

Youngster Steals Show at event honoring MLK Jr.

By Susan Kanode
For the National Western Stock Show

DENVER, Colo. --- Two cowgirls were mighty happy at the Martin Luther King Jr., African American Heritage of Champions Rodeo at the National Western Stock Show on Monday.

The event has been part of the National Western since 2005 and has been held on the Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday. At this year's rodeo, Corrianna Burkhalter won the ladies barrel racin' with a 15.92-second run. Burkhalter, from Meridian, Okla., first competed here in 2009 when she was just 10 years old. She won the championship then, and finished second in 2011.

In the ladies steer undecoratin', Stephanie Haynes earned her second consecutive title. This event is similar to steer wrestling in professional rodeo where a hazer keeps the steer running straight between their horse and the competitor's horse. The ladies here then reach down and pull a ribbon off the steer's back and hold it in the air to stop the time.

Haynes from Hempstead, Texas, had a 2.0 second time for the win here this year. That was three-tenths of a second faster than her championship run here in 2011.

DENVER, Colo. --- The following are results from the Martin Luther King African American Heritage Rodeo of Champions at the National Western Stock Show Rodeo, Monday, January 16, 2012.

Bull Doggin': 1, Chase Crane, 5.0. 2, Tory Johnson, 5.7. 3, Gerald Vaughn, Jr., 6.4. 4, Arnold Laskey, 11.2.

Bareback Ridin': (three times) 1, Lonnie Lesmister, 76. 2, Thruman House, 67. 3, Benny Begay, 61.

Ladies Steer Undecoratin': Stephanie Haynes, 2.0. 2, Cecilia Reagor, 2.1. 3, Ronni Frank, 3.1. 4, Denise Tyus, 3.2.

Calf Ropin': 1, Deon Atkins, 9.7. 2, Rufus Haynes, 12.1. 3, Norman Mitchell, 12.6. 4, Deon Osborne, 19.2.

Ladies Barrel Racin': 1, Corrianna Burkhalter, 15.92. 2, Mikala Neely, 16.74. 3, Denise Tyus, 16.77. 4, Deboraha Townsend, 16.94.

Bull Ridin': (three rides) 1, Jacoby Richard, 78. 2, Hernald John, 74. 3, Jamon Turner, 72.