriad of duties in less time

than it takes the average person to yawn.

Headers must charge out of the box on horseback – without breaking the barrier, of course – chase down a fast-racing steer, and throw a rope around his protected horns, neck or "half-head," (one horn and the neck). The header must then turn the steer to its left, giving his partner, or heeler, a chance to rope the steer's hind feet.

The run is completed when the steer is secured and the team ropers' horses are facing each other from opposite sides of the steer.

As the name implies, steer roping is rodeo's only true team event because the header and the heeler must work in tandem to ensure success.

Jake Barnes and Clay O'Brien Cooper were one of the best team roping duos of all time. During the 1994 National Finals Rodeo, they combined to team-rope 10 steers in a combined time of 59.1 seconds. This included a five-second penalty that was given when Cooper failed to rope both hind legs during the team's first run.

As with all other timed events, the team is penalized 10 seconds for starting too soon.

Disqualification can occur if the heeler tosses his loop before the header has changed the direction of the steer and the animal is still moving forward.

1997 saw header Speed Williams and heeler Rich Skelton earn \$114,700 and \$112,243, respectively for their teamwork in this event.

Barrel Racing

Barrel racing doesn't look nearly as harrowing as the other rodeo events but it can be just as exciting. The horsemanship skills and competitive drive in this fast-paced event make it a rodeo favorite.

In barrel racing, the contestant and horse (American Quarter Horse) enter the arena at full speed. As they start the pattern, the horse and rider trigger an electronic eye that starts the clock. Then the racer rides a cloverleaf pattern around three barrels positioned in the arena, and sprints back out of the arena, tripping the eye and stopping the clock as she leaves. The contestant can touch or even move the barrels, but receives a five-second penalty for each barrel that is overturned. With the margin of victory measured in hundredths of seconds, knocking over one barrel spells disaster.

One of the most dominant barrel-racing horses in history was named Scamper, and ridden by Charmayne James.

The duo raced to 10 consecutive world championships from 1984 to 1993, and ran all the way into the Pro Rodeo Hall of Fame.

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