



Indian National Finals Rodeo

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Indian National Finals Rodeo
INFR 2015 – 4 Decades
By: Ray and Jimi Champ

The last bull has bucked, the last steer has been roped and 4 decades of Indian National Finals Rodeo is in the books.

The South Point Casino in Las Vegas served host to the Indian National Finals' 40th Anniversary. Rodeo action began Tuesday November 3rd. For five days and five nights the South Point Arena was filled with non-stop rodeo action.

Throughout the course of the week, over 190,000 internet viewers and thousands of people in Las Vegas were able to see Indian Rodeo history in the making.

The 40th year boasted 42 Indian stock contractors, 6 Indian rodeo judges, and well over 400 Indian rodeo contestants gathered together

When the dust settled Saturday, November 7th after the fourth and final round, the Indian World Champions were crowned.

Buck Lunak, returned to Montana with his 3rd bareback riding championship. A score of 82 points in the final round of the INFR wasn't enough for him to win the round but earned him an aggregate score of 305, edging him into the number one spot.

The steer wrestling title returned to the state of Oklahoma with 2010 World Champion, Casey Stone. Casey and his team of paint horses, threw 4 steers in 19.71 seconds to win the average by nearly two and a half seconds.

A nearly sold out crowd sat spellbound during the ladies breakaway roping as Arizona's Sheila Sells roped her fourth calf in 3.38 seconds to earn her second trip to the World Champion's Stage.

Indian National Finals Rodeo Commissioners

Sam Bird, President - *Blackfeet Tribe* - Bo Vocu, Member - *Oglala Lakota Sioux Tribe*,
Eugene Creighton, Secretary - *Blood Tribe* - Carol Jackson-Holyan, Member - *Navajo Tribe*,
Frank Whitecalf - *3 Affiliated Tribes* - Denis Turner - *Rincon Band*



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The theme of the night seemed to be returning World Champions. In the saddle bronc riding, 2-time World Champion Jeremy Meeks with a score of 74 in the final round punched his ticket to the Showroom Stage. With an aggregate score of 274 on four head, Meeks was a mere 2 points ahead of his closest competitor.

The tie down championship once again went to Oklahoma. Dillon Sherrick tied down 4 calves in 39.71 seconds, barely edging out the second place tie down roper by less than half a second.

The last three events of the evening belonged to the 605. The ladies barrel racing, team roping and bull riding all followed the saddle bronc championship home to South Dakota.

By just three tenths of a second, Sloan Anderson finished her final barrel pattern with a time of 15.462 earning her a second place check in the round but more importantly, earning her a trip to the World Championship Stage.

Sloan wouldn't be leaving Las Vegas with just a barrel racing world championship. She also claimed the title of All Around Cowgirl. Winning the men's All Around Championship for the second time was South Dakota Cowboy, Joe Wilson. Joe and Sloan both returned home with brand new horse trailers naming them All Around Champions of the World.

The team roping championship went to the team of Elliot Gourneau and Lynn Williams. One of only 3 teams to rope all 4 steers at the INFR, the team of Gourneau and Williams roped consistently all week and proved that consistency wins championships.

In the final electrifying event of the night, Slick Phelps won his second back to back world title in the bull riding. The race to the bull riding World Championship was won by only two points, a fitting end to a very exciting Indian National Finals Rodeo.

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