



Photos by Jimmi Harris

Brahma bull riders need skill to stay on the wildly bucking animals that can twist and turn in mid-air, throwing the rodeo cowboy off-balance and onto the arena floor, scrambling away from the sharp hooves on the bulls feet. Bull riding, the most

dangerous rodeo event, was won by the bulls at the Emerald Empire Roundup last weekend as the bulls threw the cowboys onto the arena floor — bulls-7, cowboys-0.

Animals score victory at weekend roundup

By TAMARA SWENSON
Of the Emerald

"She's in love with a rodeo man," blared over the speakers. Horses milled about in the arena. Vendors shouted the

benefits of "ice-cold Pepsi" and the "all-American hotdog."

And cowboy hats indicated the "real cowboys" in the crowd; not the clean, new hats with feathers, but the dusty — slightly soiled — hat of a working

cowboy.

A voice crackled over the song.

"I'd like to welcome y'all to the Emerald Empire Roundup. We've got a great rodeo ahead of us, but first let me know how

you're feeling." The packed crowd shouted feebly.

"You alive out there?" called Bob Tallman, rodeo announcer from Winnemucca, Nevada. "Cause if ya ain't I don't want cha. Now let me hear ya this

time."

The crowd cooperated, knowing the show wouldn't start till they did. "Come on then, it's rodeo time in Oregon."

A kid in a vinyl vest with a painted Indian on the back and a toy six-shooter strapped to his hip shouted with the crowd. The chute opened; Henry Barnwell came riding out on Rye Grass.

The horse threw him. Given a "no score" for not staying on for eight seconds, his fall indicated what was to come. It was horses-5, cowboys-0 before anyone rode his mount in bareback riding.

It was animal night at the rodeo. The calves led the cowboys 3-0 before Tim Jeffries tied one in 12.3 seconds.

Things went better for the cowboys in the team roping — the first steer out was roped — and most of the cowboys seemed glued to the saddle in the saddle bronc riding. But the animals were out to win.

"I'll guarantee that the next cowboy will stick to that bull," Tallman told the crowd. "Now don't you dare make a liar out of me," he said to the nervous cowboy in the KEED Country Radio chute.

The cowboy riding High and Wild didn't listen and raised the score to bulls-4, cowboys-0. Before the crowd filed out of the grandstands and over to the tavern the bulls had 7 to the cowboys' 0. "Sorry about that, folks. I guess none of these cowboys want to collect any money.

"Come back tomorrow and you should see some real rodeo action. I'll have a talk with these cowpokes tonight. They won't dare jump off before eight seconds are up."

Before the end of the three-day Roundup, Butch Knowles of Heppner, Oregon was able to ride one of the dangerous Brahma bulls for eight seconds, nearly setting a world record with 90 points.

Tallman was as pleased as the crowd when a cowboy stuck to his bull. "Now that's the kinda riding we want to see. Rodeo riding."

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