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For the Elk City Rodeo of Champions

BEST IN BULL RIDING

Beckham County bull rider wins Elk City rodeo; champs crowned at 81st annual event

ELK CITY, OKLA. – (September 2, 2019) – A Beckham (Okla.) cowboy won his hometown rodeo last weekend.

Cody Keathley rode Beutler and Son Rodeo’s bull High Bender for 86 points to best the field of thirty-two bull riders.

Keathley, who is twenty years old, grew up in Elk City and moved to Sweetwater at the age of ten.

It was the second time for the cowboy to match up against the bull. He drew the bull at the Pretty Prairie, Kan. rodeo in July but got bucked off, dislocating a shoulder, and getting scraped up.

“I knew he was hard to get by,” Keathley said, “but if I got by him, I’d be a lot of points.” He searched out Rhett Beutler before the rodeo to talk about the bull. “I talked to Rhett, and he said, go out there and get redemption,” Keathley said. “The last time I got on him, I got wrecked out pretty good.”

As he took his victory lap after the rodeo, he saw family and friends in the crowd. “When I made the champion run,” he said, of the victory lap on horseback, “I saw a lot of familiar faces out there. The crowd was going wild,” he said.

Keathley is a student at Southwestern Oklahoma State University in Weatherford, competing in college rodeo and working towards a degree in parks and recreation and law enforcement. College rodeos don’t start till September 20, so he’s hitting as many pro rodeos as he can, competing at the Weatherford pro rodeo the day after his Elk City win.

His professors usually work with him if he needs to miss classes for pro rodeos. “I have a really good advisor this year,” he said. “He set my class schedules up so I can rodeo a little more.”

The win at Elk City moved Keathley to ninth place in the Prairie Circuit standings, which will qualify him to compete at the Prairie Circuit Finals Rodeo in Duncan, Okla., in October.

Keathley is the son of Tammy Merz and the late Gene Keathley.

The barrel racing win went to a Kansas cowgirl.

Jeanne Anderson, White City, Kan., turned the barrels in 15.76 seconds for the title.

It was aboard her eight-year-old mare, a horse bred for the racing industry but when the race horse business declined in Kansas, the mare, plus her dam and two other horses, were given to Anderson.

She and her husband Rick started the mare, who they named Berta, as a late three-year-old. “Rick got to messing with her, and he said, ‘she wants to turn.’ I said, let me on her.”

Anderson didn’t think Berta would be a good barrel horse. “She was big, and I thought she isn’t going to be quick,” she said.

But she is, and she is beginning to replace Anderson’s primary horse. The mare is “young, and she’s doing nothing but getting better. She works everywhere you take her, and she’s starting to amaze us.” She also has a big heart, Anderson said. “She’s honest. She’ll run hard and work hard for you no matter what.”

The mare, whose registered name is EZ Jazz N Jets is out of one of the last living sons of Easy Jet. The Andersons named her after the maid on the show *Two and a Half Men*, for her unpleasant demeanor. “She was a hag,” Anderson said, when she was young. But her personality has improved. “I kind of feel bad she has that name now.”

Each year, the sponsor Western Sizzler gives \$100 to the fast time or high score in each event, each night of the rodeo, and Anderson has won it three times, on three different horses. She has competed at the Elk City rodeo numerous times and competed at the Wrangler National Finals Rodeo in 2010 and 2011.

Other champions include bareback rider Tim O’Connell, Zwingle, Iowa, the three-time and reigning world champion bareback rider (88.5 points); steer wrestler Dru Melvin, Hebron, Neb. (3.8 seconds); tie-down roper Lane Jeffrey, Wilburton, Okla. (8.7 seconds); team ropers Dylan Gordon, Comanche, Okla. and Brady Norman, Springer, Okla. (5.3 seconds); and saddle bronc rider Dean Wadsworth, Buffalo Gap, Texas (80.5 points).

During the rodeo on Saturday, August 31, Larry McConnell was recognized for thirty years of service to the rodeo committee. He was given a pair of commemorative spurs.

Next year’s rodeo will be September 4-6, 2020.

Complete results follow. More information can be found at www.elkcityrodeo.com.

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Cutline: Lane Jeffrey stands next to his rope horse Tom Cat. The Wilburton, Okla. man won the tie-down roping at the 2019 Elk City Rodeo.

Dean Wadsworth is the 2019 Elk City rodeo saddle bronc riding champion. The Buffalo Gap, Texas cowboy won his event with a score of 80.5 points.

Results, Elk City Rodeo of Champions, August 30-September 1, 2019

All-Around Champion: Toby Collins, saddle bronc rider and bull rider

Bareback Riding

1. Tim O'Connell, Zwingle, Iowa 88.5 points on Bad Influence; 2. Yance Day, Tahlequah, Okla. 83; 3. Anthony Thomas, Humble, Texas 80; 4. Jake Brown, Cleveland, Texas 79; 5. Tim Murphy, Wheeler, Texas 77; 6. Paden Hurst, Huntsville, Texas 75.5; 7. Garrett Shadbolt, Merriman, Neb. 75; 8. Chance Merrill, Coffeyville, Kan. 73.

Steer Wrestling

1. Dru Melvin, Hebron, Neb. 3.8 seconds; 2. Mason Miles Carter, Checotah, Okla. 4.6; 3. Kaleb Summers, Claremore, Okla. 4.7; 4. Hunter Crawford, Mount Hope, Kan. 4.8; 5. Blake Doyle, Flandreau, S.D. 5.2; 6. Tory Johnson, Oklahoma City, Okla. 5.4.

Team Roping

1. Dylan Gordon, Comanche, Okla./Brady Norman, Springer, Okla. 5.3 seconds; 2. Maverick Harper, Alva, Okla./Jayden Johnson, Casper, Wyo. 7.1; 3. Jesse Stipes, Salina, Okla./Cody Heflin, Pryor, Okla. 7.2; 4. Jake South, Albuquerque, N.M./Robert Murphy, Congress, Ariz. 7.5; 5. Kash Koch, Vernon, Texas/Zack Woods, Walters, Okla. 10.5; 6. Kelton Hill, Canadian, Texas/Derrick Jantzen, Ames, Okla. 10.7.

Saddle Bronc Riding

1. Dean Wadsworth, Buffalo Gap, Texas 80.5 points on Revolution; 2. (tie) Cody Ballard, Goodwell, Okla., Justin Browning, Lake Charles, La., and Toby Collins, Stephenville, Texas 78 each; 5. Jake Finlay, Goondiwindi, Australia, 77.5; 6. Wyatt Barstow, Waxahachie, Texas 76; 7. Leon Fountain, Socorro, N.M. 75.5; 8. (tie) Kobyn Williams, De Berry, Texas and Cooper Thatcher, New South Wales, Australia 75 each.

Tie Down Roping

1. Lane Jeffrey, Wilburton, Okla. 8.7 seconds; 2. Maverick Harper, Alva, Okla. 9.3; 3. Britt Bedke, Oakley, Idaho 9.5 seconds; 4. Luke Potter, Maple City, Kan. 10.7; 5. Wyatt Muggli, Lane, Okla. 11.1; 6. Caddo Lewallen, Morrison, Okla. 11.2.

Barrel Racing

1. Jeanne Anderson, White City, Kan. 15.76 seconds; 2. Kelly Bruner, Millsap, Texas 15.81; 3. Tamara Reinhardt, Canadian, Texas 15.88; 4. Janie Johnson, Canyon, Texas 16.02; 5. Leslie Smalygo, Collinsville, Okla. 16.10; 6. Jean Winters, Texline, Texas 16.13; 7. Kara Large, Bromide, Okla. 16.15; 8. Suzanne Brooks, Seminole, Okla. 16.23; 9. Emily Miller, Weatherford, Oklahoma 16.27; 10. Sarah Rau, Weatherford, Texas 16.29.

Bull Riding

1. Cody Keathley, Sweetwater, Okla. 86 points on High Bender; 2. Bobby Welch III, Lubbock, Texas 83; 3. Trevor Kastner, Roff, Okla. 81.5; 4. (tie)Toby Collins, Stephenville, Texas and Jesse Aaron Hopper, Mangum, Okla. 80 each; 6. Creek Young, Fordland, Mo. 79; 7. Dave Mason, Cross Plains, Texas 78; 8. Dillon Ray Jacobs, Fletcher, Okla. 73.