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**BOERNE, TX (December 9, 2015)** – Today, the Elite Rodeo Athletes (ERA) is proud to announce their 2016 tour schedule featuring 80 of the top rodeo athletes in the world. This premier tour will consist of 15 regular-season performances in 8 cities beginning March 25th in Redmond, Oregon and concluding with its 2016 ERA World Championship in Dallas, Texas. All tour events will be televised during primetime on Wednesday nights, on FOX Sports 2.

"We are excited to announce our inaugural tour schedule, which includes traditional and non-traditional rodeo markets like New Orleans, Atlanta and St. Louis. The ERA selected each venue to provide the rodeo fan the opportunity to experience the excitement of ERA. We are pleased to provide greater exposure for the sport of rodeo through this national schedule," said Tony Garritano, CEO and President of ERA.

The rodeo athletes will compete for \$1,600,000 in prize money during the regular-season tour and an additional \$3,000,000 during the 5 day World Championship in Dallas, for a total of \$4,600,000.

The ERA presents the greatest collection of rodeo champions with 42 hours of programming on FOX Sports. For the first time in the history of rodeo, fans will be able to follow the entire ERA tour culminating with the crowning of its eight World Champions.

With the biggest names in rodeo packing the roster, fans will find that each stop is a must see event. Fred Whitfield, eight-time World Champion Tie-Down Roper commented on being a part of the 2016 ERA Tour, "I'm delighted to be a part of this list of talented guys. There's so much talent, that you're going have to bring your "A" game to every rodeo event."

Information on purchasing tickets to upcoming events will be announced on the ERA's social media channels and <u>erarodeo.com</u>.

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