

*The Team Roping Journal's*

# EXTRA

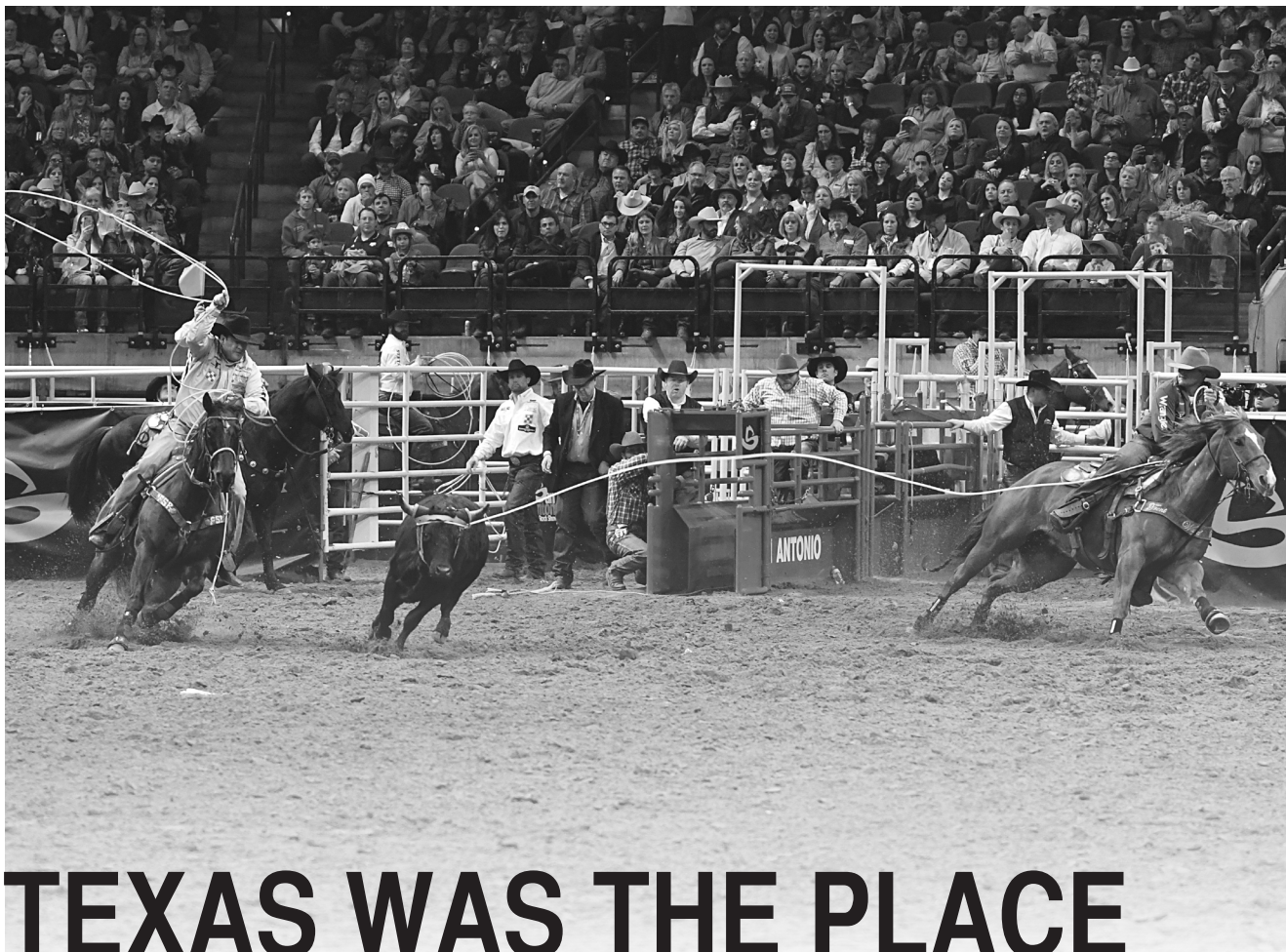
DECEMBER/2020

The 2020  
CIRCUIT  
SEASON  
Wrap-Up



**Fast Back**





ROBBY FREEMAN

# TEXAS WAS THE PLACE TO RODEO IN 2020

*COVID-19 took a serious toll on the rodeo world. Here's how it affected each circuit in the PRCA. —By Chelsea Shaffer*

Even before the NFR move, Texas was the place to rodeo in 2020, paying \$6,900,881 at its 59 circuit rodeos this year—some \$4 million more than any other circuit in the PRCA.

*(Editor's Note: Money does not include barrel racing or breakaway roping payouts.)*

Of course, Texas was still able to host its major winter rodeos pre-COVID-19—including most of RodeoHouston, San Antonio's Stock Show and Rodeo, and Fort Worth's Stock Show and Rodeo. But it also held many of its smaller PRCA rodeos, like Stephenville's Cowboy Capital of the World PRCA Rodeo with its \$83,762 payout, Weatherford's Parker County Sheriff's Posse Rodeo with its \$129,080 payout, and its weekly Mesquite Championship Rodeo with its varied payouts.

## BADLANDS CIRCUIT

Number of Rodeos: ..... 36  
Total PRCA Payoff: ..... \$2,218,904  
Circuit Finals: ..... Oct. 9–11, 2020  
Circuit Finals Payout: ..... \$126,091  
CIRCUIT FINALS CHAMPS:  
*Cooper White & Tucker White*  
TEAM ROPING CIRCUIT CHAMPS:  
*Cooper White, \$12,411.75, & Tucker White, \$9,963.05*

## CALIFORNIA CIRCUIT

Number of Rodeos: ..... 6  
Total PRCA Payoff: ..... \$358,220  
Circuit Finals: ..... Oct. 9–10, 2020  
Circuit Finals Payout: ..... \$92,554  
CIRCUIT FINALS CHAMPS:  
*Ryan Reed & Joseph Shawnego*  
TEAM ROPING CIRCUIT CHAMPS:  
*Pat Boyle, \$6,763.89, & Jared Hixon, \$6,763.89*

## COLUMBIA RIVER CIRCUIT

Number of Rodeos: ..... 4  
Total PRCA Payoff: ..... \$284,110  
Circuit Finals: ..... Oct. 2–3, 2020  
Circuit Finals Payout: ..... \$100,542  
CIRCUIT FINALS CHAMPS:  
*Riley Minor & Brady Minor*  
TEAM ROPING CIRCUIT CHAMPS:  
*Garrett Rogers, \$5,784.51, & Jake Minor, \$5,784.51*

## FIRST FRONTIER CIRCUIT

Number of Rodeos: ..... 18  
Total PRCA Payoff: ..... \$369,540  
Circuit Finals: ..... Oct. 23–24, 2020  
Circuit Finals Payout: ..... \$143,936  
CIRCUIT FINALS CHAMPS:  
*Zane Kilgus & Scot Brown*  
TEAM ROPING CIRCUIT CHAMPS:  
*Chuck Smith, \$8,046.35, & Kevin Brown, \$8,046.35*

## GREAT LAKES CIRCUIT

Number of Rodeos: ..... 19  
Total PRCA Payoff: ..... \$900,890  
Circuit Finals: ..... Oct. 9–10, 2020  
Circuit Finals Payout: ..... \$96,796  
CIRCUIT FINALS CHAMPS:  
*Cody Reed & Jace McDaniel; Cooper Bruce & Reed Boos*  
TEAM ROPING CIRCUIT CHAMPS:  
*Coy Rahlmann, \$3,507.16, & Cody Andrews, \$4,447.14*

## MAPLE LEAF CIRCUIT

Number of Rodeos: ..... 3  
Total PRCA Payoff: ..... \$137,518  
Circuit Finals: ..... TBD  
Circuit Finals Payout: ..... TBD  
Circuit Finals Champs: ..... TBD

## MEXICO CIRCUIT

Number of Rodeos: ..... 3  
Total PRCA Payoff: ..... \$23,949  
Circuit Finals: ..... TBD  
Circuit Finals Payout: ..... TBD  
CIRCUIT FINALS CHAMPS: ..... TBD

## MONTANA CIRCUIT

Number of Rodeos: ..... 22  
Total PRCA Payoff: ..... \$1,131,512  
Circuit Finals: ..... Jan. 15, 2021  
Circuit Finals Payout: ..... TBD  
CIRCUIT FINALS CHAMPS: ..... TBD  
TEAM ROPING CIRCUIT LEADERS:  
*Shawn Besette, \$8,226.82, & Matt Robertson, \$8,154.44*

## MOUNTAIN STATES CIRCUIT

Number of Rodeos: ..... 25  
Total PRCA Payoff: ..... \$1,758,682  
Circuit Finals: ..... Oct. 23–24, 2020  
Circuit Finals Payout: ..... \$123,095  
CIRCUIT FINALS CHAMPS:  
*Jase Staudt & JC Flake*  
TEAM ROPING CIRCUIT CHAMPS: .....  
*Garrett Tonozzi, \$11,254.10, & Cullen Teller, \$9,325.77*

## PRAIRIE CIRCUIT

Number of Rodeos: ..... 32  
Total PRCA Payoff: ..... \$2,076,605  
Circuit Finals: ..... Oct. 16–17, 2020  
Circuit Finals Payout: ..... \$132,529  
CIRCUIT FINALS CHAMPS:  
*Jake Clay & Brye Crites*  
TEAM ROPING CIRCUIT LEADERS:  
*Andrew Ward, \$24,462.98, & Buddy Hawkins II, \$22,465.02*

## SOUTHEASTERN CIRCUIT

Number of Rodeos: ..... 42  
Total PRCA Payoff: ..... \$1,445,475  
Circuit Finals: ..... Jan. 22–Jan. 23, 2021  
Circuit Finals Payout: ..... TBD  
CIRCUIT FINALS CHAMPS: ..... TBD  
TEAM ROPING CIRCUIT LEADERS:  
*Clint Summers, \$11,951.07, & Britt Bockius, \$10,683.19*

## TEXAS CIRCUIT

Number of Rodeos: ..... 59  
Total PRCA Payoff: ..... \$6,900,881  
Circuit Finals: ..... Dec. 31, 2020–Jan. 2, 2021  
Circuit Finals Payout: ..... TBD  
CIRCUIT FINALS CHAMPS: ..... TBD  
TEAM ROPING CIRCUIT LEADERS:  
*Dustin Egusquiza, \$20,739.38, & Junior Nogueira, \$20,930.63*

## TURQUOISE CIRCUIT

Number of Rodeos: ..... 13  
Total PRCA Payoff: ..... \$1,029,913  
Circuit Finals: ..... Cancelled  
Circuit Qualifiers to Kissimmee's RNCFR in 2021:  
NO. 1: *Erich Rogers, \$7,771.82, & Trevor Nowlin, \$7,218.42*  
NO. 2: *Pedro Egurrola, \$7,218.42, & Logan Medlin, \$7,133.89*

## WILDERNESS CIRCUIT

Number of Rodeos: ..... 27  
Total PRCA Payoff: ..... \$2,041,055  
Circuit Finals: ..... Nov. 5–7, 2020  
Circuit Finals Payout: ..... \$110,193  
CIRCUIT FINALS CHAMPS:  
*Quinn Kesler & Colby Siddoway*  
TEAM ROPING CIRCUIT CHAMPS:  
*Quinn Kesler, \$11,134.91, & Colby Siddoway, \$11,134.91*

# GREAT LAKES STANDOUTS RAHLMANN AND VONAHN CROWNED RNCFR TEAM ROPING CHAMPS

*At the rescheduled and relocated Ram National Circuit Finals Rodeo, 2019 circuit champions and circuit average winners went head-to-head over two go-rounds, with the top eight finishers in the average progressing to a Sunday semifinal round, followed by a finals, Sept. 10–13, 2020, in Greeley, Colorado.*



IMPULSE PHOTOGRAPHY

It didn't happen the way they planned, but 2020 Resistol Rookie contender Coy Rahlmann and veteran horseman Ryan VonAhn took home \$7,922 per man and \$20,000 Ram Truck vouchers at the Ram National Circuit Finals Rodeo, held in Greeley, Colorado.

After the first team in the final round took a no-time, Rahlmann and VonAhn took a plus-5 on their short-round steer for 11.1 seconds. Frustrated, they watched as the Mexican Circuit team of Bandis Guterrez and Orlando Jauregui got a barrier and a leg. Then, the California circuit team of Jr. Dees and Nano Garza got a leg, too.

"I didn't know how it would end up," Rahlmann, just 19, said. "But it just kind of fell apart. It was a shocker to everybody and it went our way."

VonAhn, who's 32 and qualified for three previous RNCFRs on the head side, was in disbelief.

"One of the committee men said I'd need to run over and get ready to get in the truck if the final team messed up," VonAhn said. "I said, 'Don't worry, that ain't happening.' But it fell our way, and it was unbelievable."

Rahlmann and VonAhn finished third in the semifinal round, after Rahlmann struggled to get tight.

"My horse has been a little sore the last couple times I got him out," said Rahlmann, who finished the 2020 ProRodeo season with

\$8,981.14 won on the year and finished third in the Resistol Rookie race. "He kind of got hung up and wouldn't face and climbed up the wall the wrong way. I think it cost us from probably winning the round. We still won third and got some money for that."

That's unusual from Charlie, Rahlmann's go-to, 10-year-old mount.

"I went and changed some bits and kind of did some stuff to get to pulling around a little better," Rahlmann said. "Hancock is about the only thing he's got on his papers that I know. He's just a diamond in the rough."

VonAhn was on a 7-year-old gelding named Simple that he bought from his brother—two-time World Champion Kollin VonAhn.

"I just got him over the Fourth of July," VonAhn said. "He'd rode him at some of the bigger ropings and thought that's what I needed."

VonAhn will winter in Arizona getting horses ready for the Hershberger Performance Horse Sale in Queen Creek, while Rahlmann will return to Cisco Junior College in Cisco, Texas, where he's college rodeoing with Kirby Blankenship. He plans to rodeo with BFI Champion Lane Siggins at the winter rodeos.

The win is a big one for Rahlmann, who grew up roping with his dad, Chris, in the USTRC and watching his mom, Susie, running barrels.

"My parents are some of the biggest reasons I do what I do," Rahlmann said. "When I got old enough to be on a bigger scale, they pitched the reins to me and said, 'It's all yours!'"

While Rahlmann has NFR goals, VonAhn is looking to keep on in the Great Lakes Circuit.

"I really like the Great Lakes Circuit," VonAhn laughed. "Thirty rodeos is plenty for me. I love Wisconsin, Minnesota, Missouri, Iowa."

The RNCFR—originally slated for April 2020 in Kissimmee—moved to Greeley's outdoor venue after the COVID-19 shutdown prohibited organizers from holding the event indoors. This year's RNCFR earnings do not count toward any other standings. They will count once more for the 2021 standings. ■

## RAM NATIONAL CIRCUIT FINALS RODEO RESULTS

### FIRST ROUND WINNERS

JACOB DAGENHART & ZACK MABRY

5.1-second run, worth \$3,201 each

### SECOND ROUND WINNERS

ERICH ROGERS & LANE SIGGINS

4.3-second run, worth \$3,201 each

### AVERAGE

- 1) DAWSON GRAHAM & KEELY BONNETT  
11.6 seconds on two head, worth \$3,201 each
- 2/3) QUINN KESLER & COLBY SIDDOWAY  
12.2 seconds on two head, worth \$2,086 each
- 2/3) LUKE BROWN & PAUL EAVES  
12.2 seconds on two head, worth \$2,086 each
- 4) KELLAN JOHNSON & BROCK HANSON  
12.3 seconds on two head, worth \$1,164 each
- 5) JR. DEES & NANO GARZA  
13.3 seconds on two head, worth \$679 each
- 6) COY RAHLMANN & RYAN VONAHN  
13.6 seconds on two head, worth \$485 each

### SEMIFINALS

- 1) JR. DEES & NANO GARZA  
5.0-second run, worth \$3,880 each
- 2) BANDIS GUTERREZ & ORLANDO JAUREGUI  
5.4-second run, worth \$2,910 each
- 3) COY RAHLMANN & RYAN VONAHN  
5.8-second run, worth \$1,940 each
- 4) BRADY TRYAN & JUSTIN VILES  
7.0-second run, worth 970 each

### FINALS

- 1) COY RAHLMANN & RYAN VONAHN  
11.1-second run, worth \$3,880 each
- 2) JR. DEES & NANO GARZA  
12.8-second run, worth \$2,910 each
- 3) BANDIS GUTERREZ & ORLANDO JAUREGUI  
19.5-second run, worth \$1,940 each



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## MINOR BROTHERS CONTINUE COMEBACK WITH COLUMBIA RIVER CIRCUIT FINALS AVERAGE WIN

*Riley and Brady Minor pocketed \$4,034.84 a man that counts toward the 2021 PRCA world standings.*



know what I had to do on the second one. That worked out luckily, and I had to be 6.3 to beat Garrett. He beat us by like \$300 for the three or six rodeos total for the year end."

Brady guesses he and his brother have won their Circuit Finals or year end four or five times, with Brady qualifying every year since 2004 and Riley making it each year since 2007.

"I contemplated unofficial-ing the rodeo because I didn't know if it would pay \$400-\$500," Brady said. "But evidently the PRCA had a fund, and it was only two head so the money wasn't split up as much. There were 12 checks instead of 16. We know what Kissimmee pays, and we haven't won good there yet but I know the possibility of it. It was a real big deal for us to win the average there and get a chance at \$20,000 next April."

Because of the rodeos' significance for the 2021 season—as the money counts for next year's PRCA world standings and the RNCFR pays so well, too—both brothers opted to ride their NFR mounts, RK Tuff Trinket (Bob) for Riley and Leos Highbrow (Sug) for Brady.

"If Bob is there, I'm riding him," Riley said. "Even though it wasn't going to pay good, if we made it to Florida it was worth it, especially on a year when we haven't made much money I'll ride him every time I can. I think I rode him at all of the 40-or-so rodeos we went to."

"Sug's 15 and he acts like he's 8," Brady said. "I don't know if I feed him too good or what, but he acts as fresh today as the day I bought him, which is a good sign."

Brady and his wife Ashley just had their second child—a girl, Mesa Jeanne—August 15, and Riley and wife Jordan are expecting another little girl in November. Both families will plan to winter in Wittman, Arizona, and hit the road together again in 2021. ■

Brothers Riley and Brady Minor bounced back from a regular season mired by bad luck to win the Columbia River Circuit Finals in Hermiston, Oregon, worth \$4,034.84 a man plus a spot at the Kissimmee, Florida Ram National Circuit Finals in April 2021.

The Ellensburg, Washington brothers—who each finished 23rd in the PRCA world standings with \$36,096.58 and missed a National Finals Rodeo qualification for the first time since 2012—are also coming off a win the week prior at the Gold Buckle Beer Tour Finale in Rapid City, South Dakota, worth \$7,779 each.

"We were just glad to have a rodeo," Brady, 36, said. "Nobody knew if they were going to have it or what it was going to pay. In our circuit, we only had three regular rodeos and three co-approved rodeos, and we had to win a check. We got a check at New Plymouth, Idaho, and Redmond, Oregon, and we were just hoping to get a shot at Kissimmee."

The Minors won the first round with a 4.2-second run, worth \$1,241 each, and they won second in the second round with a 4.8-second run worth \$931. Their first-place checks for their aggregate time of 9.0 seconds on two head were for \$1,862 each.

"I was thinking to be aggressive and the fastest time got to go last on the second day," Riley, 32, said. "(Jeff) Flenniken and Garrett Rogers were ahead of me in the circuit, so I wanted to beat them in the first round, and I'd

### COLUMBIA RIVER CIRCUIT STANDINGS

- 1) Garrett Rogers, \$5,784.51, Jake Minor, \$5,784.51
- 2) Riley Minor, \$5,386.79, Brady Minor, \$5,386.79
- 3) Jeff Flenniken, \$3,117.18, Hunter Koch, \$2,964.09
- 4) Kolton Schmidt, \$2,964.09, Jason Minor, \$2,795.31
- 5) Jordan Tye, \$2,795.31, Evan Arnold, \$2,490.15
- 6) Hayes Smith, \$2,490.15, Joey Bergevin, \$1,707.04
- 7) Jack Fischer, \$1,707.04, Calgary Smith, \$789.60
- 8) Trent Sorey, \$789.60, Daniel Holland, \$647.43
- 9) Coy Aldrich, \$647.43, Taylor White, \$465.55
- 10) Tyler Smith, \$465.55, Quade Patzke, \$388.46
- 11) Dillon Holyfield, \$444.15, Trevor McCain, \$310.37
- 12) Tanner Patzke, \$388.46, Blake Craig, \$246.75

### COLUMBIA RIVER CIRCUIT FINALS RODEO FULL RESULTS

#### FIRST ROUND

- 1) RILEY MINOR & BRADY MINOR  
4.2-second run, worth \$1,241 each
- 2) GARRETT ROGERS & JAKE MINOR  
5.2-second run, worth \$931 each
- 3) JACK FISCHER & JOEY BERGEVIN  
6.2-second run, worth \$621 each
- 4) TY STURZA & TREVOR MCCOIN  
6.9-second run, worth \$310 each

#### SECOND ROUND

- 1) JORDAN TYE & JASON MINOR  
4.7-second run, worth \$1,241 each
- 2) RILEY MINOR & BRADY MINOR  
4.8-second run, worth \$931 each
- 3) GARRETT ROGERS & JAKE MINOR  
5.4-second run, worth \$621 each
- 4/5) HAYES SMITH & EVAN ARNOLD  
6.0-second run, worth \$155 each
- 4/5) JACK FISCHER & JOEY BERGEVIN  
6.0-second run, worth \$155 each

#### AVERAGE

- 1) RILEY MINOR & BRADY MINOR  
9.0 seconds on two head, worth \$1,862 each
- 2) GARRETT ROGERS & JAKE MINOR  
10.6 seconds on two head, worth \$1,397 each
- 3) JACK FISCHER & JOEY BERGEVIN  
12.2 seconds on two head, worth \$931 each
- 4) TYLER SMITH & TAYLOR WHITE  
17.8 seconds on two head, worth \$466 each



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RIC ANDERSEN PHOTOS

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# REED AND SHAWNEGO TAKE CALIFORNIA CIRCUIT FINALS

*Ryan Reed and Joseph Shawnego won the 2020 California Circuit Finals Rodeo in Red Bluff, California, Oct. 9–10, 2020.*

COURTESY JOSEPH SHAWNEGO



A couple of cowboy horseshoers from the original Cowboy Capital of the World in Oakdale took the team roping title at the 2020 California Circuit Finals Rodeo, which was held Oct. 9–10, 2020, in Red Bluff. Ryan Reed and Joseph Shawnego were 6.1 and 6.2 to edge reserve average champs and 2020 California Circuit Year-End Team Roping Champions Pat Boyle and Jared Hixon by 0.6 seconds on two steers.

"It was cool to finally win the circuit finals," said Reed, 28, who won California Circuit year-end championships with Shawnego in 2014, and roping with Tanner Luttrell and Dalton Pearce in 2016. "This was my seventh year being there, and I've been high call three times—with Joseph at my very first circuit finals, and with Monty Joe Petska a couple years ago, when we had all day to win it and I missed."

Reed and his fiancée, Kristy Monschein, welcomed a baby boy—Colter Curtis—to their family on Sept. 11. In addition to shoeing horses and riding outside horses and his own—he and Kristy have 19 head—Reed also works part time helping out with the Monschein family business.

It was Shawnego's second California Circuit Finals win, to add to his pair of circuit finals year-end team roping titles first won with Reed in 2014, then heeling for Blake Hirdes in 2015. In 2017, Shawnego won the California Circuit Finals roping with Cody Mora.

"The coolest part of this win, for me, is that I'm a little bit older now, and a lot of the guys I'm competing against are half my age or close to it," said Shawnego, 40. "And given the fact that it's been a trying year, it was just nice to

get to come up here, compete and have some normalcy."

Reed considers his 2016 Pendleton Round-Up win with Pearce his career highlight to date. Shawnego's won rodeos like Redding, California, and Lewiston, Idaho, and rounds at the Reno Rodeo, but it's a day at The Daddy that tops his favorite hits list.

"I think my most memorable was when I roped with Doyle Gellerman my rookie year, in 2001, and we won the second round at Cheyenne that first year they had team roping. If I had to take a trip down memory lane, that's a favorite rodeo day to look back on. I was a 20-something-year-old kid roping with a guy I grew up watching on TV, so that was pretty special."

They won the 2020 California Circuit Finals with horse help from Reed's Burnt Wood and Shawnego's Rosie, and are now 2021 RAM National Circuit Finals Rodeo bound this spring in Kissimmee, Florida.

"I'm a huge Epcot Center fan," said Shawnego, who goes way back with Reed, and even helped him fill his permit. "I know my way around there now, so I get to maximize my experience. It's wonderful, and it'll be fun to get to go back."

Now that he's a family man, Reed's trip to the RNCFR will be from a new point of view.

"I always wanted to be a Top 15 header," he said. "There for a second, I thought I was one. But I made a full transition last winter. I sold a lot of my horses, and bought some property in Arizona. We got engaged, then found out we were going to have Colter. I don't plan on rodeoing hard anymore. It was kind of nice when I won this one to have a family to get home to. My perspective has changed tremendously."

Every contestant there thanked the California Circuit rodeo committees who made this year's finals possible. Big thanks to the Red Bluff Round-Up, Brawley Cattle Call Rodeo, California Rodeo Salinas, Clovis Rodeo, Empire Rodeo, Industry Hills Charity Pro Rodeo, Poway Rodeo, Rancho Mission Viejo Rodeo, San Bernardino Sheriff's Rodeo, San Dimas Charity Pro Rodeo, Santa Barbara Old Spanish Days Rodeo and Santa Maria Elks Rodeo. ■

## CALIFORNIA CIRCUIT STANDINGS

- 1) Pat Boyle, \$9,860.13, Jared Hixon, \$9,860.13
- 2) Ryan Reed, \$7,717.95, Wyatt Hansen, \$8,010.10
- 3) Blake Hirdes, \$7,282.86, Joseph Shawnego, \$7,438.20
- 4) Colton Campbell, \$5,802.96, Dalton Pearce, \$7,397.07
- 5) Cutter Machado, \$4,766.42, Kyle Lockett, \$6,637.17
- 6) Lane Karney, \$4,399.97, Brushton Minton, \$3,574.49
- 7) Lane Lowry, \$4,116.53, Patrick O'Brien, \$2,476.77
- 8) C.J. DeForest Jr., \$2,722.47, Bob Brown, \$2,357.51
- 9) Tanner Kent, \$2,360.10, Brent Lockett, \$2,050.72
- 10) Clay Ruiz, \$2,050.72, Andy Holcomb, \$2,031.57
- 11) D.J. Parker, \$1,779.53, Dylan Dishion, \$1,775.53
- 12) Paul Mullins, \$1,682.14, Rhett Kennedy, \$1,682.14

## CALIFORNIA CIRCUIT FINALS RODEO FULL RESULTS

### FIRST ROUND

- 1) RYAN REED & JOSEPH SHAWNEGO  
6.1-second run, worth \$1,304 each
- 2) CUTTER MACHADO & DALTON PEARCE  
7.0-second run, worth \$978 each
- 3) PAT BOYLE & JARED HIXON  
7.4-second run, worth \$652 each
- 4) BLAKE HIRDES & WYATT HANSEN  
7.7-second run, worth \$326 each

### SECOND ROUND

- 1) BLAKE HIRDES & WYATT HANSEN  
5.3-second run, worth \$1,304 each
- 2) PAT BOYLE & JARED HIXON  
5.5-second run, worth \$978 each
- 3) LANE LOWRY & PATRICK O'BRIEN  
5.6-second run, worth \$652 each
- 4) COLTON CAMPBELL & BRUSHTON MINTON  
6.0-second run, worth \$326

### AVERAGE

- 1) RYAN REED & JOSEPH SHAWNEGO  
12.3 seconds on two head, worth \$1,956 each
- 2) PAT BOYLE & JARED HIXON  
2.9 seconds on two head, worth \$1,467 each
- 3) BLAKE HIRDES & WYATT HANSEN  
13.0 seconds on two head, worth \$978 each
- 4) COLTON CAMPBELL & BRUSHTON MINTON  
14.6 seconds on two head, worth \$489 each



# WHITE BROTHERS ACHIEVE BIG GOAL IN BADLANDS CIRCUIT

*Nebraska brothers Cooper and Tucker White won both the year-end and the average, and Cooper's heading mount took home 2020 Head Horse of the Year in the Badlands Circuit.*



COURTESY TUCKER WHITE

After falling short the last few years, Hershey, Nebraska's Cooper (23) and Tucker (27) White took home the Badlands Circuit year-end titles with a total of \$18,043.91 and \$15,595.21 in season earnings, respectively.

"It's something that we've worked for for a long time together," Cooper said. "We had the year-end won before we ran our last steer, but it was just cool to cap it off, and to do it with your brother is even cooler because you know how much you both rely on each other."

"The performances and everything counting put us in a good spot for the next year and getting into some other rodeos, possibly," Tucker added. "The performances at Kissimmee also count for the standings, so we're really excited about that. We've never been and we're on uncharted waters for me and my brother, both. We went in there winning it, but it was a tough year to win money in our circuit with 100-and-some entries everywhere you went. It was like making a SportsCenter top 10 play to place anywhere."

Cooper and Tucker clinched the circuit finals, held the weekend of Oct. 9–11, 2020, after turning in a time of 16.4 seconds on three head, worth \$2,112 each. They won the first round with a 5.7-second run, worth \$1,408 a man, placing second in the second round with a 5.1-second round worth \$1,056 a man, and placed second in the third round with a 5.6-second run, worth \$1,056 a man.

"We got to go last every round," Tucker said. "We won the second round and then we ended up leading the average, so we got to go last

on the last one. It wasn't like it was that terribly tough—we were just able to go out and make our run and it was fast enough to win something, and it won good money."

You don't typically hear of team ropers setting their arena up with the dimensions of their circuit finals—that's generally reserved for ropers getting ready for the NFR—but the White brothers were determined.

"We have another arena that runs across my arena kind of like Patrick Smith's," Cooper said. "I wanted to get a feel before I got up there. We roped in it for about a week. When we started, I was reaching ... but then I was watching old films and Erich Rogers and the guys that do so good in the little buildings, they get them on a tight rope. I started trying to do that a little bit more and our runs were better, faster. From that day on, I said that I wasn't reaching."

Not only did they capitalize their year with the year-end titles and the average win after the long nights of practice, Cooper's head horse, Razor, owned by the White's family-friend, Andy Miller, was awarded the Badlands Circuit Head Horse of the Year.

"He's one of the best that I've ever rode, but he was still pretty young," Cooper said. "Most horses that I get are already finished, so I got to kind of help finish this one a little bit. I knew he was good, but I didn't know that the guys thought that about him. Andy said, 'I knew he'd win it. I got the watch the videos all summer and I knew he'd win it.' I didn't know. I was super happy, and I know Andy was very pleased, as well."

"We both know that we wouldn't have done any good without that head horse," Tucker noted.

Tucker heeled on his gritty, 16-year-old gelding, Gator.

"I wouldn't want to compare him to the likes of Jackyl because I think Jackyl is one of the best heel horses ever, but I've heard people say that he's always in the right spot at the right time and that's kind of how my horse is," Tucker said. "He's not the fastest, and he's not the best looking, but he always seems to be at the right spot at the right time for me to win something."

Cooper and Tucker are now leading the

2021 PRCA world standings with \$5,632.16 in earnings.

"There's so many opportunities that can come from the circuit finals," Tucker said. "If it was a normal year and you won the circuit finals, then you got into Fort Worth and you qualified for Kissimmee. For us, we had such a good finals that it's maybe letting us into Houston and San Antonio. Crazy opportunities come from just your circuit finals." ■

## BADLANDS CIRCUIT STANDINGS

- 1) Cooper White, \$18,043.91, Tucker White, \$15,595.21
- 2) Turner Harris, \$7,512.68, Matt Zancanella, \$9,971.68
- 3) Jared Odens, \$6,156.87, Jade Nelson, \$6,423.43
- 4) Jade Schmidt, \$5,807.86, Dustin Harris, \$5,631.86
- 5) Brent McInerney, \$4,863.54, Tanner McInerney, \$4,863.54
- 6) Cameron Irwin, \$4,269.45, Cash Hetzel, \$4,545.66
- 7) J.B. Lord, \$3,752.48, Rory Brown, \$4,269.45
- 8) Jason Schaffer, \$3,594.17, Cole Robinson, \$3,594.17
- 9) Cody Hilzendeger, \$3,585.81, Ty Talsma, \$3,466.58
- 9) Jon Peterson, \$3,465.83, Jesse Dale, \$3,028.65
- 10) Eli Lord, \$2,302.53, Jace Engesser, \$2,178.44
- 11) Tim Nelson, \$2,061.92, Jake Nelson, \$2,061.92

## BADLANDS CIRCUIT FINALS RODEO

### FIRST ROUND WINNERS

COOPER WHITE & TUCKER WHITE

5.7-second run, worth \$1,408 each

### SECOND ROUND WINNERS

BRENT MCINERNEY & TANNER MCINERNEY

4.8-second run, worth \$1,408 each

### THIRD ROUND WINNERS

JARED ODENS & MATT ZANCANELLA

5.0-second run, worth \$1,408 each

## AVERAGE RESULTS

- 1) COOPER WHITE & TUCKER WHITE  
16.4 seconds on three head, worth \$2,112 each
- 2) CAMERON IRWIN & RORY BROWN  
23.9 seconds on three head, worth \$1,584 each
- 3) BRENT MCINERNEY & TANNER MCINERNEY  
26.0 seconds on three head, worth \$1,056 each
- 4) JARED ODENS & MATT ZANCANELLA  
11.2 seconds on two head, worth \$528 each

# WARD AND HAWKINS WIN 2020 PRAIRIE CIRCUIT TITLE

*Andrew Ward and Buddy Hawkins II clinch the 2020 Prairie Circuit year-end titles.*

HUBBELL RODEO PHOTOS



Andrew Ward and Buddy Hawkins did their 2021 rodeo season a big, fat favor by becoming the 2020 Prairie Circuit Team Roping Titlists. All circuit year-end and circuit finals champs advance to next spring's RAM National Circuit Finals Rodeo in Kissimmee, Florida, which in 2021, counts toward the world standings.

"We're really grateful that Kissimmee's come on board and spiced the national circuit finals up," said Hawkins, who currently hangs his hat in Stephenville, Texas, but still considers Columbus, Kansas, home. "Drew (Horner, with whom Hawkins qualified for his first NFR in 2013) and I won the RNCFR the first year it moved to Florida (in 2015), and it's right up there with Houston on payoff and prize line.

"The RNCFR, in general, is a great experience, and having it count toward the world standings is huge. If I'm doing the math right, they're paying 32 checks to 24 teams. And they usually have an even set of steers. When you look at trying to qualify for the National Finals, the sort of opportunity offered by the National Circuit Finals is absolutely crucial."

The Prairie Circuit Finals Rodeo was held Oct. 16–17, 2020, at the Stephens County Expo Center in Duncan, Oklahoma. Ward and Hawkins were 5.9 in Round 1, which finished two holes out of the money. Their 4.9 in Round 2 was one out in fifth place. But their two-run total of 10.8 seconds was good for fourth-place paychecks of \$632 per man in the average.

Prairie Circuit Finals champs, Jake Clay and

Brye Crites, who were 9.1 on two steers, will also head to Kissimmee. Clay and Crites won the opening round in 4.7, placed third in Round 2 with a 4.4-second run and, all told, earned \$5,056 a man toward the 2021 world standings.

Ward and his wife, Hayli, live in Edmond, Oklahoma. Hawkins, who's married to Hayli's sister, Tori, definitely does not see roping with a family member as extra pressure.

"To me, it's like a dream," Hawkins said. "Tori and Hayli pull as much weight as we do, and we're all doing what we love."

Asked to compare his three NFR qualifications, Hawkins likes to keep looking forward.

"Billie Jack Saebens asked J.D. Yates one time about his favorite win," Hawkins said. "He said, 'The next one is my favorite win.' That, to me, is how we all need to be looking at it.

"I tried to do every single thing I'd ever heard of anyone doing to get ready for my first Finals, and I felt like I probably didn't perform my best because I'd zeroed in on a tiny target. At my last Finals, I never really felt like we got tapped off. We never made two similar runs. It was like every night was a fresh rodeo.

"This summer, we went a long time where we got out of the barrier and caught every cow. This was as tough a summer as there's been but, in the end, you need to catch to have a chance to win. The way we see it, the first 100 pounds is his, the last 100 pounds is mine, and there should be a couple hundred pounds between my rope and his rope. It's that simple." ■

## PRAIRIE CIRCUIT STANDINGS

- 1) Andrew Ward, \$25,094.94, Buddy Hawkins II, \$23,096.98
- 2) Bubba Buckaloo, \$15,036.08, Brye Crites, \$22,353.09
- 3) Coleman Proctor, \$13,919.47, Joseph Harrison, \$10,918.80
- 4) Jake Clay, \$10,407.36, Jake Smith, \$10,338.85
- 5) Britt Smith, \$10,338.85, Kollin VonAhn, \$7,849.96
- 6) Casey Hicks, \$7,003.05, Austin Rogers, \$7,849.31
- 7) Curry Kirchner, \$6,140.81, Cody Doescher, \$7,072.20
- 8) Paul David Tierney, \$6,135.55, Steve Orth, \$7,003.05
- 9) Wyatt Muggli, \$5,814.20, Billie Jack Saebens, \$6,460.87
- 10) Brett Christensen, \$5,785.53, Casey McCleskey, \$6,294.26
- 11) Cale Markham, \$5,653.07, Chase Boekhaus, \$5,785.53
- 12) Gavin Foster, \$3,175.30, Brady Norman, \$5,763.30

## RAM PRAIRIE CIRCUIT FINALS RODEO FULL RESULTS

### FIRST ROUND

- 1) JAKE CLAY & BRYE CRITES  
4.7-second run, worth \$1,685 each
- 2) WYATT MUGGLI & CASEY MCCLESKEY  
5.0-second run, worth \$1,264 each
- 3) BUBBA BUCKALOO & JOSEPH HARRISON  
5.3-second run, worth \$843 each
- 4) CURRY KIRCHNER & AUSTIN ROGERS  
5.4-second run, worth \$421 each

### SECOND ROUND

- 1) BUBBA BUCKALOO & JOSEPH HARRISON  
4.0-second run, worth \$1,685 each
- 2) CURRY KIRCHNER & AUSTIN ROGERS  
4.3-second run, worth \$1,264 each
- 3) JAKE CLAY & BRYE CRITES  
4.4-second run, worth \$843 each
- 4) COLEMAN PROCTOR & BILLIE JACK SAEBENS  
4.6-second run, worth \$421

### AVERAGE

- 1) JAKE CLAY & BRYE CRITES  
9.1 seconds on two head, worth \$2,528 each
- 2) BUBBA BUCKALOO & JOSEPH HARRISON  
9.3 seconds on two head, worth \$1,896 each
- 3) CURRY KIRCHNER & AUSTIN ROGERS  
9.7 seconds on two head, worth \$1,264 each
- 4) ANDREW WARD & BUDDY HAWKINS II  
10.8 seconds on two head, worth \$632 each



# TONOZZI AND TELLER TAG TEAM MOUNTAIN STATES CIRCUIT WIN

*Garrett Tonozzi and Cullen Teller team up at Mountain States Circuit Finals and qualify for RAM National Circuit Finals on Oct. 23–24, 2020.*

Colorado's Garrett Tonozzi, a two-time Wrangler NFR qualifier, and Cullen Teller, who won the Mountain States circuit on 2015 heeling for Clayton Van Aken, won the year-end title in the Mountain States Circuit.

Tonozzi and Teller finished out the year with \$11,254.10 and \$9,325.77 in total season earnings, respectively.

"It feels very good, actually," Teller said. "With five years in between, that's a long time. But, hard work pays off eventually. I'm excited to go wherever they're having it at. Next year, the RAM Finals counts for the world standings, so it's good to get into it this year."

Tonozzi headed for Dustin Davis in the 2020 ProRodeo season, while Teller started out the season heeling for Montana's Brady Tryan, then teamed up with Colorado young-gun Bryton Scheller for circuit rodeos, and finished out the year with Rhett Anderson.

"He was winning the circuit and so was I," Teller said. "Garrett is the best run—a great run. I actually got lucky enough to rope with him. It was decent considering everything that was going on. I finished 35<sup>th</sup> in the world. So, considering everything that was going on, it was alright."

Teller rode a 9-year-old sorrel mare named Lollipop, and a 15-year-old mare named Swayzi.

"I've rode Lollipop since she was 2," Teller said. "I got Swayzi from Mark Scheller this summer, right before the BFI. I rode Swayzi at the circuit finals. Lollipop had pneumonia really bad. She is just trying to get better. I was planning on riding her and, right at the end of the summer, she got pneumonia, so I've been treating that. She's going to live, though. She's stuck with me for the rest of her life." ■



WESTERN EDGE PHOTOGRAPHY/AMANDA DILWORTH

### MOUNTAIN STATES CIRCUIT STANDINGS

- 1) Garrett Tonozzi, \$11,254.10, Cullen Teller, \$9,325.77
- 2) J.B. James Jr., \$7,972.10, Brock Hanson, \$7,972.24
- 3) Kellan Johnson, \$5,823.11, Carson Johnson, \$6,218.61
- 4) Jase Staudt, \$5,639.33, JC Flake, \$5,665.25
- 5) Travis Bounds, \$5,462.02, Joe Roderick, \$5,462.02
- 6) Jhett Trenary, \$4,098.33, T.J. Watts, \$5,309.01
- 7) Austin Crist, \$4,036.48, Trey Yates, \$5,095.30
- 8) Tate Kirchenschlager, \$3,650.96, Jayden Johnson, \$3,233.64
- 9) Paul Beckett, \$3,233.64, Trevor Schnauffer, \$3,141.62
- 10) Eric Martin, \$1,968.44, Ryon Tittel, \$1,972.31
- 11) Ty Blasingame, \$1,826.94, Garrett Busby, \$1,586.29
- 12) Zane Thompson, \$1,471.25, Todd Wilson, \$1,464.51

### MOUNTAIN STATES CIRCUIT FINALS RODEO RESULTS

#### FIRST ROUND WINNERS

JASE STAUDT & JC FLAKE

4.9-second run, worth \$1,357 each

#### SECOND ROUND WINNERS

KELLEN JOHNSON & CARSON JOHNSON

4.4-second run, worth \$1,357 each

#### THIRD ROUND WINNERS

JHETT TRENARY & TREVOR SCHNAUFFER

4.7-second run, worth \$1,357 each

#### AVERAGE

- 1) JASE STAUDT & JC FLAKE  
16.0 seconds on three head, worth \$2,035 each
- 2) AUSTIN CRIST & T.J. WATTS  
18.9 seconds on three head, worth \$1,526 each
- 3) J.B. JAMES JR. & BROCK HANSON  
31.3 seconds on three head, worth \$1,017 each
- 4) KELLAN JOHNSON & CARSON JOHNSON  
9.2 seconds on two head, worth \$509 each

## First Frontier Circuit By Kaitlin Gustave

# DECADE AFTER DECADE: SMITH SECURES FIRST FRONTIER CIRCUIT TITLE WITH BROWN

*Chuck Smith and Kevin Brown took home the First Frontier Circuit Year-End Titles with \$8,046.35 in total season earnings on Oct. 23 – Oct. 25, 2020.*



CASEY MARTIN

Chuck Smith, 53, has now won the First Frontier Circuit five times, once in each decade since he was in his early teens. This year, he and long-time friend and heeler Kevin Brown took home the year-end circuit title after accumulating \$8,046.35 in total season earnings.

"I've won it, I think, five or six times," Smith noted. "We were talking about it the other day, and I think I've won it every decade since I've been born. I won one when I was in high school in '85 or '86, somewhere right in there. I won at least one in my teens, my 20's, my 30's."

After an uncertain ProRodeo season, Smith notes that it was still a good year to be rodeoing, despite the challenges.

"Cowtown was able to put on rodeos all the way from July until the end of September, every week," Smith said. "They kept it under control. There was a handful of guys coming from out West, coming in on Saturday nights and competing. It was a little bit more challenging. It didn't seem like the same old place where you just showed up and left. It's kind of boring, but at least it was some place for us to go."

Smith, who lives in Townsend, Delaware, and Brown, who resides in Keedysville, Maryland, added \$3,648 to each of their earnings

from the First Frontier Circuit Finals Rodeo in Harrington, Delaware, where they won the second round with a 6.7-second run, placed third in the third round with a 9.5-second run, and placed third in the average with a time of 16.2 seconds on two head.

"I've got to commend the circuit board for putting it on," Smith said. "It had to be very tough. My dad (Smokey Smith) was president of the circuit for quite a few years, and I know how hard it was on a regular year because I used to hear all the phone calls and the hours and hours it took to go look at places. We've been very fortunate to have Harrisburg, our finals, here for the past 10 or 15 years. The finals this year was in my home state, so I didn't have to go very far at all."

Smith headed on his 13-year-old head horse, Eddy, to help him secure the First Frontier Circuit heading title.

"I bought him off a friend of my dad's and he was a ranch horse in Missouri. He raised him and I bought him off the ranch and finished him. I've been on him for probably eight years now. He's just honest. He's nothing special. He just gives me 100% every time." ■

## FIRST FRONTIER CIRCUIT STANDINGS

- 1) Chuck Smith, \$8,046.35, Kevin Brown, \$8,046.35
- 2) Eric Fabian, \$7,849.13, Derek Carey, \$7,849.13
- 3) Zane Kilgus, \$6,133.90, Scot Brown, \$6,123.51
- 4) Jose Mota, \$5,326.65, Drew Carnes, \$5,674.29
- 5) Darren Morgan, \$3,986.49, Casey Cox, \$5,560.14
- 6) Terry Shetron, \$3,815.40, J.R. Myers, \$3,815.40
- 7) Jacob Rounds, \$3,814.91, Shawn Quinn, \$3,814.91
- 8) Gary Dubois, \$3,526.15, Eric Parker, \$3,465.62
- 9) David Ballantyne, \$3,264.05, J.R. Wenger, \$2,711.15
- 10) Michael Mousseau, \$2,093.06, Ryan Whetham, \$2,438.19
- 11) Ty Miller, \$2,018.18, T.R. Serio, \$1,986.36
- 12) Colby Clement, \$1,600.50, Bill Riel, \$1,382.25

## FIRST FRONTIER CIRCUIT FINALS RODEO RESULTS

### FIRST ROUND

ZANE KILGUS & SCOT BROWN  
6.4-second run, worth \$1,621 each

### SECOND ROUND

CHUCK SMITH & KEVIN BROWN  
6.7-second run, worth \$1,621 each

### THIRD ROUND

GARY DUBOIS & ERIC PARKER  
5.5-second run, worth \$1,621 each

### AVERAGE

- 1) ZANE KILGUS & SCOT BROWN  
33.0 seconds on three head, worth \$2,432 each
- 2) JOSE MOTA & CASEY COX  
47.3 seconds on three head, worth \$1,824 each
- 3) CHUCK SMITH & KEVIN BROWN  
16.2 seconds on two head, worth \$1,216 each
- 4) DARREN MORGAN & DREW CARNES  
18.1 seconds on two head, worth \$608 each



# BACK-TO-BACK: KESLER AND SIDDOWAY TAKE TOP HONORS IN WILDERNESS CIRCUIT

*Quinn Kesler and Colby Siddoway secured No.1 in the Wilderness Circuit after coming off a strong finals on Nov. 6–7, 2020.*

Utah's Quinn Kesler, a two-time Wrangler NFR qualifier, and Colby Siddoway finished out their 2020 ProRodeo season in the No. 1 spot of the Wilderness Circuit standings to make the back-to-back circuit champions, qualifying them to the RAM National Circuit Finals in 2021.

"It was just kind of up in the air with having a game plan to get put together," Siddoway noted. "Once all of that stuff hit, we went to Cody (Wyoming) and all of those good rodeos over the fourth and didn't have any luck. We figured that we'd just stay home and go to a few circuit rodeos. It was hard to put a game plan together. We just stayed close to home."

Kesler and Siddoway showed up at the Wilderness Circuit Finals Rodeo in Herber City, Utah, in the No. 2 position with a handful of teams competing within a \$1,000-spread. But as fate would have it, Kesler and Siddoway won the first round with a 5.3-second run, worth \$1,222 each, placed second in the second round with a 5.5-second run, worth \$917 a man, placed second in the third round with a 5.4-second run, worth \$917 a man and took home the average title with a total time of 16.2 seconds on three head, adding \$1,833 to each of their earnings.

"We practiced a lot and tried to make sure that we were prepared," Siddoway said. "Quinn just does such a great job over there. Last year he spun all three of them to win all three rounds, and I roped a leg on the last one. It was just like the same, identical spins, the same type of steers and I just had to get them caught pretty much—didn't have to rope to fast. I just made sure that I got to a good spot to catch them."

Siddoway was mounted out on a horse named Cody that the Kesler family raised and sold to Caleb Hendrix.

"He let me borrow him over there," Siddoway said. "That was the only place that I rode him. We were just practicing at Quinn's and he kind of let me ride all of the good ones. That horse just seemed like the easiest one to catch on, so he got the call."

But Cody wasn't the mount that helped Siddoway qualify for the circuit finals. He rode the mare that Kesler made the NFR on.

"I rode one of Quinn's horses that he made the finals on heeling a couple years ago," Siddoway said. "I pretty much rode her the last two years, while me and him were roping together." ■

## WILDERNESS CIRCUIT STANDINGS

- 1) Quinn Kesler, \$11,134.91, Colby Siddoway, \$11,134.91
- 2) Chaz Kananen, \$7,950.48, Max Kuttler, \$7,950.48
- 3) Matt Sherwood, \$6,991.48, Olin Pulham, \$6,810.27
- 4) Rhett Anderson, \$6,919.31, Jace Nielsen, \$5,998.61
- 5) Hagen Paterson, \$5,998.61, Caleb Hendrix, \$5,659.20
- 6) Dyllin Ahlstrom, \$5,659.20, Jade Anderson, \$3,805.85
- 7) Zane Barnson, \$3,551.06, Cole Wilson, \$3,551.06
- 8) Rhen Richard, \$3,262.09, Dan Scarbrough, \$3,225.67
- 9) Clint Kap, \$3,225.67, Matt Liston, \$2,783.98
- 10) Brian Winn, \$2,783.98, Kelton Morse, \$2,001.67
- 11) Tadd Thomas, \$2,001.67, Kycen Winn, \$1,943.54
- 12) Pace Freed, \$1,592.61, Wyatt Ahlstrom, \$1,504.77

## WILDERNESS CIRCUIT FINALS RODEO RESULTS

### FIRST ROUND WINNERS

QUINN KESLER & COLBY SIDDOWAY  
5.3-second run, worth \$1,222 each

### SECOND ROUND WINNERS

CHAZ KANANEN & MAX KUTTLE  
4.2-second run, worth \$1,222 each

### THIRD ROUND WINNERS

BRIAN WINN & MATT LISTON  
4.9-second run, worth \$1,222 each

### AVERAGE

- 1) QUINN KESLER & COLBY SIDDOWAY  
16.2 seconds on three head, worth \$1,833 each
- 2) RHEN RICHARD & JADE ANDERSON  
22.1 seconds on three head, worth \$1,375 each
- 3) MATT SHERWOOD & KYCEN WINN  
36.1 seconds on two head, worth \$917 each
- 4) BRIAN WINN & MATT LISTON  
11.3 seconds on two head, worth \$458 each

