



## Steer Wrestling

In the rodeos quickest event, speed and strength are displayed in steer wrestling. A steer wrestler, who is also known as a "bulldogger," uses strength and technique to wrestle a steer to the ground as quickly as possible. The world record sits at 2.4 seconds.

Steer wrestling is an event where the steer generally weighs more than twice as much as the cowboy and, at the time the two come together, they are both traveling at approximately 30 miles per hour. In an event like steer wrestling, a perfect combination of strength, timing, technique, and balance are necessary in the lightening-quick sequence of events.

Like tie-down roping and team roping, the bulldogger starts on horseback in a box, a three-sided fence. The steer is attached to a breakaway rope barrier which is stretched across the open end of the box. The steer gets a head start and the rope barrier is released. The bulldogger explodes into the arena in pursuit of the steer. If the cowboy breaks the barrier before the steer reaches his head start, a ten second penalty is added to his time.

In steer wrestling, like team roping, there is another cowboy and horse in the arena. This man is called a hazer; he is mounted on his horse and their job is to keep the steer from veering away from the bulldogger. When the cowboy reaches the steer, he slides down and off the right side of his galloping horse, hooks his arm around the steer's right horn, grasps the left horn with his left hand, uses strength and leverage to slow the animal, and wrestles it to the ground. The bulldogger's work is not complete until the steer is on its side with all four feet pointing the same direction.

### Show What You Know

1) Why is steer wrestling considered to be the quickest event in rodeo?

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2) How is steer wrestling similar to tie-down roping and team roping?

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3) How can a bulldogger be penalized?

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4) When looking at the steps a bulldogger must complete in order to take down his steer, why are the character traits of strength, timing, technique, and balance important?

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