

Super Saturday Showcases Rodeo Athletes at National Western

By Susan Kanode

For the National Western Stock Show

DENVER, Colo. --- The first ever Colorado versus the World rodeo showdown at the National Western Stock Show kicked off the 106th annual event with three action-packed performances.

Each rodeo featured bareback riding, steer wrestling, saddle bronc riding, women's barrel race and bull riding. Contestants representing 10 Colorado based rodeos were invited to participate in the 11 a.m. performance. The best four from that competition advanced to the semi-finals Saturday night. Along with Denver's National Western Stock Show Rodeo, Colorado Springs, Pueblo, Greeley, Estes Park, Loveland and Elizabeth were represented.

The 3:30 performance brought contestants from rodeos recognized as being among some of the best in the world including Cheyenne, Wyo.; North Platte, Neb.; Rapid City, S.D.; San Angelo, Texas; Dodge City, Kan.; Guymon, Okla.; Fort Worth, Texas; Houston, Texas; Calgary, Alberta; and Austin, Texas.

Narrowing down the contestant field from four to one happened Saturday evening with the best contestant from each of the two teams going head to head for a \$10,000 prize. Also new in this ground breaking competition was the contestant's choice in which stock they would compete on. This has happened in bull riding previously, but was the first time for the bareback and saddle bronc riders and steer wrestlers to have that option. The barrel racers got to choose their position.

In the bareback riding, Kelly Timberman from Mills, Wyo., was a wildcard contestant for the Colorado team. Kaycee Feild, from Payson, Utah represented the World team. Timberman chose to ride Calgary Stampede's horse Stampede Warrior while Field got on Cervi Championship Rodeo's Pinball Wizard. When the judges added up their scores, each rider had received 90 points. The championship went to Timberman because he had the highest score coming into the Showdown.

"From the production standpoint, the fans and for us as individual athletes, this was a monumental event," Timberman said. "The teams competing against each other and having it come down to one ride kept it exciting. It was awesome to be able to pick the horses. I picked what I thought was the best horse but it couldn't have been any closer."

Timberman who is the assistant rodeo coach at Casper (Wyo.) College hasn't been competing because of injuries. He had the opportunity to ride for the money here and jumped at the chance. His wife has been having back trouble and is scheduled to have surgery later this month. The money that he earned here will come in handy as they pay for medical bills.

In the barrel race, Randa Kellogg made a 17 hour drive from Kissimmee, Fla., to represent the National Western. She elected to run first and that earned her the championship with a 15.31 second run. Sydni Blanchard, representing the Calgary Stampede came here from Albuquerque, N.M. Kellogg won the title by just six one-hundredths of a second when Blanchard stopped the clock in 15.37 seconds.

Other winners were Straws Milan from Cochrane, Alberta, in the steer wrestling who was on the world team for the Calgary Stampede, Cody Wright from Milford, Utah, and Steve Woolsey from Payson, Utah who were both on the Colorado team representing the Colorado State Fair at Pueblo.

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DENVER, Colo. --- The following are results from Super Saturday, Colorado Vs the World rodeo, Jan. 7, 2012.

Colorado Performance – (contestant, hometown, followed by rodeo they represented)

Bareback Riding: 1. Kelly Timberman, Mills, Wyo., (wild card) 87 points, \$1,800; 2. Jessy Davis, Payson, Utah, (Elizabeth) 85, \$1,350; 3. Jared Keyton, Uniontown, Kan., (Colorado Springs) 84, \$900; 4. (tie) Bo Casper, Fort Scott, Kan., (Denver) and Lee Lantz, Molalla, Ore., (Loveland) 83, \$225 each.

Steer Wrestling: 1. Luke Branquinho, Los Alamos, Calif., (Greeley) 3.6 seconds, \$1,800; 2. Brad McGilchrist, Marysville, Calif., (Estes Park), 4.7, \$1,350; 3. Baylor Roche, Tremonton, Utah, (Pueblo) 5.2, \$900; 4. Beau Clark, Shuller, Okla., (Denver) 5.3, \$450.

Saddle Bronc Riding: 1. Jesse Wright, Milford, Utah, (Loveland), 91 points, \$1,800; 2. Cody Wright, Milford, Utah, (Pueblo) 87, \$1,350; 3. Jake Wright, Monroe, Utah, (Colorado Springs) 84, \$900; 4. Troy Crowser, Whitewood, S.D., (Greeley) 78, \$450.

Women's Barrel Race: 1. Diann giffin, Falcon, Colo., (Elizabeth) 15.25 seconds, \$1,800; 2. Randa Kellogg, Kissimmee, Fla., (Denver) 15.42, \$1,350; 3. Sammi Bessert, Loma, Colo., (Wild Card) 15.46, \$900; 4. P.J. Burger, Pauls Valley, Okla., (Pueblo) 15.67, \$450.

Bull Riding: 1. Tyler Smith, Fruita, Colo. (Wild Card) 84 points, \$1,800; 2. Will Farrell, Thermopolis, Wyo., (Loveland) 83, \$1,350; 3. (tie) Wes Wahlert, Galeton, Colo., (Denver) and Steve Woolsey, Payson, Utah, (Pueblo) 82, \$675 each.

World Performance – (contestant, hometown, followed by rodeo they represented)

Bareback Riding: 1. Casey Colletti, Pueblo, Colo., (Cheyenne, Wyo.) 90 points, \$1,800; 2. Kaycee Feild, Payson, Utah, (Calgary, Alberta) 88, \$1,350; 3. J.R. Vezain, Mills, Wyo., (Fort Worth, Texas) 86, \$900; 4. Clint Cannon, Waller, Texas, (Houston) 85, \$450.

Steer Wrestling: 1. Seth Brockman, Wheatland, Wyo., (San Angelo, Texas) 3.9 seconds, \$1,800; 2. Gabe leDoux, Kaplan, La., (Austin, Texas) 4.7, \$1,350. 3. Straws Milan, Cochrane, Alberta, (Calgary, Alberta) 5.0, \$900; 4. Ronnie Fields, Oklahoma City, (North Platte) 5.5, \$450.

Saddle Bronc Riding: 1. Jesse Bail, Camp Crook, S.D., (Cheyenne, Wyo.,) 84, \$1,800; 2. Jesse Kruse, Great Falls, Mont., (Rapid City, S.D.) 82, \$1,350. 3. (tie) cort Scheer, Elsmere, Neb., (Houston, Texas) and Chad Ferley, Oelrichs, S.D., (Calgary, Alberta) 81, \$675 each.

Women's Barrel Race: 1. Jody Scheffield, Ogden, Utah, (Houston, Texas) 15.6 seconds, \$1,800; 2. Sabrina Ketcham, Yeson, N.M., (Guymon, Okla.) 15.71, \$1,350; 3. Sydni Blanchard, Albuquerque, N.M., (Calgary, Alberta) 15.98, \$900; 4. Kari Boxleitner, Loveland, Colo., (Dodge City, Kan.) 16.37, \$450.

Bull Riding: (two rides) 1. Brady Menge, Fruita, Colo., (Rapid City), 80 points, \$1,800. 2. Tater Hins, Huron, S.D., (Cheyenne, Wyo.) 69, \$1,350.

Showdown – Colorado Vs. The World -- Champions

Bareback Riding: 1. Kelly Timberman, Colorado, versus Kaycee Field, World – Timberman, 90 points, \$10,000.

Steer Wrestling: 1. Baylor Roche, Colorado, versus Straws Milan, World – Milan, 4.7 seconds, \$10,000.

Saddle Bronc Riding: 1, Cody Wright, Colorado, versus Jesse Bail, World – Wright, 92 points, \$10,000.

Women's Barrel Race: 1. Randa Kellogg, Colorado, versus Sydni Blanchard, World – Kellogg, 15.31, \$10,000.

Bull Riding: 1. Steve Woolsey, Colorado, versus Cole Hermanson, World – Woolsey wins on tie breaker, \$10,000.