

Winter rodeo excitement begins with record number of competitors

By Keith Taylor

With great weather, a huge crowd, and a record number of competitors, Lake Koochanusa Arena launched their Winter Series rodeo for a third season this past Saturday night.

A record number of competitors from across Canada, Montana, Idaho, Washington, and Utah competed in bareback riding, calf roping, breakaway roping, saddle bronc, team roping, junior steer riding, junior barrel racing, open barrel racing and the excitement of bull riding!

With Ray Champ announcing and heart-thumping music throughout the arena the rodeo got off to a fast and furious pace with outstanding bucking stock provided by Whitford Rodeo.

Highlights of the evening were Gerald Eash of Fortine, Montana turning in a 77 point ride in Saddle Bronc. Along with Jordan Hutchison of Baynes Lake, British Columbia placing first in Bareback with a ride of 75 points. Ladies Barrel Racing was won by Ali Ray of East Glacier, Montana with a first place time of 15.36 seconds. Placing first in the Junior Barrel Racing, with a time of 15.49 seconds was Natasha Hutchinson of Baynes Lake, BC. In Bull Riding, Gerald Eash and Everette Hutchinson of Olds, Alberta, had the crowds on their feet and cheering with rides of 77 and 75 points; respectively.

In the roping events, the highlight of the evening was Team Roping with Daniel Bird (header) and John Hall (healer) from Browning, Montana winning 1st place with a "blazing" run of 5.17 seconds.

From the looks on the faces in the crowd everyone had a great time at the rodeo and the third season of the Lake Koochanusa Arena Winter Series is off to a great start.

Mark your calendars now as the rodeo action will continue during the winter all the way through Rendezvous weekend in April. The next rodeo will be at 7:00 p.m. on November 17 with food and drinks being available from 5 p.m

2007/2008 Lake Koocanusa Arena Winter Series

Rodeo #1 – November 3, 2007, 7 p.m.

Final Results

Bareback

1st — Jordan Hutchinson, Baynes Lake, BC, 75 points; 2nd (tie) — AJ St. Goddard, Browning, Montana, 73 points; 2nd (tie) Ben Richmond, Columbia Falls, Montana, 73 points; 3rd — John Salois, Browning, Montana, 72 points

Tie Down Roping

1st — Harry Youren, Utah, 12.34 seconds; 2nd — Ty St. Goddard, Browning, Montana, 16.09 seconds; 3rd — Daniel Bird, Browning, Montana, 16.39 seconds; 4th — John Ray, East Glacier, Montana, 30.42 seconds

Breakaway Roping – no qualified rides

Saddle Bronc

1st — Gerald Eash, Fortine, Montana, 77 points; 2nd Guy Simonton, Havre, Montana, 74 points; 3rd — Doug Fitzgerald, 68 points; only 3 qualified rides.

Team Roping

1st — Daniel Bird (header), John Hall (heeler) from Browning, Montana, 5.17 seconds; 2nd — John Ray (header), Ali Ray (heeler) from East Glacier, Montana, 6.89 seconds; 3rd — Gene Matt (header), Casey Racine (heeler) from Browning, Montana 7.10 seconds; 4th — Murray Yellowstone (header), Jay Wolfe (heeler), Brocket, Alberta, 7.42 seconds

Jr. Steer Riding

1st — Preston Louis, Browning, Montana, 70 points; 2nd — Wyatt Gleeson, Cranbrook, BC, 67 points; 3rd — Kiin Salois, Browning, Montana, 62 points; only 3 qualified rides

Jr. Barrels

1st — Natasha Hutchinson, Baynes Lake, BC, 15.49 seconds; 2nd — Josie Louis, Browning, Montana, 17.23 seconds; 3rd — Casey Wyatt, Kalispell, Montana, 18.05 seconds; 4th — Hannah McIntyre, Elko, BC, 19.45 seconds

Open Barrels

1st — Ali Ray, East Glacier, Montana, 15.36 seconds; 2nd — Jimi Lunak, Browning, Montana, 15.51 seconds; 3rd — Taryn Brown, Cranbrook, BC, 15.78 seconds; 4th — Shaleen Eash, Fortine, Montana, 16.08 seconds

Steer Wrestling

1st — Greg Louis, Browning, Montana, 18.88 seconds; only 1 qualified time

Bull Riding

1st — Gerald Eash, Fortine, Montana, 77 points; 2nd — Everett Hutchinson, Olds Alberta, 75 points; 3rd (tie) — Robby Tienhaara, Kalispell, Montana, 73 points; 3rd (tie) — Matt Tripplett, Kalispell, Montana, 73 points; 3rd (tie) — Jared Kiser, Kalispell, Montana, 73 points