



September 27, 2009

NEWS RELEASE

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## Rough stock events wrap up Stampede's 4-H Rodeo

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CALGARY – Advice like this really helps Jeremy Boulding come out of the chute with confidence.

Boulding, 17, of Big Valley, Alta., won the senior cow riding class Sunday afternoon as the Calgary Stampede's 12<sup>th</sup> annual Invitational 4-H Rodeo, a two-day event presented by ECL Transportation and Lammler's Western Wear & Tack, wrapped up under the Big Top.

Boulding has won a few buckles in the category before – including his first Stampede title three years ago, as an intermediate-aged rider – but some morning advice from former Canadian rodeo star Dave Shields, during a 45-minute cow riding clinic for 4-H competitors, paid some immediate dividends.

"That definitely does make a difference," said Boulding, whose winning ride of 74 points aboard a grumpy steer beat out Calgary's Jordan Mitchell (70) for the red ribbon. "He's had a cow riding clinic every year I've been here, and I get something out of it every time . . . it's all about confidence, balance, focus, sticking with it.

"I feel like I've progressed a lot. Actually, I'd like to go to his place (Shields is an instructor and co-founder of Ridin' High Rodeo Schools) to get some more help. He definitely knows what he's talking about."

Shields, who qualified for 10 Canadian Finals Rodeos from 1979 to 1990, will receive the Canadian Pro Rodeo Hall of Fame's Legendary Achievement Award next month in Calgary. Shields says he's all too happy to present rough stock clinics at the Stampede's annual 4-H Rodeo for youth.

"I love the sport of rodeo, and if I can help the kids get a good start at it, that means something to me," said Shields. "The safety aspect is huge. If kids get a bad start at this, then they quit. But if they can be taught how to get on and off properly, and not get hurt, then they'll want to do it again."

Nearly 100 competitors from across Alberta, aged 9 through 20, congregated over the weekend under the Big Top for prizes and ribbons in barrels, pole bending, thread-the-needle, cow riding, breakaway roping and goat tying events. However, the educational component of the 4-H Rodeo is equally important, says Norma Ansloos, chair of the Stampede's 4-H committee.

"The clinics are always a big hit, because they allow the kids to do things that they don't necessarily get in their own 4-H clubs at home," said Ansloos. "We've got some excellent clinicians working with the kids that are all involved in semi-pro or professional rodeos, so they've got a lot of knowledge and experience to train these kids to become future competitors further on.

"We do follow provincial 4-H guidelines for an invitational rodeo," added Ansloos, "which is why the educational side of it is so important."



Rough stock events – cow riding, breakaway roping and goat tying – wrapped up the two-day event on Sunday afternoon, with Calgary’s Katie Baker winning the senior breakaway roping event (for competitors aged 15 to 20) by snaring a calf in 7.1 seconds.

Baker is no newcomer to roping, but the same couldn’t be said for Twist, her eight-year-old Palomino quarter-horse gelding.

“Actually, it was his first time roping, so it was pretty impressive,” laughed Baker. “Kind of a fluke, I guess . . . the calf turned around, and I caught him on the way back.”

Railey Tremblay, of Cayley, Alta., and Tiny, an 18-year-old quarter-horse gelding, won the senior goat tying event in a time of 11.8 seconds, more than two seconds ahead of the nearest competitor, Calgary’s Chad Cena, who stopped the clock in 14.2 seconds.

“You have to be quick with your hands,” said Tremblay. “There’s a lot of little shortcuts you can do . . . and it depends on the draw you get, too. Some just lie down, but some will fight.”

Keenan Reinhardt of Calgary won the intermediate cow riding event (ages 12 to 14) with a score of 72, three points better than runner-up Bailey Hlus of Innisfree, Alta. Hlus did claim victory, though, in intermediate breakaway roping, snaring a calf in 6.9 seconds.

Kelsey Hallett of Big Valley, riding Missy, claimed the intermediate goat tying event in a time of 12.2 seconds, 0.6 seconds quicker than Anna Gunn of Calgary, riding Rosie.

In all, 30 4-H clubs from across Alberta were represented at the Stampede’s 12<sup>th</sup> annual Invitational 4-H Rodeo.

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The Calgary Stampede is a volunteer-supported, not-for-profit community organization that preserves and promotes western heritage and values. The Stampede contributes to the quality of life in Calgary and southern Alberta through its world-renowned 10-day Stampede, year-round facilities, western events and several youth and agriculture programs. All revenue is reinvested into Calgary Stampede programs and facilities. For more about the Stampede, visit [www.calgarystampede.com](http://www.calgarystampede.com).