

Kolbaba defends crown

Walla Walla native feeds off crowd for PBR Classic win

By Eric Singer
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — When Derek Kolbaba plans out his travel schedule during the rodeo season, there is one city that is always priority No. 1 — Pendleton.

The 20-year-old cowboy from Walla Walla, Washington frequented the town for the Pendleton PBR Classic and the Round-Up every year when he was growing up, which is why those two events are always staples for him.

On Tuesday night, Kolbaba took center stage in front of his (pretty much) hometown crowd looking to defend his PBR Classic title from 2015. And after two rock solid rides with those fans behind him, Kolbaba was successful in his efforts as he scored a 175.5 on two to capture the 2016 Banner Bank Pendleton PBR Classic crown.

"It's all just unbelievable," he said. "When I say it's one of my favorite events, I'm not lying. The atmosphere is great, the crowd is right there on top of you and I have all my family and friends here which makes it that much sweeter."

The crowd support for the Washington cowboy was evident from the introductions when the packed house at Happy Canyon arena boomed when Kolbaba's name was announced. It continued during his first ride, just four riders into the event, with booming cheers and high-pitched screams belting for the eight-second ride before erupting into borderline pandemonium after Kolbaba dismounted and was awarded an 88.5 point ride — the top



Derek Kolbaba of Walla Walla rides No Dice during the Pendleton PBR Classic on Tuesday in the Happy Canyon Arena in Pendleton.

score of the event.

"It makes you feel just awesome to have that support behind you like I do here in Pendleton," Kolbaba said with a big smile. "The fans are truly unbelievable and you don't get it anywhere else, that's for sure."

Kolbaba's ride boosted him easily into the Top 10 for the Tuesday night finals, penciling his name into the last spot in order. As the nine other riders took their turns, none of them cleared the 173.5 threshold set by Key-

shawn Whitehorse on Monday night. With an 88.5 point score already in his pocket, Kolbaba got set on his bull — Light um Up from Jeff Robinson's Bulls — needing at least an 85 to secure the title.

And he was pretty confident he could get that.

"I didn't really know what I had to beat, to be honest," Kolbaba said of his preparation. "I knew I had a great bull underneath me and was lucky enough to put a good score on the board earlier so I knew if I just kept my hand shut, kept working (the bull) and stayed in there I knew it would go in my favor."

Once he was ready and the chute gate swung open, Kolbaba stayed steady as could be on his bull, which spun him around in tight circles,

"The fans are truly unbelievable and you don't get it anywhere else, that's for sure."

Derek Kolbaba

hugging the far fence row as it did everything to try and send Kolbaba flying off. But it was to no avail.

When the eight-second horn sounded for the successful ride, Kolbaba jumped off the bull to a standing ovation, tossed his helmet while letting out a big "Woo," climbed the fence and fist-pumped a few times to the crowd in celebration.

"I didn't really know if it was good enough but I was just pumped," Kolbaba said of his celebration. "The crowd went crazy and it was just an overwhelming feeling."

But when the score was revealed on the scoreboard — an 87-point ride — a huge smile broke out on Kolbaba's face. Another win, another championship belt buckle to take home with him.

"It'll look great next to the first one," he said. "This one means just as much if not more than that one, and I'm just really lucky to take it home two years in a row."

Another local makes it through

Hermiston native and Stanfield resident Cody Ford had a tough start to his 2016 PBR Classic, as he turned in no scores on Monday and his first ride on Tuesday.

But Ford made it through to the Top 10 finals on Tuesday night after not enough riders qualified. And he did not disappoint, either. Going first in the finals, Ford got a good grip and a good position and stayed solid atop his bull — Big Red from Jeff Robinson's — for the necessary eight seconds which turned into an 85-point ride.

With those early no-scores, it wasn't enough to compete for a title, but it was enough to make Ford feel good in front of the hometown fans, as he thumped his chest a few times and celebrated with the crowd after the ride.

Allard takes bullfighting crown

In the inaugural Bullfighters Only competition at the PBR Classic, Vinita, Oklahoma bullfighter Evan Allard took home the championship after an 86-point performance on Tuesday — edging out Meeteetse, Wyoming's Dusty Tuckness (85.5). Allard competed and won with a pair of broken ribs sustained a few days prior and was in obvious pain before and after his 60-second bullfight.

"It feels good to have a (Bullfighters Only) win under my belt and to do it at such a prestigious place (like Pendleton) makes it better," Allard told the crowd during the awards presentation.



Staff photo by Kathy Aney
Shane Erickson does a happy dash around the Pendleton Round-Up track Saturday after winning All-Around Cowboy.

Shane Erickson best all around

Oregon cowboy wins 106th Pendleton Round-Up

By Eric Singer
East Oregonian

Before he was a professional cowboy, Shane Erickson knew the prestige of the Pendleton Round-Up.

The Terrebonne resident and Washington native attended Blue Mountain Community College for one year in 1999, and after experiencing the Round-Up that year he started to dream about someday winning the rodeo.

Fifteen years after earning his pro card, Erickson's dream became a reality by winning the all-around title at the 106th Pendleton Round-Up on Saturday afternoon.

"I've been wanting one of these buckles for a long time," Erickson said with a big smile. "It's one of the rodeos you always want to win, and it's so tough here because of all the elements."

"I will be proud wearing the buckle, I know that."

It's also the first time in four years that someone other than Trevor Brazile won the East Oregonian Let'er Buck Trophy, as the legendary Texas cowboy departed the PRCA after the 2015 season to help start Elite Rodeo Athletes. Erickson said while it would have been sweeter to beat out the best, Brazile's absence doesn't lessen his victory.

"You just have to place in more than one event, which isn't easy," Erickson said.

Erickson clinched the all-around title on Saturday by placing in both team roping and calf roping throughout the week, winning a grand total of \$3,496 in both events.

In team roping, Erickson and heading partner Andy Carlson finished tied for eighth in the first round with a time of 6.5 seconds and qualified for the short round. Erickson saw better success in calf roping, where he finished fifth in the second round (10.0 seconds) and then seventh in the aver-

age (31.5 seconds on three).

"It finally hit me after hitting the (victory) lap," Erickson said. "I've seen so many people make it and it feels good that everybody cheers for you — they're all standing up. You just can't describe the feeling ... it's awesome."

The Round-Up has long been at the top of his list of favorite rodeos, and he said it takes a different kind of mentality to find success in Pendleton.

"It's a rodeo that you have to have no fear, you can't rope with fear of the grass field," Erickson said. "I've never had fear for the grass, I pasture rope at home so that doesn't bother me; my horses know the grass, they live on it."

The 37-year-old doesn't compete nation-wide in rodeos anymore, choosing to stay close to home in the Pacific Northwest and competing in the Columbia River Circuit to stay close to his family. He also operates his own small business, a trucking company based out of Terrebonne. Before the Round-Up Erickson was fourth in the circuit all-around standings with more than \$8,700 in earnings — trailing fellow Terrebonne resident Russell Cardoza in first with \$13,783.

Aside from the trophy, Erickson took home a trophy saddle, a Weatherby/Leupold .257 trophy rifle, trophy buckle, hand-crafted Justin boots, embroidered leather jacket, Pendleton Woolen Mills blanket, Leupold McKenzie binoculars, American Hat Co. felt cowboy hat, engraved silver pocket watch, custom-made spurs, custom YETI cooler, 14-karat bucking horse charm, bottle of Pendleton Whisky, bottle of Let'er Buck cologne, and a Bucks Bag gear bag.

"They give so much stuff ... it's probably truly one of the best rodeos you can win because of all the stuff they give," Erickson said. "They appreciate you coming and they do a great job here."

"And hopefully maybe I can do it again before my career is over."

GET SERIOUS ABOUT SCRIPTURE.



- ⇒ In-depth Biblical studies that honor Yeshua and uphold His Torah
- ⇒ Hebrew and Greek instruction on a schedule that fits you
- ⇒ Free articles
- ⇒ Internet Radio 24/7

Torahresource.com

888-547-8889

Alpine Meadows Enterprise, Oregon

Annual Crab Feed Tournament

SEPTEMBER 24TH
SHOTGUN START 10AM

\$70/PERSON - GOLF & DINNER
\$30/PERSON - DINNER ONLY

- 4-Person Teams (Scramble Format)
- Putting Contest
- Cocktail Hour and Dinner (Dinner includes fresh Dungeness crab, baby back ribs, chicken caesar salad)

Cash Payout & Prizes

REGISTRATION AND DINNER RESERVATIONS:
541-426-3246
RSVP BY SEPTEMBER 23RD

New fall arrivals!

Sweaters, leggings, jackets & boots!!!

New Summer Clearance added daily

Stop by today!

Open Daily
10 am - 5 pm



Uptown Clothing & Accessories
in Downtown Joseph
12 S. Main St. • 541-432-9653

True Value. BARGAINS of the MONTH

While supplies last.

CAMCO
2/\$7

Gal. -50°
RV Antifreeze
H 237 336 F6



2/\$5

Gal. -50°
Ethanol-Blend
RV Antifreeze
H 850 543 F6



BEHIND EVERY PROJECT IS A
True Value.

Sale ends 9/30/2016

©2016 True Value® Company. All rights reserved.

M-F 8AM-6PM • SAT 8AM-5PM • SUN 9AM-3PM

Hurricane Creek Road
Enterprise, Oregon
541-426-3116

WALLOWA COUNTY
GRAIN
GROWERS

OPEN 7 DAYS
A WEEK

Wallowa County HEALTH LINE

Wallowa Valley
Eye Care

519 W. North Street, Enterprise
541.426.3413
Mon-Thurs 9 to Noon/1-5pm; Fri. 9-1

MOTIVATIONS
Fitness Center LLC

Keycode Entry
Weight Room • Cardio
Women's Circuit • Tanning
202 W. Main, Enterprise
541-426-0313



Marcys
SKIN CARE

Specializing in Anti-Aging Skin Therapy
Customized Facials
Waxing Services, Brow Sculpting
Body Polish-Back Facials
High-Performance Products

541-398-0759 | Located @ beecrowbee 01 Main Joseph

Wallowa County
Health Department

758 NW 1st Street, Enterprise, OR
(541) 426-4848

We offer services to all ages and income levels including: WIC, family planning, immunizations, flu shots, restaurant and hotel licensing, community tobacco prevention and education, chronic disease prevention. We provide equal opportunity programs.