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## Timed events showcased at Caldwell Night Rodeo

By Susan Kanode for the Caldwell Night Rodeo

CALDWELL, Idaho (Aug. 12, 2019)—The Caldwell Night Rodeo is often the beginning of what could be called “Crunch time,” for rodeos.

Traditionally the third full week of August, the rodeo is one of the highest-paying events this month and kicks off the final six weeks of the rodeo season. For contestants hoping to qualify for the Wrangler National Finals Rodeo (NFR), a paycheck here can send them to Las Vegas in December or send them home hoping for better luck next year.

While full rodeo competition won’t start until Tuesday, August 13, action is already well underway. Monday was a full day of “slack” competition in steer wrestling, team and tie-down roping. That competition kept NFR hopes alive for a handful of contestants.

Among those were John Douch, a tie-down roper from Huntsville, Texas and Blake Mindemann, a steer wrestler from Apache, Oklahoma. Prior to Caldwell’s rodeo, Douch was 17<sup>th</sup> in the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association world standings and Mindemann was 18<sup>th</sup>. They each helped their positions by getting good checks here already.

Mindemann had a time of 4.1 seconds to tie with Stetson Jorgensen from Blackfoot, Idaho. They each earned \$2,683. Mindemann was about \$5,000 out of the top 15 that qualify for the NFR and cut that gap in half here. Jorgensen is well inside the top 15 at eighth and if he stays there, he will be headed to his first NFR. Mindemann made his first trip last December.

Douch had the biggest win of his career last month at the California Rodeo Salinas. He earned nearly \$10,000 there and got a big jump in the world standings. He stopped the clock in 8.4 seconds here Monday and won \$3,046. He has over \$8,000 gap to fill to move into the top 15.

These events all feature two full rounds of competition. The second round of competition will continue during the first four performances of the rodeo. Their times will be added together and the 12 contestants (header and heeler in team roping) will advance to Saturday’s Championship Night where the lion’s share of the \$325,844 in prize money will be paid.

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CALDWELL, Idaho (Aug. 12, 2019) --- The following are first round winners in steer wrestling, team and tie-down roping from the 85<sup>th</sup> annual Caldwell Night Rodeo.

**Steer wrestling:** 1, (tie) Blake Mindemann, Blanchard, Okla., and Stetson Jorgensen, Blackfoot, Idaho, 4.1, \$2,683. 3, Kyle Irwin, Robertsedale, Ala., 4.2, \$2,121. 4, Will Lummus, West Point, Miss., 4.4, \$1,747. 5, (tie) Cody Cabral, Hilo, Hawaii, and Levi Rudd, Chelsea, Okla., 4.5, \$1,185. 7, (tie) Aaron Vosler, Laramie, Wyo., and Jesse Brown, Baker City, Ore., 4.6, \$437.

**Team roping:** 1, Kaleb Driggers, Hoboken, Ga., and Junior Nogueira, Presidente Prude, Brazil, 4.6 seconds, \$3,041. 2, Aaron Tsinigine, Tuba City, Ariz., and Patrick Smith, Lipan, Texas, 4.8, \$2,644. 3, Jr. Dees, Aurora, S.D., and Lane Siggins, Coolidge, Ariz., 5.0, \$2,247. 4, (tie) Brenten Hall, Stephenville, Texas, and Chase Tryan, Helena, Mont.; and Pace Freed, Chubbuck, Idaho and Dusty Searcy, Weatherford, Texas; 5.2 and \$1,653 each. 6, (tie) Clay Tryan, Billings, Mont., and Travis Graves, Jay, Okla.; Riley and Brady Minor, Ellensburg, Wash.; Paul David Tierney, Oklahoma City and Tanner Braden, Dewey, Okla.; and Ryan Reed, and Wyatt Hansen, Oakdale, Calif.; 5.3, \$496.

**Tie down roping:** 1, John Douch, Huntsville, Texas, 8.4 seconds, \$3,046. 2, Lane Livingston, Seymour, Texas, 8.8, \$2,648. 3, (tie) Tyler Milligan, Pawhuska, Okla.; Tuf Cooper, Decatur, Texas; and Shane Hanchey, Sulphur, La.; 9.0 and \$1,854 each. 6, (tie) Marcos Costa, Menard, Texas; Tanner Green, Cotulla, Texas; and Kody Mahaffey, Sweetwater, Texas, 9.3, \$662.