

BARRY BURK ROPING ROUNDUP CELEBRATES 25TH ANNIVERSARY

Twenty-five years have come and gone since the idea for “a special calf roping where the young ropers of the country could all get together to showcase their talent” was put into motion. The names of the winners in the past years read like a who’s who of the present-day professional calf ropers. Putting together this “silver anniversary edition” offered some new challenges with Barry having heart surgery in January. Also several states scheduled their Jr. High State Finals this same week in May and add to that an already tough economy. It seems all the challenges were met as 625 entries competed for a payoff of over \$62,000 plus saddles, roping equipment, and a full line of cowboy attire from hats to boots. As an added feature to this year’s Roundup, the voice of a talented, young announcer from Oklahoma, Garrett Yerrigan, was called upon to add some entertainment and professionalism to the Roundup. He did a great job and everyone really enjoyed him.

The Roundup started off with the 13 – 15 Tiedown roping at noon on Friday, with ninety-one contestants. The first roper out, Dublin, TX roper, Aaron Calloway, was told by Barry he had a great calf and he used him like a pro tying him in 9.08 to win that go round. The fastest calf of this roping came in the second go when Stephenville, Texas cowboy, Marty Yates, tied one in 8.98 to win that round. In the third round, Colby Jenkins, Call, Texas, made his move tying his calf in 9.53 to win that round and take over the lead in the average. His fourth place win in the short go gave Colby a 44.66 on four and the championship saddle.

As is tradition, Saturday morning is time for the 12 & Under Tiedown. The first go round was won by Hondo Harris, Agua Dulce, TX with his 14.73, but Westyn Hughes, Caldwell, TX roper, proved to be the man of the hour as he placed on every calf and won the average with a 56.15. Dublin, TX cowboy, Sy Felton, captured the short go with a rapid 12.68 to move from fourth to second in the average. The fastest calf of the roping was turned in by Westyn Hughes with his 12.28 in the third go round.

While the little ropers are the main event in the coliseum, the 13 – 15 Breakaway ropers are turning in some quick times in the number 2 arena. Pawhuska, OK roper, Tyler Milligan, started off hot by winning the 1st round with a 2.88 and then won second in round two with a 2.85. Ryder Gann, Tahlequah, OK, won the 2nd round with his 2.82. As he has done in the past, Stephenville, TX cowboy, Marty Yates, won the 3rd round with a rapid 2.45 and then got even faster in the short go with a 2.29 to win the round and take the average with the time of 12.83 on four head.

On Sunday we always start off thanking the Lord for all his blessings. Talented singer and contestant’s mom, Christy McGuire and Barry’s buddy, Big Rick Eggenburg, filled the coliseum with beautiful music and a tremendous message was delivered by Pastor Marty Brock.

After a great church service, it was time for the 19 & Under Girls Breakaway as 133 young ladies were ready to rope. The 1st round was won by Ponca City, Ok cowgirl, Kaity Beaty, with a time of 2.72, which would be the fast time of the roping. In round number 2, Merryville, LA roper, Paige Plush, was the winner with her 2.91. TiAda Gray, Lovington, NM, trying to redeem herself from a broken barrier in round 2, turned in a 2.80 to win the 3rd round. Kaity Beaty came into the short go in the lead and sealed the deal by winning that round with a time of 3.43 to take the championship. Her average

time of 12.68 will go into the record books as the second fastest time in 25 years of the Roundup.

In arena number 2 on Sunday afternoon, the 12 & Under Breakaway roping was the event to watch. The first round went to Mt. Home, TX roper, Dakota Felton with a 3.04. Round number 2 was won by Ty Iselt, Lincoln, TX with his speedy 2.91. In the third round, Tiedown Champion, Westyn Hughes, put it away with the fastest time of the roping a 2.88. In rounds 2 and 3, Cooper Lee, Quitman, AR roper had been getting checks and came into the short go in the lead in the average. His second place time of 3.33 in the short go gave him the victory in the average with a time of 14.37 on four head. As a footnote to this event, it has to be mentioned that seven year old, Cinch Moody, Stephenville, TX, was one of the only twenty-one contestants out of 103 entries that had time on all three head prior to the short round.

Monday, Memorial Day, brings on the fast and the furious 16 – 19 Boys Tiedown Roping. Reese Riemer, Stinnett, TX roper, was the fastest of the 142 contestants in round number 1 with his 8.54. It went down to the last roper to declare the winner of round number 2 as Heath Thomas, Hemphill, TX turned in the time 8.81. Round number 3 is usually when the fastest time of the day comes but not this year. Tomball, TX roper, Wes Wyrick, captured the round with his 8.68 which let the 8.54 of Reese Riemer in round number 1 claim the honor of having the fastest time. While all this had been happening, Justin Parke of Gooding, ID had been just roping solid, putting short 10 second runs together. He came into the short go leading the average but all fifteen ropers were separated by only a little over 3 seconds. The short go was won by Pleasanton, TX roper Cody Lawrence with a 8.79 to move him into the lead in the average. Justin roped his final calf in the solid style he had shown all day in the time of 9.18 for 3rd in the round and 1st in the average with a time of 39.58 on four head. A new Tod Slone Championship Saddle and a pocket full of money made the trip back to Idaho a lot more pleasant.

As we bring another BB Roping Roundup to a close, a big pat on the back goes to the Alpha Gama Rho fraternity boys from Texas A & M Commerce and their sponsor Dr. Flavio Ribeiro who man the stall office and provide all the chute help. For a good roping the cattle are the main ingredient and a great job was done by Mark Holder for the 12 & Under calves and by Glen Robinson for the calves for the other age groups.

With the tough economy presenting challenges on every corner, a big Thank You goes out to the following sponsors who really make this roping a success: Ardmore Tourism Authority, Bailey Motors, Brooks-Maberry, Inc., Choctaw Casino & Resort, Cinderella Horses, Circle M Trailers, Diamond T Arena, Durham Trailer Ranch, Fast Back Ropes, Gilchrist Calf Chutes, Holiday Inn, Joplin Regional Stockyards, Jud Little Ranch, Justin Boots/ Justin Discount Boots, Oxbow Tack, Priefert, Resistol Hat Co., Rodeway Inn, Schwalbe Trucks, Tod Slone Saddlery, Willard Rope Co, and Wrangler.