

Round-up:

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BAREBACK RIDING

R.C. Landingham has had three surgeries on his left shoulder (free arm) and he missed the 2020 season altogether.

Sept. 18, the former Pendleton man got on the back of Choke Cherry and posted a ride of 89.5 points to win the final round and the title with a combined score of 177 on two rides. Both point totals are arena records.

"It was pretty awesome," he said. "That helps me jump up and seal a spot in the NFR."

It's the third trip to the NFR for the former Blue Mountain Community College cowboy, who now calls California home. Despite the change in address, Landingham had plenty of fans in the stands for the finals.

"It was pretty neat to see how many people supported me," he said. "I hadn't been back to Pendleton in quite awhile. It's nice to see how many still follow me."

Landingham got off to a slow start to the season, but things started to pick up in the summer.

"It started to pick up around the Fourth of July," Landingham said. "At a regular-season rodeo, this is the biggest payday (\$13,249) I have had."

To make sure his NFR trip is secure, Landingham, who is sitting 13th in the standings, will compete in rodeos in Texas, Nebraska, Utah and California from now until the end of the month.

TIE-DOWN ROPING

Shane Hanchey is getting a little greedy when it comes to winning money in Pendleton.

Hanchey, from Sulphur, Louisiana, picked up his second title Sept. 18 with a time of 28.9 on three runs. He roped his calf in 9 seconds in the short go, and earned

"I've been coming since my rookie year in 2009," Hanchey said. "I love it,



Kathy Aney/East Oregonian

Former Blue Mountain Community College rodeo star R.C. Landingham, of Hat Creek, California, rides Choke Cherry to a bareback championship Saturday, Sept. 18, 2021, at the Pendleton Round-Up.

and it's a place I've always had good luck at. I love the grass. I've always watched that rodeo and wanted to be there. My horse Si makes it so easy for me. I've always been attracted to it. If I had never won anything, I probably wouldn't like coming."

Hanchey won his first title in 2017 and was second in 2011 and 2018.

Unlike some rodeos, the cowboys here have a blind draw when it comes to calves. They get whichever one comes down the runway.

"We don't know what we have until they come down the hill," he said. "It adds to the already unique conditions and format."

Hanchey is leading the world standings with nearly \$44,000 more than the next man. He is headed to his 12th NFR.

STEER WRESTLING

Tristan Martin entered Pendleton with a heavy heart. His grandma, Betty Martin, passed away two weeks ago and he wasn't able to make her service because he was on the road working toward the goal his grandma had for him — a trip to the NFR.

The Louisiana man took down his steer in 4.4 seconds

in the final round for a time of 15.7 on three runs to win his first Pendleton title.

"She was the ringleader of the family," he said. "She pushed you to capture your goals."

With the \$11,457 check he picked up for the win, he moved up to 11th in the world standings, and his first NFR is on the horizon.

Martin entered Pendleton 15th in the world standings but had less than a \$200 lead over the 16th-place man.

Martin's uncle, Casey Martin, has won Pendleton three times (2014, 2010 and 2008), so bragging rights aren't exactly his, yet.

"It's a family tradition," Martin said. "My uncle said I had to win it a couple more times before I mess with him."

BARREL RACING

Less than one second separated the top 12 contestants heading into the finals Sept. 18, but once the action started, Leia Pluemer and her horse Sister rose to the top.

The New Mexico cowgirl turned in a time of 28.84 seconds in the finals for a winning time of 57.65 on two runs to win her first Pendleton title and \$11,922.



Kathy Aney/East Oregonian

Steer roper Scott Snedecor, of Fredericksburg, Texas, ropes his way to a championship Saturday, Sept. 18, 2021, at the Pendleton Round-Up with a three-day total of 43.2 seconds.



Kathy Aney/East Oregonian

Steer wrestler Tristan Martin, of Sulphur, Louisiana, makes a 4.4-second run to seal his championship Saturday, Sept. 18, 2021, at the Pendleton Round-Up.

"Sister is a horse who loves to run," Pluemer said. "She is like the little Energizer Bunny, she just goes and goes and goes."

Pluemer placed fifth in the event in 2019, and there was no question she was coming back.

"This was the only rodeo I wanted to go to in the Northwest," she said.

"To run in Pendleton, you have to trust your horse and let them do their job. I knew Sis would do her job. I just sat up in the middle of her and let her do her job."

STEER ROPING

Scott Snedecor was the last man out during the steer roping finals. He needed an 18.4-second run to win his third Pendleton title — he got

the job done in 15.4. His time on three runs was 43.2.

"The pucker factor is high here," the Texas cowboy said. "You have to take advantage of everything you draw. I knew that steer was going to run hard, I just needed to get a clean shot on the head."

Snedecor also won the event in 2008 and 2013.

"Pendleton is outstanding," he said. "It's fun and you have to have a little cowboy in you. The fans are awesome."

Landon McClougherty had the fastest run in the finals at 13.4, followed by Chet Herren (15.1) and Snedecor, who pocketed \$8,811 for his efforts.

TEAM ROPING

There was one team

remaining, and all it needed was a run of 9.8 seconds or less to win the title. They missed on the head side, giving way for Rhen Richard and Jeremy Buhler to win the title with a time of 17.1 seconds on three runs.

"You hope to draw something that gives you a chance," Richard said. "The whole thing is awesome. Everyone wants to win Pendleton."

Richard and Buhler each earned \$13,176, which will go a long way in their quest for the NFR. Richard moved up to 11th in the world standings (headers), while Buhler moved to 11th in the heeler standings, but the standings are tight.

The regular season ends Sept. 30.

BREAKAWAY ROPING

It's not the first time Pendleton has had breakaway ropers, but it is the first time they were included in the money.

Sawyer Gilbert won the inaugural Pendleton title, clocking a 2.6-second run in the finals to take home the average win with 5.0 seconds on two head. The win earned her \$9,775.

"It's really good they added equal money," Gilbert said. "It's been a pretty amazing year. I'm pretty fortunate to have that horse and that my brother let's me ride it. We were sharp at the barrier and got it roped."

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