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## **TOPS IN ST. PAUL**

*Texas man finally gets bull riding win; first time St. Paul barrel racer wins title*

St. Paul, Ore. (July 4, 2023) – Braden Richardson has always been the bridesmaid, never the bride. That is, until this year, at the St. Paul Rodeo.

For the past six years, he’s bucked off his bull at the Nation’s Greatest Fourth of July rodeo, but not this year.

This year, he scored 90.5 points to best the bull riding field, aboard the Big Stone Rodeo bull Mr. Clean.

The Jasper, Texas cowboy has finally come around the corner after suffering a major injury in August 2022 at the Moses Lake, Wash. rodeo. After getting bucked off a bull last August, he fractured five vertebrae, broke four ribs and his scapula, and punctured a lung.

In February, he was back to riding bulls. He was ready physically, but not psychologically.

It wasn’t till mid-June that he’s felt mentally ready to ride.

“In the last two weeks, I feel like I’m back mentally,” he said. “Every time I fell off (a bull), it felt like the bull was going to step on me.”

When Richardson was injured last year, he was ranked seventeenth in the PRCA world standings, two spots out of the coveted top fifteen men who qualify for pro rodeo’s world championship, the Wrangler National Finals Rodeo.

Before St. Paul, he was in the top forty in the world standings, but a check for more than \$12,000 will catapult him higher in the standings.

The bull riders put on a show during the July 4 evening performance; of the five qualified rides, four of them were 86.5 points or higher.

A St. Paul first-timer won the barrel racing title.

Tarryn Lee, St. David, Ariz., rounded the barrels in 17.13 to win the gold buckle and a check for more than \$10,000.

She was aboard her “miracle horse,” a thirteen-year-old gelding whose registered name is SadiesAce In the Hole but who she calls Ace.

Seven years ago, he had a rare form of squamous cell carcinoma. Veterinarians tried different medicines, but nothing seemed to work. The decision was made to put him down, but the veterinarians had one more trial drug to try, and it worked. Ace has been cancer-free since then.

“He has a big heart,” Lee said. “He’s been through a lot, and he never gives up.”

The way the arena is set up in St. Paul, barrel horses come down a dark tunnel and don’t see the barrels right away. But that’s no problem for Ace.

“He always finds the barrels” to turn them, she said. “He runs hard and I never have to worry about that. I’m just glad he didn’t turn (around) any trees,” the arborvitae that are set in the rodeo arena.

“He loves it. He loves barrels, and it’s a rush, for sure. I love running and it’s so fun.”

The 27 year old barrel racer has had her own medical issues. She suffers from four bulging discs from her high school days, and was feeling good till she went around the first barrel during her run in St. Paul.

She was off for two months of rehab in March “I felt great, really good, almost 100 percent, and I’m not quite sure how it happened, but when I came out of the arena, I knew I was not great.”

Lee hopes to get injections to reduce the inflammation, but she’ll be out for at least two weeks, maybe longer.

“It’s a bad time right now, for sure,” to be injured, “with all the rodeos going on. I felt like I was getting tapped into it again, with winning St. Paul and placing in Molalla.” She won sixth in Molalla.

She’s trying to keep a good perspective. “There’s a reason for everything, and it’s hard to keep telling myself that. But there is.”

Lee has been a Women’s Pro Rodeo Association member for the past nine years.

Other 2023 St. Paul Rodeo champions include bareback rider Cole Reiner, Buffalo, Wyo. (88 points) and saddle bronc rider Stu Wright, Coalville, Utah. Wright set a new arena record, scoring 91.5 points, 2.5 points higher than the old record of 89 set in 2019 by Cort Scheer.

In the timed events, 2023 champs include steer wrestler Dirk Tavenner, Rigby, Idaho (8.1 seconds on two head); tie-down roper Shane Hanchey, Sulphur, La. (17.3 seconds on 2 head); and team ropers Cole Thomas, Emelle, Ala. and Clay Green, Pine Grove, La. (9.4 seconds on 2 head).

The 88<sup>th</sup> St. Paul Rodeo will take place July 2-6, 2024. For more information, visit [www.StPaulRodeo.com](http://www.StPaulRodeo.com).

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Cutlines:

Texas cowboy Braden Richardson is the 2023 St. Paul Rodeo bull riding champion, with his 90.5 point ride during the final night of the rodeo. Photo by Hoot Creek.

Tarryn Lee is the 2023 St. Paul Rodeo barrel racing champion, aboard her horse Ace. The pair rounded the barrels in 17.13 seconds. Photo by Hoot Creek.

Results from the St. Paul Rodeo, June 30-July 4, 2023.

**All-around champion: Jordan Ketscher, Squaw Valley, Calif. – tie-down roping and steer wrestling**

**Bareback riding champion: Cole Reiner, Buffalo, Wyo.**

1. Cole Reiner, Buffalo, Wyo. 88 points on Sankey Pro Rodeo & Phenom Genetics' Mustard; 2. Jacek Frost, Browns Valley, Calif. 87.5; 3. Sam Petersen, Helena, Mont. 87; 4. (tie) Jacob Lees, Boyd, Texas and Jacob Raine, Mt. Pleasant, Tenn. 85.5 each; 6. (tie) Clayton Biglow, Clements, Calif. and Kade Sonnier, Carencro, La. 85 each; 8. Taylor Broussard, Estherville, La. and Trenton Montero, Winnemucca, Nev. 84 each.

**Steer wrestling champion: Dirk Tavenner, Rigby, Idaho**

1<sup>st</sup> round

1. (tie) Ty Erickson, Helena, Mont., Tristan Martin, Sulphur, La. and Dirk Tavenner, Rigby, Idaho 4.0 each; 4. (tie) Will Lummus, Byhalia, Miss. and Ryan Schuckburgh, Innisfail, Alb. 4.2 each; 6. Tyler Waguespack, Gonzales, La. 4.3; 7. (tie) Nick Guy, Sparta, Wis. and Gus McGinn, Haines, Ore. 4.4 each.

2<sup>nd</sup> round

1. (tie) Josh Hefner, Knoxville, Tenn. and Dalton Massey, Stanfield, Ore. 4.0 seconds each; 3. (tie) Marc Joiner, Loranger, La., Payden McIntyre, Douglas, Wyo., Dirk Tavenner, Rigby, Idaho, Bridger Anderson, Carrington, N.D. and Ringo Robinson, Pendleton, Ore. 4.1 each; 8. Jacob Talley, Keatchie, La. 4.2.

Average on two head

1. Dirk Tavenner, Rigby, Idaho 8.1 seconds on two head; 2. Tristan Martin, Sulphur, La. 8.7; 3. Nick Guy, Sparta, Wis. 9.3; 4. Tyler Waguespack, Gonzales, La. 9.9; 5. Trisyn

Kalawaia, Hilo, Hawaii, 10.0; 6. (tie) Riley Duvall, Checotah, Okla. and Stetson Jorgensen, Blackfoot, Idaho 10.1 each; 8. Stephen Culling Ft. St. John, B.C. 10.2.

**Bull riding champion: Braden Richardson, Jasper, Texas**

1. Braden Richardson Jasper, Texas 90.5 points on Big Stone's Mr. Clean; 2. Sage Kimzey, Salado, Texas 90; 3. (tie) Grayson Cole, Fredonia, Penn. and Junior Souza, Sonora, Brazil 88.5 each; 5. Garrett Smith, Rexburg, Idaho 87.5; 6. Hayes Weight, Goshen, Utah 87; 7. Trey Kimzey, Strong City, Okla. 86.5; 8. Colton Kelly, Rhome Texas 85.

**Tie-down roping champion: Shane Hanchey, Sulphur, La.**

1<sup>st</sup> round

1. Justin Smith, Leesville, La. 7.9 seconds; 2. Shad Mayfield, Clovis, N.M. 8.2; 3. Taylor Santos, Creston, Calif. 8.3; 4. Lucas Potter, Maple City, Kan. 8.4; 5. Jordan Ketscher, Squaw Valley, Calif. 8.6; 6. (tie) Shane Hanchey, Sulphur, La. and Jake Pratt, Ellensburg, Wash. 8.7 each; 8. Chance Thiessen, Tuttle, Okla. 8.8.

2<sup>nd</sup> round

1. Marcos Costa, Tolar, Texas 7.7; 2. (tie) Dylan Hancock, San Angelo, Texas and Joel Harris, San Angelo, Texas 8.3 each; 4. Justin Farber, Battle Ground, Wash. 8.4; 5. Shane Hanchey, Carmine, Texas 8.6; 6. Blane Cox, Cameron, Texas 8.7; 7. Tom Crouse, Gallatin, Mo. 8.8; 8. Trevor Hale, Perryton, Texas 8.9.

Average on two head

1. Shane Hanchey, Carmine, Texas 17.3 seconds on 2 head; 2. Chance Thiessen, Tuttle, Okla. 17.8; 3. (tie) Shad Mayfield, Clovis, N.M. and Joel Harris, San Angelo, Texas 18.1 each; 5. (tie) Hunter Herrin, Apache, Okla. and Riley Webb, Denton, Texas 18.6 each; 7. Justin Smith, Leesville, La. 18.7; 8. Blane Cox, Cameron, Texas 18.8.

**Saddle bronc riding champion: Stu Wright, Coalville, Utah**

1. Stu Wright, Coalville, Utah 91.5 points on Sankey Pro Rodeo & Phenom Genetics' Black Tie; 2. (tie) Tanner Butner, Dillon, Mont., Isaac Diaz, Desdemona, Texas and Leon Fountain 87.5 each; 5. (tie) Ben Andersen, Eckville, Alb. and Layton Green, Meeting Creek, Alb. 87 each; 7. Stetson Wright, Beaver, Utah 85.5; 8. Wyatt Casper, Miami, Texas 84.5.

**Team roping Champions: Cole Thomas, Emelle, Ala. and Clay Green, Pine Grove, La.**

1<sup>st</sup> round

1. Cole Thomas, Emelle, Ala./Clay Green, Pine Grove, La. 4.2 seconds; 2. Clint Summers, Lake City, Fla./Jake Long, Morgan Mill, Texas 4.5; 3. Kaleb Driggers, Stephenville, Texas/Junior Nogueira, Lipan, Texas 4.6; 4. (tie) Dustin Egusquiza, Mineral Wells, Texas/Levi Lord, Sturgis, S.D and Jeff Flenniken, Caldwell, Idaho/Tyler Worley, Stephenville, Texas 4.7 each; 6. Brenten Hall, Spokane, Wash./Paden Bray, Spokane, Wash. 4.8; 7. (tie) J7 Bland, Okarcho, Okla./Tyson Thompson, Munday, Texas, Wyatt Bray, Stephenville, Texas/Josh Patton, Shallowater, Texas, Rhen Richard,

Roosevelt, Utah/Jeremy Buhler, Arrowwood, Alb. and Matt Sherwood, Pima, Ariz./Dylin Ahlstrom, Hooper, Utah 4.9 each.

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

1. (tie) Luke Brown, Morgan Mill, Texas/Hunter Koch, Vernon, Texas and Nelson Wyatt, Stephenville, Texas/Chase Tryan, Helena, Mont. 4.2 each; 3. (tie) Coleman Proctor, Pryor, Okla./Logan Medlin, Tatum, N.M.; Dalton Turner, Sidney, Ark./Clay Clayman, Highlandville, Mo. and Jake Orman, Prairie, Miss./Corey Hendrick, Bedias, Texas 4.6 each; 6. Tanner Tomlinson, Angleton, Texas/Patrick Smith, Lipan, Texas 4.7; 7. Hayes Smith, Central Point, Ore./Jason Duby, Klamath Falls, Ore. 4.9; 8. Rhen Richard, Roosevelt, Utah/Jeremy Buhler, Arrowwood, Alb. 5.0.

#### Average on two head

1. Cole Thomas, Emelle, Ala./Clay Green, Pine Grove, La. 9.4 seconds on two head; 2. Rhen Richard, Roosevelt, Utah/Jeremy Buhler, Arrowwood, Alb. 9.9; 3. Brenten Hall, Spokane, Wash./Paden Bray, Spokane, Wash. 10.4; 4. Matt Sherwood, Pima, Ariz./Dylin Ahlstrom, Hooper, Utah 10.9; 5. Zach Kilgus, Stephenville, Texas/Tyler McKnight, Pollock, Texas 12.0; 6. Clint Summers, Lake City, Fla./Jake Long, Morgan Mill, Texas 14.0; 7. Tanner Tomlinson, Angleton, Texas/Patrick Smith, Lipan, Texas 14.8; 8. (tie) Wyatt Bray, Stephenville, Texas/Josh Patton, Shallowater, Texas, J7 Bland, Turkey, Texas/Tyson Thompson, Munday, Texas and Coleman Proctor, Pryor, Okla./Logan Medlin, Tatum, N.M. 14.9 each.

#### **Barrel racing champion: Tarryn Lee, St. David, Ariz.**

1. Tarryn Lee, St. David, Ariz. 17.13 seconds; 2. Ashley Castleberry, Montgomery, Texas 17.24; 3. Tracy Nowlin, Nowata, Okla. 17.29; 4. Jimi Jones, Toppenish, Wash. 17.30; 5. Sissy Winn, Corpus Christi, Texas 17.43; 6. Hailey Kinsel, Cotulla, Texas 17.44; 7. Ilyssa Riley, Hico, Texas 17.46; 8. Colleen Kingsbury, Powell Butte, Ore. 17.47; 9. Steely Steiner, Weatherford, Texas 17.48; 10. Lindsey Ham, Cheney, Wash. 17.51; 11. Andrea Busby, Brock, Texas 17.57; 12. Rachelle Riggers, Lewiston, Idaho 17.58; 13. Cambria Estep, Parma, Idaho 17.59; 14. Amberleigh Moore, Salem, Ore. 17.66; 15. Jamie Olsen, Brock, Texas 17.69.

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