

Media Contact:  
Ruth Nicolaus  
For the St. Paul Rodeo  
319-321-2152

## **FROM CONCRETE JUNGLE TO RODEO**

*Bull rider with unlikely rodeo background leads at St Paul Rodeo*

St. Paul, Ore. (June 30, 2023) – Compton, California is better known as a concrete jungle rather than a rodeo hotspot, but Christopher Byrd is changing that, one bull at a time.

The Compton cowboy made an eight-second ride on the first night of the St. Paul Rodeo to be the only qualified ride among a crowd of 14 bull riders.

He scored 81 points on the Four Star Rodeo bull Cheech.

It was a bit of redemption for the 31-year-old cowboy. He had drawn Cheech at the Springville, Calif. rodeo in April but got bucked off at seven seconds.

“This is payback,” he said.

There’s more cement in Compton, Calif., than there are horses and rodeo, but there are a few rodeo cowboys, including 1982 World Champion Bull Rider Charlie Sampson. Byrd is one of a handful of cowboys in Los Angeles County; he got his start by cleaning stables at a riding stable. After meeting a professional jockey who was a former bull rider, he began riding bulls. He began riding bulls by age sixteen, and three years later, got his PRCA membership.

He began working for a rodeo company in northern California about a dozen years ago. He loves the animals in the sport. “I like watching the horses buck. I love all of it. Just being around them.”

St. Paul is the first stop of four rodeos for Byrd over “Cowboy Christmas,” the nickname given to the lucrative Independence Day holiday in the rodeo world. Byrd and his traveling buddies will go on to rodeos in Molalla and Eugene, Ore., and Folsom, Calif., before he goes home.

The ride in St. Paul put a lift in Byrd’s step.

“It’s pretty cool to win money here,” he said. But he realizes there are four more rodeo performances and more bull riders to go. “Hopefully it holds up.”

Other high scores and fast times from slack and the first night of rodeo at the St. Paul Rodeo are bareback riders Jacob Raine, Mt. Pleasant, Tenn. and Jacob Lees, Caldwell, Idaho (85.5 points each); steer wrestler Ty Erickson, Helena, Mont. in the first round (4.0

seconds) and Payden McIntyre, Douglas, Wyo. in the second round (4.2 seconds); tie-down roper Shad Mayfield, Clovis, N.M. in the first round (8.2 seconds) and Marcos Costa, Tolar, Texas in the second round (7.7 seconds).

And team ropers Kaleb Driggers, Stephenville, Texas/Junior Nogueira, Lipan, Texas in the first round (4.6 seconds) and Luke Brown, Rock Hill, S.C./Hunter Koch, Vernon, Texas in the second round (4.2 seconds).

In the saddle bronc riding, Cameron Messier, Herald, Calif. took the lead (81 points), and barrel racer Ashley Castleberry, Montgomery, Texas, turned in a time of 17.24 seconds to lead the pack.

The second performance of the St. Paul Rodeo takes place July 1 at 7:30 pm. The rodeo continues through July 4 with performances at 7:30 pm each night and a 1:30 pm matinee on July 4. Fireworks follow each night of rodeo.

For more information, visit [StPaulRodeo.com](http://StPaulRodeo.com)

### -

### **Results from the slack and evening performance, St. Paul Rodeo, June 30, 2023**

#### **Bareback Riding**

1. (tie) Jacob Raine, Mt. Pleasant, Tenn. 85.5 points on Four Star Rodeo's Dibs and Jacob Lees, Caldwell, Idaho 85.5 points on Four Star Rodeo's Fringe from Hell; 3. Jayco Roper, Oktaha, Okla. 82; 4. Dean Thompson, Altamont, Utah 80.5.

#### **Steer wrestling**

1<sup>st</sup> round leaders:

1. Ty Erickson, Helena, Mont. 4.0 seconds; 2. Will Lummus, Byhalia, Miss. 4.2; 3. Dakota Eldridge, Reedley, Calif. 4.6; 4. Josh Garner, Live Oak, Calif. 5.1.

2<sup>nd</sup> round leaders:

1. Payden McIntyre, Douglas, Wyo. 4.1 seconds; 2. Mason Couch,, Durant, Okla. 4.5; 3. Shane Frey, Hico, Texas 4.7; 4. Riley Duvall, Checotah, Okla. 4.8;

#### **Bull riding**

1. Christopher Byrd, Compton, Calif. 81 points on Four Star Rodeo's Cheech; no other qualified rides.

#### **Tie-down roping**

1<sup>st</sup> round leaders:

1. Shad Mayfield, Clovis, N.M. 8.2; 2. Taylor Santos, Creston, Calif. 8.3; 3. Caleb Smidt, Bellville, Texas 9.0; 4. Westyn Hughes, Quemado, N.M. 9.6.

2<sup>nd</sup> round leaders:

1. Marcos Costa, Tolar, Texas 7.7; 2. Joel Harris, San Angelo, Texas 8.3; 3. Blane Cox, Cameron, Texas 8.7; 4. Tom Crouse, Osage City, Kan. 8.8.

#### Saddle bronc riding

1. Cameron Messier, Herald, Calif. 81 points on Four Star Rodeo's Wall Street; 2. Brody Wells, Powell, Wyo. 80; 3. Cash Wilson, Wall, S.D. 79; 4. (tie) Cole Elshere, Faith, S.D. and Dylan Scofield, Philip, S.D. 78 each.

#### Team roping

##### 1<sup>st</sup> round leaders

1. Kaleb Driggers, Stephenville, Texas/Junior Nogueira, Lipan, Texas 4.6 seconds; 2. Brenten Hall, Spokane, Wash./Paden Bray, Wendell, Idaho 4.8; 3. (tie) Wyatt Bray, Stephenville, Texas/Josh Patton, Shallowater, Texas and Rhen Richard, Roosevelt, Utah/Jeremy Buhler, Arrowwood, Alb. 4.9 each.

##### 2<sup>nd</sup> round leaders

1. Luke Brown, Rock Hill, S.C./Hunter Koch, Vernon, Texas 4.2 seconds; 2. Coleman Proctor, Pryor, Okla./Logan Medlin, Tatum, N.M. 4.6; 3. Tanner Tomlinson, Angleton, Texas/Patrick Smith, Lipan, Texas 4.7; 4. Hayes Smith, Central Point, Ore./Jason Duby, Klamath Falls, Ore. 4.9.

#### Barrel racing

1. Ashley Castleberry, Montgomery, Texas 17.24 seconds; 2. Hailey Kinsel, Cotulla, Texas 17.44; 3. Ilyssa Riley, Hico, Texas 17.46; 4. Jessica Lewis, Pendleton, Ore. 17.78.

#### Cutline:

Christopher Byrd was the only bull rider to make the eight-second buzzer on the first night of the St. Paul Rodeo. The rodeo continues July 1-4. Photo by Hoot Creek.

\*\* All results are unofficial. For more information, visit [www.StPaulRodeo.com](http://www.StPaulRodeo.com).

- ### -