

Montana PRCA Pro Rodeo circuit
Press Release

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High School Rough Stock Challenge

The Montana PRCA Pro Rodeo Circuit and the Montana High School Rodeo Association (MHSRA) will be hosting the 3rd Annual High School Rough Stock Challenge at the Montana Pro Rodeo Circuit Finals (MPRF) January 13, 14, 15, 2017. The brainchild of the Montana Pro Rodeo Circuit Board, the Montana High School Rough Stock Challenge was the first event of its kind at any PRCA Circuit Finals rodeo in the nation. Thus, engaging rodeo youth and encouraging them to participate in the sport of pro rodeo. The program exposes youth to a larger audience and helps them get a start in pro rodeo. Jim Croff president of the Montana PRCA Pro Rodeo Circuit Board, "This is a Montana PRCA Pro Rodeo program to help increase youth involvement in the sport of professional rodeo and we are excited to be the first and only Professional Rodeo Circuit to come up with such a program involving youth and will be implementing it into the 38th Annual MPRF," said Croff. The top 4 high school contestants in the bareback and top 6 saddle bronc riders will compete throughout the 3 days of the MPRF. A set number of bareback riders and saddle bronc riders will compete for each of the first two nights of the rodeo and the top three in each event will come back to compete on Sunday during the final round. The goal of the rough stock challenge event is to give youth that are interested in rough stock rodeo events an opportunity to get out there and ride with the pros.

The rough stock for the event has been chosen to fit the competitors and they will also get to spend one-on-one time with the pro judges. Lane Yeager and Mark Salmond, the MHSRA directors in charge of the event, emphasizes the importance of providing young people in rodeo with opportunities that will help them succeed. This event intends to provide this year's contestants with new opportunities as well as raise interest in those who may want to be bareback or saddle bronc riders in the future. Started in 2015 it is the first program of its kind, the Montana High School Rough Stock Challenge provides a new way to provide opportunities for Montana's rodeo youth. The Montana PRCA Pro Rodeo Board piloted the idea and hopes to get young bareback and saddle bronc riders in front of a broader audience as well as encourage those who may be the future of pro rodeo to become involved. The rough stock challenge helps complete the big circle that keeps pro rodeo alive as the older generation hands down opportunities to young competitors and help secure the future of PRCA rodeo.

The Montana High School Rough Stock Challenge was made possible through a youth

educational and outreach grant from the Montana PRCA Pro Rodeo Circuit and it's Board of Directors to engage youth of Montana in the sport of rodeo.

The high school competitors will each receive trophy vests complements of Courtney Higgins of Rodeo Rigs, LLC, and Justin gear bags complements of Hoglunds Western Wear of Great Falls. The top riders in saddle bronc and bareback events will each receive a trophy buckle awarded by the Cascade PRCA Rodeo Committee. The host hotel for the Challenge is the Hilton Garden Inn.

Bareback Riders:

1. Shawn Perkins, Roberts
2. Sebastian Hotalen, Belgrade
3. Cole Boardman, Malta

Saddle Bronc Riders:

1. Houston Brown, Miles City
2. Tyrell Toren, Kalispell
3. Tate Harmon, Powderville
4. Caleb Meeks, Geraldine
5. Koby Harwood, Browning
6. Brycen Williamson, Browning

You can check out the Montana PRCA Pro Rodeo Website at www.montanaprorodeo.com to get all the up to date Circuit Finals information.