

SOME RODEO STARS LEAVE PRCA

Defending PRCA all-around champion will not defend title in PRCA events

Hermiston Herald

Some of rodeo's biggest names have left the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association for the newly formed Elite Rodeo Association that kicked off its inaugural season in March, which means fans won't be seeing them compete locally in PRCA events like the Farm-City Pro Rodeo and Pendleton Round-Up this year.

Among the defectors are 23-time world champion and 13-time PRCA All-Around Cowboy and reigning cham-

pion, Trevor Brazile. Brazile is also a two-time Farm-City All-Around champion and five-time All-Around champion of the Pendleton Round-Up.

The departure of competitors like Brazile and 2015 Farm-City Pro Rodeo Bareback champion Bobby Mote for the Elite Rodeo Association will mean they won't be competing in PRCA events this year.

Some of the cowboys that made the switch grew tired of the long season and constant travel of the PRCA schedule, which led to the formation of the new association.

There have already been 211 rodeos associated with the PRCA this year, while the ERA tour has only nine events spread out from March

through October before the World Championships, which will take place on Nov. 9-13 at the American Airlines Center in Dallas, Texas.

The PRCA followed up the formation of the new organization by releasing new bylaws aimed at cutting the cord with competitors that have ties to competing associations, denying them memberships, permits, or renewals with the organization.

"When we look at the membership — the rodeo committees, contestants, stock contractors and contract personnel — we decided to put in place a couple of items that will better serve the quality and popularity of our sport," said PRCA Board Chairman Mark Keith in a press release.

"What the board did is look at our history and what has made the PRCA the most successful and popular rodeo-sanctioning body in the world. Accordingly, we have taken steps to ensure the future generations of fans and members will continue to enjoy the highest quality rodeo events for years to come."

In addition to Brazile and Mote, local PRCA rodeo fans will miss out on seeing many other big-name cowboys and cowgirls this year such as bareback riders Richmond Champion and Kaycee Field, saddle bronc riders Spencer Wright and Jesse Wright, steer wrestlers Luke Branquinho and Hunter Cure, tie-down roper Tuf Cooper and barrel racers Fallon Taylor and Lisa Lockhart.

Hermiston falls into consolation bracket

HERMISTON 18, HARNEY COUNTY 8 — At Burns, the Hermiston All-Stars kept its season alive with a 10-run win over Harney County in four innings at the District 3 little league tournament on Monday evening.

It's the second-straight 10-run win for Hermiston, following a 19-0 win over Wallowa Valley on Saturday.

Hermiston continued consolation bracket play Tuesday when they took on the Pendleton All-Stars in Burns, but results were not available at press-time.

Nine and 10 year olds

HERMISTON 23, LA GRANDE 4 — At Burns, the Hermiston All-Stars had no trouble moving past its latest opponent with a blowout win over La Grande at the District 3 tournament on Monday afternoon.

The All-Stars look to continue their dominant run on Wednesday when they play Baker at 1 p.m. in Burns.



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