

ROUND-UP: Only two bareback riders went over 80 points

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Rodeo's Hot Rod for 84.5 points to jump into the top spot for the long round.

"It felt really good," Frost said of his ride. "To be leading and leaving here knowing I'm going to make the short round and come back and get a chance to ride for some more points is great. It'd mean a lot to win this rodeo, it's one I've always wanted to win."

Frost came to Pendleton from the New Mexico State Fair & Rodeo in Albuquerque where he earned 84 points. He will now drive down to the Dixie Roundup Rodeo in St. George, Utah, on Friday before making it back for Saturday's short round. He last made the short round at the Round-Up in 2013.

"Unless they get extremely carried away tomorrow I'm going to be able to make it back," Frost joked, "and that's exciting."

Behind Frost on Thursday, the bull riders put on a fun show for the crowd. The trio of Ruger Piva (Challis, Idaho), Chase Robbins (Marsing, Idaho) and Riley Blankenship (Kildeer, North Dakota) all scored 82.5 points to go into a tie for third place and Ty Wallace (Collbran, Colorado) scored 81.5 points to jump into the money.

But as good of a day as the bull riders had, the bareback and bronc riders left the fans wanting more. Just one bronc rider scored at least an 80 point ride, and that was Heath DeMoss (Heflin, Louisiana) with 80 points on Sankey's Sacred Mountain. Other than that, 10 riders combined for an average score of 74.25 and there were nine buck-offs.

"There was some bucking ponies, no doubt about it," DeMoss said. "It's all about the match ups and who has what, who's style fits what horse."

DeMoss had one of the good match ups, as Sacred Mountain was a horse he was eyeballing for awhile on the circuit.

"She was pretty quick coming around there," DeMoss said of the ride. "I've been messing with a groin (injury) lately so to keep up was a heck of a feat for me."

He was happy with his ride and also happy that he came out on top of his older brother, Cody, who finished with 77 points, saying "of course, I like (Cody) but I love me."

Bareback riders had nearly as much trouble, with just two riders going over 80 points and the rest of the 12 qualified rides pulling an average score of 74.71. Orin Larsen took the top ride of the day with 82.5 points on Brookman Rodeo's Lunatic Clown, putting him in third place for the long round.

"It's a great privilege to be a part of Pendleton and to hopefully make it back to the short round is a dream come true," Larsen said. "I hope I can capitalize on Saturday."

In the timed events, it was another frustrating day for the cowboys as the stock did not cooperate enough to allow many qualified runs on Thursday.

Just 3 of 11 bulldoggers, 3 of 10 calf ropers, 3 of 10 steer ropers and 7 of 11 team ropers turned in times, instead watching the stock make hard turns and other unusual actions once they hit the grass infield running — or in bulldogger Coltin Hill's case — miss the steer and then have the animal run over you. Pendleton's own Tom



Staff photo by E.J. Harris
Orin Larsen OF Inglis, Manitoba, Canada, rides Lunatic Clown for 82.5 points on Thursday in bareback riding at the Pendleton Round-Up.



Staff photo by E.J. Harris
Brad Goodrich of Hermiston ropes his calf on 10.7 seconds on Thursday in tie-down roping.



Staff photo by E.J. Harris
Chase Robbins of Marsing, Idaho, rides Corona Time for 82.5 points in bull riding Thursday.

Sorey was one of the steer ropers that had fits on Thursday. He was one of the few that actually got the rope around his steers' horns but after getting yanked to the ground Sorey's trip rope didn't stay down and his steer got up.

"I drew what I thought was a pretty good steer," Sorey said. "He came off to the left pretty hard, had him roped real good — he just kind of darted away from me just as

everything come tight."

Two of the three steer ropers that did qualify were Heppner's Jason Stewart and Quay Howard (Canyon, Texas) who both put up 13.1 seconds on back-to-back turns. Their times jumped them both into a tie for second place in the second round.

In calf roping, Hermiston's Brad Goodrich was the 10th-and-final roper to go and turned in the fastest time of 10.7 seconds to move into



Staff photo by Kathy Aney
Steer roper Jason Stewart, of Heppner, puts in a 13.1-second run Thursday at the Pendleton Round-Up for the fastest run of the day along with Quay Howard.



Staff photo by Kathy Aney
Saddle bronc rider Joe Frost, of Randlett, Utah, rides Fire Dog to an 89.5-point ride Thursday at the Pendleton Round-Up for high score of the day.



Staff photo by E.J. Harris
Ross Mosher of Augusta, Montana, pulls down a 7.5-second run Thursday in bulldogging

sixth place in the second round. Jared Parke (Gooding, Idaho), a former Blue Mountain Community College rodeo team member, had the second-fastest time of the day at 12.6 seconds.

Team roping saw two fast times Thursday with Blake Teixeira (Tres Pinos, California) and Monty Joe Petska (Turlock, California) roping in 5.5 seconds and Jake Stanley (Hermiston) and Brent Falon (Yakima, Washington) roping in 5.8 seconds. The times put the teams into second and sixth place for the second round respectively, while Stanley and Falon moved into first place in the average with 13.7 seconds on two head.

Miles Switzer nearly

turned in the second-fastest time of the week in steer wrestling as he jumped off his horse and flipped the steer in 5.1 seconds. But the time was short-lived as Switzer broke the barrier and was handed a 10 second penalty. Ross Mosher (Augusta, Montana) ended up with the fastest time of the three on Thursday with 7.5 seconds.

The final day of the long round picks up Friday at 1:15 p.m.

Pendleton Round-Up

Standings through Thursday
Bareback riding
First round leaders: 1. Jake Vold, 85 points on Wayne Vold Rodeo's Dancing Queen; 2. Shane O'Connell, 83; 3. Orin Larsen, 82.5; 4. Tim O'Connell, 80.5; 5. (tie) Justin Miller and Caleb Bennett, 80 each.
Steer wrestling
First round: 1. Cody Cabral, 5.3 seconds, \$3,849; 2. (tie) Kody Dollery and Nick Guy, 5.7,

\$3,096 each; 4. John Green, 6.5, \$2,343; 5. (tie) Cameron Morman and Josh Peek, 6.5, \$1,550 each; 7. Colin Wolfe, 6.8, \$837; 8. Dirk Tavener, 7.1, \$335. Second round leaders: 1. Tom Lewis, 5.0 seconds; 2. Timmy Sparing, 5.4; 3. Cody Kroul, 5.5; 4. Clayton Hass, 5.7; 5. Cody Cabral, 6.2; 6. (tie) Travis Taruscio and Blaine Jones, 6.4 each. Average leaders: 1. Cody Cabral, 11.5 seconds on two head; 2. Tom Lewis, 12.5; 3. Clayton Hass, 13.8; 4. Blaine Jones, 14.3; 5. Nick Guy, 14.5; 6. J.D. Struxness, 14.9.

Team roping
First round: 1. Clayton Hass/John Robertson, 5.6 seconds, \$4,294 each; 2. Tyler Milligan/Shank Edwards, 5.7, \$3,734; 3. Riley Minor/Brady Minor, 6.1, \$3,174; 4. Austin Stafford/Dayton Stafford, 6.2, \$2,613; 5. Jesse Northrop/Kurtis Barry, 6.3, \$2,053; 6. David Temple/Lee Jay Brown, 6.4, \$1,493; 7. Justin Farber/Garrett Busby, 6.7, \$933; 8. (tie) Rhett Anderson/Brady Ramone, Bryce Palmer/Bo Patzke and Logan Olson/Kyle Lockett, 6.8, \$124 each. Second round leaders: 1. Jason Stewart/Bucky Campbell, 5.4 seconds; 2. Blake Teixeira/Monty Joe Petska, 5.5; 3. Erich Rogers/Cory Petska, 5.6; 4. (tie) Brandon Beers/Cesar de la Cruz and Chad Masters/Travis Graves, 5.7 each; 6. Jake Stanley/Brent Falon, 5.8. Average leaders: 1. Jake Stanley/Brent Falon, 13.7 seconds on two head; 2. Riley Minor/Brady Minor, 13.8; 3. Chad Masters/Travis Graves, 14.2; 4. Richard Eiguren/Chase Hansen, 14.4; 5. McKennan Buckner/Bill Justus, 14.7; 6. Brett Sheehan/Jared Parke, 15.2.

Saddle bronc riding
First round leaders: 1. Hardy Braden, 85 points on Sankey Pro Rodeo & Robinson Bulls' Sheridan Wyo's Tango; 2. Brody Cress, 83; 3. Sterling Crawley, 82.5; 4. Isaac Diaz, 82; 5. Clay Elliott, 81.5; 6. Cort Scherer, 81.

Tie-down roping
First round: 1. J.C. Malone, 8.5 seconds, \$3,597; 2. Tuf Cooper, 8.7, \$3,128; 3. Hunter Herrin, 9.6, \$2,659; 4. Shane Hanchev, 9.9, \$2,190; 5. (tie) Jake Pratt and Chad Finley, 10.3; \$1,488 each; 7. Justin Smith, 10.6, \$782; 8. Jordan Katsch, 10.7, \$313. Second round leaders: 1. Alvin Bouchard, 9.3 seconds; 2. Shane Hanchev, 9.5; 3. Trevor Brazile, 9.7; 4. Matt Shiozawa, 10.0; 5. Jason Schaffer, 10.4; 6. Brad Goodrich, 10.7. Average leaders: 1. Shane Hanchev, 19.4 seconds on two head; 2. Hunter Herrin, 20.8; 3. Ace Slone, 22.8; 4. Matt Shiozawa, 22.9; 5. Brad Goodrich, 23.0; 6. Jake Pratt, 23.1.

Barrel racing
First round leaders: 1. Kimmie Wall, 28.54 seconds; 2. Sydney Blanchard, 28.81; 3. Jackie Garter, 28.91; 4. Ericka Nelson, 28.95; 5. Courtney Frazier, 28.96; 6. Jody Tucker, 28.97.

Steer roping
First round: 1. Tuf Cooper, 13.1 seconds, \$3,769; 2. Shay Good, 13.8, \$3,277; 3. Trevor Brazile, 14.0, \$2,786; 4. Will Gasperon, 14.8, \$2,294; 5. Tim Tillard, 15.4, \$1,802; 6. Dave Sedar, 15.6, \$1,311; 7. Roger Branch, 15.8, \$819; 8. Shorty Garten, 15.9, \$328. Second round leaders: 1. Trevor Brazile, 12.7 seconds; 2. (tie) Quay Howard and Jason Stewart, 13.1 each; 4. Shay Good, 13.3; 5. Cody Lee, 13.5; 6. Bill Benson, 14.5. Average leaders: 1. Trevor Brazile, 26.7 seconds on two head; 2. Shay Good, 27.1; 3. Will Gasperon, 33.2; 4. Todd Dickson, 36.7; 5. Gabe Richardson, 38.5; 6. Scott Stickle, 39.4.

Bull riding
First round leaders: 1. Joe Frost, 84.5 points on Korkow Rodeo's Fire Dog, 2. Steve Woolsey, 84; 3. (tie) Ruger Piva, Elliot Jacoby, Riley Blankenship and Chase Robbins, 82.5 each.

BARREL RACING: Round-Up rookie Jessi Cronquist had third fastest time of the day



Staff photo by Kathy Aney
Jami Erwert, of Stanfield, competes in barrel racing Thursday at the Pendleton Round-Up.

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spots up for grabs in the championships the margin for error is nonexistent. So riders have to be confident in their preparation, which is something Hays questioned near the end of her ride.

"I thought it was going to be faster but I think he just ran out of air on the way home," she said.

Despite this Hays felt good about her ride. It's only her second year at the Round-Up, but with the stadium being a short drive away she's familiar with the one-of-a-kind set up and knows what it takes to be successful in this arena. "It's a lot of long trotting,

exercising," Hays described as her preparation for the rodeo. "I go out in this flat area and sprint him — just try to get him in the best shape. I guess he could have been in a little better shape."

Preparing for the track here is challenging. If a cowgirl that is just 30 miles away has a tough time getting her horse in shape, Round-Up rookies have another thing coming.

Jessi Cronquist was one of those rookies. The Plain City, Utah, native made her first trip to Pendleton in style, as she recorded the third fastest time of the day: 29.5 seconds. It was the shortest and longest 29.5 seconds of her life.

"That was awesome," where some of the first words out of Cronquist's mouth following her ride.

"That was an adrenaline rush times 10," she added. "It just kept going and going."

Cronquist ride was as picturesque as it could be. Her young horse stretched out across the grass going from barrel to barrel with strides that put the six-year-old up there with the veterans. If you ask Cronquist, though, it was really just a shot in the dark.

"You don't know what to expect," she said. "You don't know what to do, you don't know how to train for it. You just go out there and give it hell."

To prepare for Pendleton, Cronquist had the same challenges as Hays: she had to get her horse into Round-Up riding shape.

"I set barrels up in random fields," Cronquist said. "I set one up in an arena, one out in a field, one up in the middle of a trailer, and just made horse start hunting barrels."

Both Hays and Cronquist will have to sweat out the final day of the long go to see if their performances were good enough to return once again to the most extraordinary barrel racing track in rodeo.

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