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CHOMPING AT THE BIT

Horsepower helps Oregon cowgirl, Louisiana cowboy jump to the lead at the St. Paul Rodeo

St. Paul, Ore. (July 4, 2019) – Amberleigh Moore’s horse hasn’t been to the St. Paul (Ore.) Rodeo for two years, but she knows her way around.

When Paige, her ten-year-old quarter horse got to the arena, she knew where she was going. The quarter horse, who is exceptionally smart, Moore said, never forgets a rodeo arena and where she was stalled at each rodeo.

And she did her job well, too. She carried her owner and rider from Salem, Ore., to the top of the leaderboard in the barrel racing with a time of 17.29 seconds.

“She hasn’t been to this arena since 2017,” Moore said, “and she was pretty excited to be back on the grounds.”

And she’s got a long list of rodeos to remember. Moore got the mare five years ago and began barrel racing across the nation and qualifying for the Wrangler National Finals Rodeo (WNFR), pro rodeo’s world championship three times (2016-2018).

Moore loves the horse, whose registered name is CP Dark Moon. “She means the world to me,” she said. “She loves her job so much, she makes it easy for me. We definitely have a bond and I think she reads me as much as I read her.”

The mare was out last year from March through the end of July due to bruised feet, so Moore did not ride her at St. Paul in 2018. Moore has competed in St. Paul since 2015 and was the top money winner from Oregon a few years ago, which earned her a unique gun from the rodeo committee. She hopes her time this year will hold for the win, after two more nights of rodeo. “Maybe we can repeat that and get my husband another gun,” she said.

Over the Cowboy Christmas season, the busiest time of the rodeo year for cowboys and cowgirls, Moore is doing OK. She won third at the Molalla, Ore. rodeo and is winning the Eugene, Ore. rodeo. She’ll head to a rodeo in Toppenish, Wash. on Saturday, then go on to the Calgary Stampede next week.

In the first round of the steer wrestling, a Louisiana man took the lead.

Two-time world champion Tyler Waguespack had a time of 3.8 seconds to top the board.

“It was a good run,” Waguespack said. “I had great horsepower underneath me. Scooter (the horse) ran him, kept my feet on the ground in a great spot, and we did the rest from there.”

Scooter, the horse Waguespack rode, is owned by fellow steer wrestlers Tyler Pearson and Kyle Irwin and is the 2018 American Quarter Horse Association Steer Wrestling Horse of the Year. The horse is just what a steer wrestler wants. "He gives anybody who gets on him the chance to win. He runs extremely hard and tries his heart out every time, no matter how many runs he's had on him that day."

In St. Paul, Scooter was ridden by Waguespack, Irwin, Pearson and Ty Erickson. And his owners and riders make sure he is treated well. "He gets better care taken of him than me, I can guarantee you," Waguespack said. "We sure are blessed to be able to use him."

The evening performance was Patriot Night, and Honor Flight volunteers and Marine Cadets picked up donations. Over \$5,000 was raised to fund flights for veterans to visit war memorials in Washington, D.C. free of charge.

Other high scores and fast times from the July 4 matinee and performance at the St. Paul Rodeo are bareback rider Jake Brown, Cleveland, Texas (83.5 points); bull rider Chase Dougherty, Canby, Ore. (82.5 points); tie-down roper Justin Smith, Leesville, La. (9.5 seconds); and team ropers Erich Rogers, Round Rock, Ariz. and Paden Bray, Granbury, Texas (5.1 seconds). In the saddle bronc riding, Cort Scheer, Elmore, Neb., set a new arena record with a score of 89 points on Big Bend's Kool Toddy.

Two more rodeo performances remain: July 5 and 6 at 7:30 pm each night. Tickets are available online at <https://www.stpaulrodeo.com> or at the ticket office at the rodeo grounds. For more information, visit the rodeo's website or call the rodeo office at 800-237-5920.

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Results from the matinee and evening performance, St. Paul Rodeo, July 4, 2019

Bareback Riding

1. Clint Laye, Cadogan, Alb. 84 points on Bridwell Pro Rodeos Scarlet Lady; 2. Jake Brown, Cleveland, Texas 82.5; 3. (tie) Chance Ames, Big Piney, Wyo. and Jesse Pope, Marshall, Mo. 82.

Steer wrestling

1st round

1. Tyler Waguespack, Gonzales, La. 3.8 seconds; 2. Ty Erickson, Helena, Mont. 4.4; 3. Bridger Chambers, Stevensville, Mont. 4.5; 4. Justin Shaffer, Hallsville, Texas 5.8.

2nd round

1. (tie) Tyler Pearson, Louisville, Miss. and Tanner Brunner, Ramona, Kan. 4.1 seconds each; 3. Levi Rudd, Chelsea, Okla. 4.9; 4. Tyler Waguespack, Gonzales, La. 5.4.

Average leaders (on two head)

1. Blake Mindemann, Blanchard, Okla. 8.8 seconds on two head; 2. Tyler Waguespack, Gonzales, La. 9.2; 3. (tie) Bridger Chambers, Stevensville, Mont. and Ty Erickson, Helena, Mont. 10.3 each.

Bull riding

1. Chase Dougherty, Canby, Ore. 83.5 points on Corey and Lange's Punk; 2. Jesse Petri, Palestine, Texas 80.5; no other qualified rides.

Tie-down roping

*1st round

1. Justin Smith, Leesville, La. 9.6 seconds; 2. Tanner Green, Cotulla, Texas 10.3; 3. Ryan Jarrett, Comanche, Okla.12.7; 4. Matt Shiozawa, Chubbuck, Idaho 13.4.

*2nd round

1. Justin Smith, Leesville, La. 9.5 seconds; 2. Chad Finley, Mt. Vernon, Ore. 10.5; 3. Blake Chauvin, Raceland, La.11.7; 4. Chad Finley, Mt. Vernon, Ore. 17.9.

Average leaders on two head

1. Jake Pratt, Ellensburg, Wash. 18.5 seconds on two head; 2. Cody Craig, Wendell, Idaho 18.9; 3. Justin Smith, Leesville, La. 19.1; 4. Treg Schaack, Stinnett, Texas 20.6.

Saddle bronc riding

1. Cort Scheer, Elsmere, Neb. 89 points on Big Bend Rodeo's Kool Toddy; 2. Chet Johnson, Douglas, Wyo. 81; 3. Josh Davison, Miles City, Mont. 77.5; 4. Reed Neely, Sanger, Calif. 75.

Team roping

*1st round

1. Erich Rogers, Round Rock, Ariz./Paden Bray, Granbury, Texas 5.1 seconds; 2. Clay Smith, Broken Bow, Okla./Jade Corkill, Fallon, Nev. 5.2; 3. Luke Brown, Rock Hill, S.C./Paul Eaves, Lonedell, Mo. 5.8; 4. Marcus Theriot, Poplarville, Miss./Coleby Payne, Lipan, Texas 7.3.

*2nd round

1. Erich Rogers, Round Rock, Ariz./Paden Bray, Granbury, Texas 5.2 seconds; 2. Clay Smith, Broken Bow, Okla./Jade Corkill, Fallon, Nev. 5.3; 3. Luke Brown, Rock Hill, S.C./Paul Eaves, Lonedell, Mo. 10.0; no other qualified runs.

Average leaders on two head

1. Erich Rogers, Round Rock, Ariz./Paden Bray, Granbury, Texas 10.3 seconds on two head; 2. Clay Smith, Broken Bow, Okla./Jade Corkill, Fallon, Nev. 10.5; 3. Levi Simpson, Ponoka, Alb./Cole Davison, Stephenville, Texas 10.6; 4. Cody Snow, Stephenville, Texas/Wesley Thorp, Stephenville, Texas 10.8.

Barrel racing

1. Amberleigh Moore, Salem, Ore. 17.29 seconds; 2. Colleen Kingsbury, Powell Butte, Ore. 17.62; 3. Jessi Fish, Franklin, Tenn. 17.66; 4. Danyelle Williams, Vale, Ore. 17.73