



Bareback rider **Bobby Mote** turns in a score of 88 to win the event during the 2015 Farm-City Pro Rodeo in Hermiston.

STAFF PHOTO BY KATHY ANEY

MOTE DISAPPOINTED TO MISS FARM-CITY

Bareback world champion won't defend title following move to ERA

By **ERIC SINGER**
Staff Writer

When bareback rider Bobby Mote and several other top rodeo stars set out to form a new rodeo association in 2014 — which would later become the Elite Rodeo Athletes — the group's main focus for doing so was to simply have more and better opportunities for cowboys outside of the long, tough season of the PRCA tour.

The model for the new association was the Professional Bull Riders tour, which gives bullriders specialized competition with bigger payouts over the three separate tours within in the organization. Mote, in

an interview with the *East Oregonian* last month, said that they wanted to start rodeo's version of PBR and wanted to work within the PRCA's reach to form it at first, but soon realized the PRCA was not interested.

"We just wanted to bring things back to the PRCA after places like Houston and Calgary left," Mote said. "But after we had exhausted our efforts of trying to work inside, we started looking at ways to work outside of the PRCA."

The 2015 season was the last for cowboys with ties to the new ERA league, as the PRCA later changed its bylaws in the fall, stating that anyone with financial ties to a competing organization would not

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