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A ROUGH DAY'S RIDE

A number of Indian National Finals Rodeo competitors got their chance to step up to the plate and take a swing. Unfortunately for those INFR riders in the recent All Star Rodeo, it was a swing and a miss across the board.

Six cowboys and one cowgirl were invited to be a part of Team INFR at the 108th National Western Stock Show, Rodeo, and Horse Show in Denver last month. Rodeo All-Star contestants were selected by committee from all the major rodeo associations with the National Western Complex acting as host for the action. Sixteen quality riders were invited to participate in each event.

Bareback rider Cameron Bruised Head placed in the first round and got bucked off in the next. Steer wrestler Joe Wilson also got bucked as did saddle bronc rider Jesse Colliflower. Walt White was just out of advancing in tie-down roping while team ropers Derrick Begay and James Begay Jr. missed their mark and ladies barrel racer Brittany Bird also had a bad day.

Despite the INFR contestants disappointment, the Professional Bull Riders sanctioned event went well. "We have had a long-standing relationship with the National Western and are proud to be a part of All Star," said PBR spokesman Jay Daugherty. "This event gives riders another opportunity to add to earnings and world standings points."

Colorado barrel racer Christy Loflin rode *Movin* to a 15.527-second time in the final round to win her category as a first-time participant and take home a \$5,000 paycheck that came with the top spot. Ironically, the mother/daughter duo of Christy and mom Randi Timmons competed against each other in the semifinal performance, prompting Loflin to predict there would be a lot of short go battles in the future.

Jordan Hupp earned the buckle in bull riding while Cort Scheer took top honors in saddle bronc riding and Jessy Davis became the RAS bareback cowboy for 2014. Steer wrestler Nick Guy made his winning moves in the head-to-head round. Timber Moore took top spot in the tie-down roping and the Clay Norell/Cullen Teller duo hit a home run as top team ropers. The pair took the honors in both semi- and final-round action before earning first place in the head-to-head round.

After the critters and the cowboys had cleared out, All Star Rodeo President Paul Andrews called the overall action successful, so much so that plans are being discussed to expand the National Western. A master planning team is at work to find a way to expand the event and to pay for that expansion. “We are home to the world’s premier pen and carload shows along with auctions and our rodeo performances. We intend to grow on site and it’s a certainty that we are laser focused on staying in Denver.”

Meanwhile, INFR contestants hope two things --- that their name gets drawn for next year’s All Star and that the 2015 results will be different than this years.

Photo: Clay Norell and Cullen Teller Please credit Westfall Photography

