

OPSU Rodeo Creeps Toward the Top

Weatherford, Okla.-Consistent performances are paving the road to the College National Finals Rodeo for the Oklahoma Panhandle State University Rodeo Team. The men's team grabbed second place at the Southwestern Oklahoma State University Rodeo held April 11-13 in Weatherford, Okla. With only two rodeos remaining for the regular season, the Aggies have the regional championship in their sights.

Leading the men's team is senior Allen Boore. With a tough pen of horses, only two cowboys made it to the eight-second whistle in the championship round Saturday night in the saddle bronc riding. Boore paired a 72-point short round ride with his 76 points in the first go to clinch the weekend championship. Teammate Clay Elliott had the top ride of the long round with 78 points, however suffered a no score Saturday evening. Also qualifying for the championship round was Joe Harper, Preston Kafka and Caleb Nichols.

Freshman Caleb Bullock has proven his skills with a rope against the older competitors all season and this weekend was no exception. After a solid 10.5-second run in the long round of calf roping, Bullock stepped up the speed for the Saturday night crowd. His blazing 9.5-second time was the fastest seen all weekend. He placed second overall. Logan Litton slipped into third place of the first round, qualifying him for the short go as well.

Joe Frost stayed in the middle of his bovine for the eight seconds in first round of the bull riding, scoring 72 points and earning third place. Unfortunately, he could not duplicate the ride in the short round of competition.

In the team roping, two pairs of OPSU cowboys spun their steers into the championship round. Dusty Moore and Elliott made two consistent runs, landing them in sixth place for the average race. Jeff Cover and Jake Watson grabbed long round points, but received a no time in the short go.

Senior Jessie Suazo is making the most of her final spring semester. Coming off a win in the breakaway roping at Fort Scott, Suazo duplicated her performance in Weatherford in the barrel racing. The veteran cowgirl clocked the fastest time of the long round with a 17.20-second run. Another solid run Saturday night landed her in the top spot for the weekend. Suazo also qualified in the breakaway roping where she placed sixth in the average.

The rodeo team is in their final stretch of the regular season before the points are tallied to see who gets to cash a ticket for the CNFR. They will be back on the road April 19-21 to Hays, Kan. before hosting the annual Doc Gardner Memorial Rodeo in Guymon April 25-27. Fans can purchase tickets for the Doc Gardner Rodeo beginning April 16 at the Ropeman in Guymon with a \$20 donation to "T's for Those in Need." See the Oklahoma Panhandle State

University Rodeo Team Facebook page for more information.

Laura Nelson OPSU