

Pro Rodeo Canada



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Camrose Spring Classic Features Repeat Winners

Two-time Canadian finalist Erik Dublanko has a new traveling partner on the Canadian pro rodeo trail – his 20-year-old brother Darren.

The Thorsby residents roped together at a Canadian Professional Rodeo Association stop for the first time during last weekend's \$50,000 season opener at Camrose.

Darren won first in the tie-down roping with a 9.6 second run that paid \$1,632; Erik didn't place, which really wasn't a surprise. The elder sibling usually doesn't get his season into high gear until August. He's hoping Darren, a graduate of Western Oklahoma State College at Altus, just might get him challenging for the Canadian Finals Rodeo a little earlier in the campaign.

"Leaving things to the last minute has always been a Dublanko problem I think," chuckled Darren, who started the year on his permit. Having already earned more than \$1,000, it's likely he'll advance to the semi-pro stage and buy that card prior to the next Canadian rodeo at Medicine Hat.

Darren set the table for his peers at the Regional Agricultural Exhibition Complex in Camrose early on the first day of the rodeo. He was fourth out in the morning slack.

"I drew a pretty good calf, but I had to use him," Dublanko said. "He was a solid black out of Darren Zieffle's pen and he told me the calf was a little slower out of the chute when he roped him at home. I knew I had to let him get a good start.

"When I caught him, I got him spun around, but when I went to flank him, he pushed me a little bit so I had to hustle to get him down. After that, it was easy; he was good on the ground and took the tie well."

Dublanko rides an eight-year-old bald-faced sorrel with white sox that has only had about three years training on him.

"He's pretty green, hasn't been to many rodeos and he still gets goofy in in the corner. Maybe it's just me getting nervous and he decides to get nervous, too. But, he's the strongest horse I ever rode in the field. He's natural at it and really helps me."

Erik was there to watch his little brother and said "I believe I was more nervous than Darren, but his win was a good thing for the family."

Elsewhere, three established pros -- Canadian champion bull rider Scott Schiffner, bareback rider Michael Solberg and bulldogger Justin Guentner – all won Camrose for the second year in a row.

Schiffner posted an 89-point score on an Outlaw Buckers' muley called Red Stag for \$1,681; Solberg was 84 points on OB's American Trip, worth \$1,347, and Guentner stopped the clock in 3.8 seconds, identical to last year's time, to pick up \$2,043.

Clinton Cox, the regular-season leader in the Canadian Cowboys Association saddle bronc standings last year, took home \$1,442 for an 83.5-point score on the Outlaw Buckers' bronc Devils Who, while Ponoka's Brett Buss and reigning Canadian champion heeler Tyrel Flewelling

captured the team roping with a time of six flat for \$1,438 apiece.

Veteran Montana barrel racer and horse trainer Lisa Anderson scooped up \$1,818 with a time of 13.543 seconds and Barrhead's Kagen Schmidt, first out, led the steer riding for the entire rodeo with a 78.5 score to earn \$388.

Next up is Medicine Hat on Apr. 19-21.

For more information,

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