



Prairie Fire

Rodeo in Saskatchewan

Saskatchewan Sports
Hall of Fame

October 13, 2018 - December 15, 2018

Making Rainbows
Richard Loffler
Bronze (A/C)

Curated by
Kylie Rae Dahlstrom

Acknowledgements

A special thank you goes out to all the individuals and groups listed below, who helped make this exhibit possible. Your generosity and support was the only way I could have ever undertaken such a pursuit. I am truly grateful.

The Dahlstrom Family

Dr. Francesco Freddolini

Sheila Kelly

Richard Loffler

The Claypool Family

The Switzer Family

Hallie and Aaron Roy

Brenda and Don Peterson

Cindy Rice

Carla Froshaug

Dianne Ouellette

Brett Jenson

Sandy Stewart

Saskatchewan High School Rodeo Association

The Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame

The University of Regina

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2205 Victoria Avenue - Regina, SK



Contributors

Dale Claypool

When I began working on this exhibit I first met with Dale Claypool, brother of Bull Rider and previous Hall of Fame inductee Brian Claypool. Dale had loaned us a number of items including a CRCA (Now CPRA) Amateur Saddle Bronc Champion trophy saddle from 1972, a Champion Boys Wild Steer and Cow Riding Champion bronze relief plaque made by Charlie Beil for the Calgary Stampede in 1967, a pair of leather chaps, two cowboy hats, and a poster from the 1981 Canadian Finals Rodeo featuring Brian and a bull named “Doodle Gibbs.” Dale’s contributions provided me with the foundation for my exhibit.

I have known Dale and his wife Dino since I was a young kid. Their contributions and passion for Rodeo and the Western lifestyle are beyond what anyone will ever know. When you think of all the positive characteristics of a cowboy you’d get Dale.

Brett Jenson

I had been looking for a video to add to the exhibit and I wanted whatever it was not only to help explain the history of Saskatchewan rodeo athletes but to also explain the athleticism of the animal and how contestants think of them, regardless of whether they be cattle or horses.

I was doing research and scrolling through the Brian Claypool memorial page when I came across an interview video of Brian Claypool from the Calgary Stampede. This video described everything I was looking for and more. I got a hold of Brett Jenson who was more than helpful and sent me the video file for use. Not only did Brett help with the video, but also gave me two important belt buckles to use to help bring up the topic of rodeo in the digital age. These days the internet is making things so much more accessible to our cowboys and cowgirls so it’s people like Brett who help to provide information and make things easier for the athletes.

Sandy Stewart

Sandy Stewart was kind enough to provide me with a piece of rodeo history which is often overlooked, the Rodeo Queen Competition. Sandy was Miss Rodeo Saskatchewan as well as the Yorkton Stampede Rodeo Queen in 1973.

Richard Loffler

Richard Loffler grew up on the wide-open Saskatchewan prairies in central Canada. He became a committed outdoorsman as a teenager absorbing the wonders of the natural world around him.

Two local zoos at Saskatoon and Moose Jaw and another larger zoo in Calgary, Alberta became a retreat for observing animals in close quarters, while the Royal Saskatchewan Museum in Regina, where he began working in 1978, was a haven to study the beautifully prepared natural history dioramas.

At 62, Loffler is a dedicated family man and an avid outdoorsman. He juggles his time between his fieldwork, his studio work and the Montana foundries where he chases some of the castings and oversees the patinas and completed works.

Loffler was accepted into membership with the Society of Animal Artists and the National Sculpture Society, both in New York, in 1989. He continues to show with the Prix de West Invitational Exhibition, where he was chosen for the Robert Lougheed award in 2002 and the James Earle Fraser Sculpture Award in 2012.

Presently he has completed a 65' long heroic sculpture called, "The Buffalo Trail"; which is now placed in front of the National Museum of Wildlife Art in Jackson, Wyoming. He has also created a 1 and 1/4 life-sized monumental sculpture called *Outlaw*, a bounty rodeo bull owned by the Calgary Stampede Ranch; for downtown Calgary, Alberta, Canada.

Furthermore, Loffler has taught sculpture classes at the Scottsdale Artists School in Scottsdale, Arizona for 10 years. - Artist Biography

Richard actually spends time with the animals he sculpts and sculpts from life, not just image. This allows him to capture the true spirit and energy that the specific animal has. He was so kind to loan me two artist copies of his rodeo pieces, *Outlaw* and *Making Rainbows*. These two pieces are beautiful examples of Rich's knowledge of the animal, every muscle that these two animals are using to buck are portrayed exquisitely, the athleticism of both breaks through and they are shining examples of what I mean by the animal as athlete.

Blaine Switzer

Another person who reflects everything a cowboy should be and aspire to be is Blaine Switzer.

Blaine Switzer grew up on a ranch at Hazenmore and was born Feb 17, 1961. He has mentored many young ropers and is highly respected in rodeo circles by his fellow competitors as he is still highly competitive in the rodeo arena. He has held Roping clinics and is known as “Mr. Consistency.”

Blaine has attended the CCA finals and MRCA finals thirty-one times in the Tie Down Roping event. He has won the CCA year-end Tie Down Roping Championship nine times and his equine partners have received numerous “Horse of the Year” awards in both Tie Down and Team Roping. Blaine is a Gold Card CCA Lifetime member and is only the recipient to receive this award while still actively competing in the sport. He has also received “Cowboy of the Year” awards in both Canadian Cowboys Association and Manitoba Rodeo Cowboys Association. Blaine is the CCA Finals Champion of 1999 and has been the MRCA Champion seven times. He also won the CCA High Point Championship in 2014.

Over the years, Blaine has won many prizes such as buckles, saddles, Spurs, Bronzes, blankets, jackets and clocks. Blaine is a rancher and raises Purebred Angus cattle. He is married to accomplished Saskatchewan based country western singer Glenna Switzer and has two children Matthew and Jillian, and daughter in law Danielle; all of whom are also rodeo competitors.

Cindy Rice

Cindy Rice added a little something extra to the pot. I didn't have anything within the exhibit which related to rodeo entertainment and just out of sheer luck and chance she came into the Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame on a Saturday when I was working and her and I started chatting. Low and behold, her mother Shirley Gowan and aunt Carmel Gowan were famed trick ropers out of Swift Current Saskatchewan. From rodeos, to parades, circuses, television shows, etc. these two powerful ladies were a hidden gem of our province and the sport. From Cindy Rice I managed to receive some fantastic photographs and some great information.

Colleen Dahlstrom

Colleen Kramer Dahlstrom is a design specialist and illustrator from Zehner, Saskatchewan. She was born and raised in the Battlefords and moved to Regina when she was 15. She had a couple of mentors while growing up; Howard Harder a junior high art teacher who was unfortunately killed in a vehicle accident (this impacted her choice to become an artist greatly). After being traumatized by the loss, she began taking painting classes from Marcia Picketts who was a well-known and accomplished artist in the Battlefords.

Colleen pursued her talent after moving to Regina and eventually became a commercial artist working for the Saskatchewan Government and eventually led a team of other artists as the Supervisor of the art department at Saskatchewan Government Insurance.

After Colleen and her husband Dean started their family, Colleen went on to do freelance art from her home. She found herself one day having the opportunity to paint a number of buffalo skulls that were found in a dry lake bed in Northern Saskatchewan. These skulls were designed with various First Nations motifs and caught the eye of many people who purchased them. Since then, she has painted many longhorn steer skulls and designs them with country and rodeo motifs.

Dianne Ouellette

Dianne Ouellette is an Independent Métis media artist who holds a BFA in Film and Video, and a BA in Theatre from the University of Regina. She is presently pursuing her MFA in Media Production while working full-time at the University of Regina. She has completed a diversity of photography, film, and video projects over the past two decades. Dianne's media work has been exhibited, screened, and awarded internationally. Recently, she completed her first feature-length documentary, *Rigger*, which is the story of her younger brother's fatal service rig accident in southern Saskatchewan.

Dianne and I connected in FA 803 back in the Winter 2018 Semester and she was interested in this project. Dianne used to take photographs at local rodeos and had some connections to the sport. She jumped at the opportunity to provide me with some images and to go into her collection of film negatives. I am so grateful as she gave me images that do not exist anywhere else.

Carla Froshaug

Carla Froshaug is a rodeo mom and an amazing photographer. Through her photographs of the new generation of rodeo athletes in the Saskatchewan High School Rodeo Association, she has managed to give me the missing element for my exhibit, which was the continuation and legacy of rodeo in our province. Carla has been a great benefit to this exhibit and her images show the joy and love that these young athletes have for the sport.

Brenda and Don Peterson

I spoke with Krystal from the Canadian Professional Rodeo Hall of Fame to see if they had any suggestions on who may be a good contact from their pool of Saskatchewan inductees and she gave me the name of Brenda and Don Peterson who owned and ran Bar T Ranch as stock contractors from 1981 – 1997.

Brenda and Don had two broncs inducted into the Canadian Pro Rodeo Hall of Fame; X23 Coyote (2004) and High Chaparral H1 (2003). These Broncs had a significant list of achievements and proved the athleticism required to be a rodeo horse. Brenda explained that everything from the horse's diet to exercise routine and care in general was controlled the same way a human athlete would be. Brenda and Don's broncs would maybe buck twice a month during the season for eight seconds at a time and then they would go home to run the hills, it was not a hard life.

For this exhibit Brenda and Don offered not just a great deal of information, but everything from bronzes to drawings, trophy halters, buckles, and much more.



Image Courtesy of Brenda and Don Peterson

Aaron Roy

When one thinks of cowboys the first thing that comes to mind is “tough as nails.” Professional Bull Rider Aaron Roy is the best example that anyone could think of. Aaron Roy got started in rodeo by following his older brothers who were already involved in the sport. He grew up on a acreage around horses and cattle and loved watching rodeo. Bull riding in particular got him hooked and was something that he always wanted to try.

In Saskatchewan, Aaron rode in numerous amateur rodeo associations (CCA, KCRA) and when he became old enough to compete in High School Rodeo he joined that to further his career and be able to go to post education on a rodeo scholarship.

Aaron’s career has had many ups and downs but a few memories stick out. Those are; being on the first four World Cup bull riding teams and coaching the first three Global Cup events, and being a three-time Canadian National Champion and qualifying for the world finals eight times.

After a life-threatening injury, Aaron managed to defy all odds and get back into the sport. He says “Getting back on a bull after the major injury I had wasn’t about fear of getting on the bull, it was more a fear of how my body was going to handle it, and more of just trusting what I had prepared myself to do.” Aaron is a great asset for Saskatchewan and should be considered a hero of our province. From Aaron and his wife Hallie I received a pair of chaps, glove, and a bull rope.



Image Courtesy of Aaron and Hallie Roy

Curator's Statement



I decided to create *Prairie Fire* because I saw a need for there to be an exploration of one of Saskatchewan's oldest sports, rodeo. My connections to the rodeo world come from my experience competing in Saskatchewan High School Rodeo along with my brother. I was a barrel racer and he was a calf roper. Although we don't compete anymore, our experience in the sport taught us valuable lessons, responsibility, and helped us make lifelong friends.

Rodeo with its multitude of events and categories is an extremely unique sport. Not only is there a human athlete involved, but an animal athlete as well. Even in events like bronc riding and bull riding where the animal's main job is to try and buck the cowboy or cowgirl off, the human and the animal still work together to get points. The cleaner the ride looks, the higher the points both athletes receive are.

The cowboy and cowgirl are extremely interesting athletes, they usually spend a lifetime on the road travelling from rodeo to rodeo and often deal with more than bumps and bruises, in events like bull riding and bronc riding they often have to tough out broken arms, legs, dislocated shoulders, and sometimes even more serious issues, but their love for the sport and dream to compete at the highest level in places like the Calgary Stampede or National Finals Rodeo keeps them going. Saskatchewan even has a strong history of rodeo entertainment, half time performers such as trick riders, trick ropers, rodeo clowns, etc. help to keep the public entertained while the organizers prepare for the next events on the programme.

My area of research is specifically the collection and display of Western Bronze sculpture, which translates very well to rodeo in Saskatchewan. This is mainly due to the fact that there have been a few artists from Saskatchewan who have worked with Rodeo iconography and have even done trophies and monumental commissions for the Calgary Stampede, an annual tournament where a great number of our athletes have performed. Artist Richard Loffler of Regina is the most notable of all the Western bronze sculptors from Saskatchewan who work with rodeo themes. Another goal of this exhibit was to also speak on the connection between sport and art and how Rodeo and the Western art have gone hand and hand.

What is Rodeo?

The origin of rodeo came from the routine lifestyle of range cowboys who spent their lives on horseback tending to the animals they were hired to look after. Eventually there were no open ranges left and the cowboys had to look for other ways to support themselves. One of these ways was participation in Wild West shows which eventually lead to the birth of rodeo.

Saskatchewan was right there with Alberta when it came to competing in rodeo. Although it took a little longer to establish a full scale event rather than tests of skill, our province began to create events in Swift Current, Wood Mountain, Weyburn, Estevan, Regina, Saskatoon, etc. Today, our province puts on numerous events throughout the year within a variety of separate associations. Saskatchewan is home to a multitude of rodeo groups, as well as athletes who enter in professional associations.

The tradition is strong in our province and shows no sign of slowing down. Every year organizations like the Saskatchewan High School Rodeo Association continue to gain new athletes from a variety of backgrounds. The great part about organizations such as the SHSRA is that as long as youth follow the rules on sportsmanship, and academic success, anyone can be a cowboy or cowgirl.

There is a large misconception when it comes to the sport of rodeo, which is the belief that it is cruel to animals. This is the opposite of true. Rodeo gives animals like horses and cattle a purpose and a job. Some events come from what the range cowboys had to do to doctor sick animals. Stock contractors would even speak of the bucking horses loving their jobs. When you see their eyes light up and ears tilt forward, you can tell they are loving what they do.



Grace Keeley
2018 SHSRA Champion Barrel Racer
Photograph by Carla Froshaug

Rodeo Associations



Goat Tying at 1993 Beechy SHSRA Rodeo
Photograph by Dianne Ouellette

Saskatchewan High School Rodeo Association

The Saskatchewan High School Rodeo Association or SHSRA is our chapter of the National High School Rodeo Association or NHSRA. The NHSRA was founded in 1947 and the SHSRA came into being a few decades after. The association expanded in 2004 to also include Jr High Students. The goal for the NHSRA is to promote the sport to our youth. Currently the NHSRA has well over 10,500 members from the US, Canada, and Australia.

University of Saskatchewan Rodeo Team

“The University of Saskatchewan Rodeo Team is a member organization of the University of Saskatchewan Stockman’s Club. It consists of members from across the university community who are passionate about the sport of Rodeo. Members are all current students that compete on the Canadian Intercollegiate Rodeo Association (CIRA) circuit, or just have general interest in Rodeo. The University of Saskatchewan Rodeo Team is committed to giving students the opportunity to succeed in the arena, all the while pursuing a university level post-secondary education.” – *U of S Rodeo Team Mission Statement*

Keeyow Cowboys Rodeo Association

“The association welcomes both Indigenous and non-Indigenous athletes to compete through the genuine fellowship which has always been the ‘hallmark’ of rodeo contrary to the ‘Hollywood myth’ that ‘Cowboys and Indians’ were always opposed. The reality was and is still that together these two cultures have combined to become one “Cowboys and Indians” and are the principal ‘icon’ defining the colorful culture of the ‘West’. This proud heritage draws on long revered traditions of courage, skill, competition, honor, respect and independence that find expression and manifestation in the rodeo arena. These traditional virtues learned in the rodeo arena can serve anyone well in the arena of life and therefore provide an invaluable service to our youth and community.” *Keeyow Website*

Rodeo Associations

Canadian Cowboys Association

“The Canadian Cowboys Association or CCA was founded in 1963. It began with only sixty members. The first rodeo was held at the Sandhill Roping Club in Lancer, Saskatchewan. The CCA’s numbers grew and soon became the largest semi-pro rodeo association in Canada. The CCA has over 900 members and runs rodeos throughout Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Southwestern Ontario. The goal of the CCA is to promote the sport of rodeo to new members, the public and media.” – *CCA Website*

Canadian Pro Rodeo Association

“The Canadian Pro Rodeo Association – Formerly known as the Cowboy’s Protective Association (1944-1965) and Canadian Rodeo Cowboys Association (1965 - 1981) was established in 1944 and is the Canadian association for all professional rodeo athletes. This is the highest calibre of competition for anyone within Canada.” – *CPRA Website*

Indian National Finals Rodeo

“The Indian National Finals Rodeo or INFR was established in 1976 and united several regional Indigenous Rodeo Associations from the U.S. and Canada. The INFR sanctions almost 700 rodeos nationwide throughout the year. The INFR also works with the NHSRA. A majority of the INFR members are also members of the PRCA. There are eleven regions recognized by the INFR within the United States and Canada. Members range from 8 to 80 years old. Indian Pro Rodeo is one of the only sporting events where families can compete together. In 2010 the INFR added Jr and Sr events to the finals, this helped to protect the future of Indian Rodeo as well as pay respect to elder cowboys and cowgirls.” – *INFR Website*

Professional Bull Riders Association

“The PBR matches the world’s best bull riding athletes against the toughest animal athletes on the planet. The PBR was established in 1992, when 20 bull riders from the rodeo circuit came together to give life to a dream they all shared, they never imagined it would so quickly develop into what has officially been declared the fastest growing sport in America. Today more than 600 bull riders from North America, South America and Australia hold PBR memberships. They compete in more than 300 bull riding events each year on either the nationally-televised Built Ford Tough Series, the BlueDEF Velocity Tour or the Touring Pro Division. The PBR has an annual attendance of more than three million fans each season.” – *PBR Website*

Rodeo Associations

Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association

“The Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association or PRCA, is the largest and oldest rodeo-sanctioning body. The PRCA commits itself to maintaining the highest standards in the industry in every area, from improving working conditions for contestants and monitoring livestock welfare to boosting entertainment value and promoting sponsors. Annually, the PRCA sanctions about 650 rodeos on the continent, in the US states and Canada. As a membership-driven organization, the PRCA works to ensure that every event it sanctions is managed with fairness and competence and that the livestock used is healthy and cared for to the highest standards.” – *PRCA Website*



High Chaparral at 1989 NFR - Photograph courtesy of Brenda and Don Peterson

The Events



Chance Sjogren
2018 SHSRA Saddle Bronc Champion
Photo By Carla Froshaug

Saddle Bronc

To complete a ride in saddle bronc, the rider must keep his spurs off the horse until it completes its first jump out of the chute. The rider will be disqualified for touching any part of the animal or equipment, for losing a stirrup or for getting bucked off before eight-seconds is up. The rider must maintain good rhythm, in time with the horse, the rider spurs from the animal's neck, using a full swing, toward the back of the saddle with his toes pointed outwards. - *Canadian Professional Rodeo Hall of Fame*

Bareback Riding

In bareback, instead of a saddle, the rider uses leather pad called a rigging, which is cinched on the bronc's back. No stirrups or reins are used. As in saddle bronc the rider must keep their spurs off the horse until they exit the chute. The rider will be disqualified if they touch the animal or equipment with their free hand or if they are bucked off before eight-seconds. - *Canadian Professional Rodeo Hall of Fame*



Merle Temple on Coyote - 1987 Swift Current Rodeo
Photo Courtesy of Brenda and Don Peterson



Chase Quam
2018 SHSRA Tie-Down Roping Champion
Photo by Carla Froshaug

Calf Roping

Calf Roping is a team sport which demands fast timing as the cowboy and his horse race against the clock to catch and tie a calf. The calf must cross the barrier before the rider breaks it or else a ten-second penalty is added to his score. After roping the calf, the cowboy runs the rope and flanks it. More time is lost if the calf is already down when the roper reaches the animal because the calf must be standing before the cowboy flanks it. Any three legs of the calf must be tied with a shorter rope called a piggin' string. The tie must hold for another six seconds or the roper is disqualified.

The horse working with a calf roper must be able to rate the calf, be able to stop on cue in a single stride, and then hold the rope tight when the roper runs to his calf. - *Canadian Professional Rodeo Hall of Fame*

Team Roping

Two ropers, a 'header' and a 'heeler' work to rope a steer in the shortest time possible. The steer gets a head start before the header leaves the box. If the cowboy fails to give the steer the head start, the team receives a 10-second penalty.

Once the header has caught the steer, the heeler then ropes both hind legs of the steer. If the heeler only catches one leg, a 5-second penalty is added. If the heeler throws his loop before the header has turned the steer left, that is called a "crossfire" and the run is disqualified. - *Canadian Professional Rodeo Hall of Fame*



Denton Dunham and Dawson Stover
2018 SHSRA Team Roping Champions
Photo by Carla Froshaug



Dawson Loewen
2018 SHSRA Champion Steer Wrestler
Photo by Carla Froshaug

Steer Wrestling

Timing, co-ordination and strength are important for this event. The steer is given a headstart and must cross the barrier before the rider breaks it.

With a firm grip on the steer, the cowboy hits the ground with his legs extended forward, brings the steer to a dead stop and then throws the steer off balance and wrestles it to the ground. The steer must be flat on its side before official time is taken. This event requires an extra horse ridden by a hazer, whose job it is to keep the steer running as straight as possible. - *Canadian Professional Rodeo Hall of Fame*

Entertainment

A Rodeo would not be a rodeo without half time performances. Ever since the beginning rodeos have brought in half time performers to help keep the audience entertained while they were getting ready for the next round of events. These performances include but are not limited to trick roping, trick riding, trained animals, rodeo clowns, and mounted shooting.

The entertainment portion of rodeos came from its origin in Wild West shows. Rodeo organizers wanted to find a way to keep crowds interested and performances of world renowned trick ropers and stand up acts by rodeo clowns and bull fighters was a sure fire way to do it.



Shirley and Carmel Gowan (Trick Ropers)
Photograph courtesy of Cindy Rice

Barrel Racing

The horse and rider must cross two electric timers, run a clover-leaf pattern around three barrels then head back through the timers to qualify.

Like people, some horses prefer the left or the right so either of the first two barrels may be taken first, but a contestant will be disqualified for not following the clover-leaf pattern. Five-second penalties are added to the run time for each barrel knocked down, but a contestant may save a barrel from falling. - *Canadian Professional Rodeo Hall of Fame*



Chloe Woods
2018 SHSRA Jr Barrel Racing Champion
Photo by Carla Froshaug



Jud Colliness
2018 SHSRA Bull Riding Champion
Photo by Carla Froshaug

Bull Riding

A braided rope is the only security for the rider as they ride a 2000 lb bull. If the bull is touched by the rider's free hand, the rider is disqualified. The rider will also receive a "no time" if they are bucked off before the eight-second alarm. Unlike the bronc events riders are not required to spur.

Bull riding, demands that bullfighters and a rodeo clown be in the rodeo arena during each ride. As the rider dismounts or is thrown from the bull, the bullfighter distracts the animal until the bull rider reaches safety. - *Canadian Professional Rodeo Hall of Fame*

Other Events

Goat Tying

The goat is tied to a stake with a rope ten feet in length. The starting line must be 100 feet from the stake. The competitor on horseback rides from the starting line to the goat, they must dismount, flank the goat and tie any three legs together with a pigging string.

If the goat is down when the competitor reaches it, the goat must be lifted so that at least three legs extend directly underneath the goat before being flanked. The time is called when the athlete stands back with hands raised. The goat must remain tied for six seconds. - *NHSRA Rulebook*



Lara Beierbach
2018 SHSRA Jr Goat Tying Champion
Photo by Carla Froshaug



Cassidy Webber
2018 SHSRA Pole Bending Champion
Photo by Carla Froshaug

Pole Bending

In pole bending the horse and rider needs to run around a pattern of six poles positioned in a straight line. Each pole is to be 21 feet apart and the first pole is to be twenty-one feet from the starting line. The rider can start either to the right or left of the first pole but needs to maintain this pattern. As in barrel racing, a five-second fine is added for each pole that is knocked over. - *NHSRA Rulebook*



Kolby Skene
2018 SHSRA Jr Chute Dogging Champion
Photo by Carla Froshaug

Chute Dogging

Chute dogging was originally a form of steer wrestling practice developed for deployed US military officers who couldn't have horses with them. Like steer wrestling, the goal is to get the steer from his feet to the ground in a matter of seconds. In order to receive a qualifying time, all four feet must be in the air when the steer is grounded. If the steer falls wrong, the cowboy must get the steer get up and wrestle him again but the cowboy only has sixty seconds to do so.

Breakaway Roping

Like regular tie down roping, the roper starts when the barrier drops. The roper rides after the calf and must throw their loop over its head. As the rider stops their horse, the running calf breaks the plastic attachment called a breakaway honda and the rope falls free. The time is called when the judge drops his flag. Ropes must be released from contestant's hand to be a legal catch. The horse and rider have to clear the box before the rider throws the rope, and a ten-second fine is added for breaking the barrier. -

NHSRA Rulebook



Lara Beierbach
2018 SHSRA Jr Breakaway Champion
Photo by Carla Froshaug

The Equipment

Every piece of equipment in rodeo from boots, chaps, saddles, etc. are pieces of art. The craftsmanship and detail that are put into these items are beyond that of any other sport. It takes years to master the art of leather work and saddle making so when it comes to buying rodeo equipment an individual won't find their total cost to be cheap but the equipment will and should last a lifetime.

Saddles

Saddles are one of the most impressive pieces of equipment and most necessary in the sport of rodeo. They are made using a variety of materials but the leather is the most artistic part and where saddle makers can get creative. When it comes to handmade saddles no two are the same, that is why saddles are often used as trophy items for the sport.

The example below is a special piece loaned by Dale Claypool from his brother and past Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame inductee, Brian Claypool. Although Brian was mainly known as a bull rider, Brian won this saddle competing at the 1972 CRCA finals in the Canadian Amateur Saddle Bronc category.





Chaps

Chaps have changed a lot since the inception of rodeo. Now mainly used in the roughstock events, chaps still maintain their original material qualities but are much more flashy and flexible. Every rider wants something unique on their equipment and chaps are one of the items that allows a rough stock rider freedom in that area.



This pair is an older style which was worn by Brian Claypool. They feature three four leaf clovers on each side and are of high quality brown and cream colored leather.



In professional rodeo many different riders have sponsors and so chaps offer them the opportunity to display their sponsor's logo. This pair worn by Professional Bull Rider Aaron Roy is a good example.

Spurs

There are many different types of spurs that people can choose from with varying levels of pressure. Spurs have been around since the age of the Vaquero (first cowboy) and are still used today. Some events in the sport of rodeo do not require athletes to wear spurs, but in keeping with tradition many cowboys and cowgirls still choose to wear them.

The rough stock events are where you would typically see a rider with spurs. As mentioned before, in both bronc riding events a rider is required to spur in rhythm with the horse in order to receive a higher level score.



This pair was loaned by calf roper Blaine Switzer. They were a trophy set he won for tie-down roping in the 2002 Prime Time Rodeo Company Tour. These spurs feature a “reiner” style rowel which has ten points and is one of the most versatile variations available to riders. They are also embellished with Blaine’s brand on them.

Cowboy Hat

The cowboy hat is a crucial piece of equipment for anyone in rodeo, without it (unless they are wearing a helmet in some cases) a rider would not be able to compete. The cowboy hat is a marker of the sport and often times if a rider loses their hat in the arena they receive a penalty.

There are many different shapes and variations of cowboy hats. Some are felt, made from beaver bellies, while others may be straw or palm leaf. Felt hats are usually worn in cooler temperatures and for more dressy occasions and the straw or palm leaf hats are for warmer temperatures and are a cheaper option for competitions.

The two hats featured in the exhibit were both from Brian Claypool. The one was a competition worn hat while the other is a dressier style stetson hat in good condition.



Gloves

Gloves are used in a variety of events. In the roping events the type of gloves used are usually a looser cotton variety, but in the roughstock events riders will typically use a leather glove. The glove in our exhibit is a Wrangler brand bull riding glove, which was loaned to us by Aaron Roy.



Rope

Like gloves, ropes are used in many rodeo events. Calf and team roping use a long braided rope of varying materials and widths while bull riding requires a thick rope made of rawhide, leather and cloth. The rope featured is a bull rope and has also loaned by Aaron Roy.

Awards

As you have seen before in the equipment section of this catalogue, any item could be considered an award. However, the most common awards within the sport are buckles and saddles. Often these items will be sponsored by various companies who will in turn be advertised within programs, announcements, etc.

The tradition of belt buckles as awards is not as long standing and is more surprising than one might think. Until the mid 1900's Cowboys didn't actually wear belt buckles, and instead of belts they wore suspenders. However, when the cowboy image started being influenced by Hollywood that changed, and belt buckles began to be given as trophies.



This buckle was won by Blaine Switzer in the 2018 tie-down roping competition at the Kyle Community Rodeo. Western belt buckles come in many different shapes, sizes, and styles. Although this belt buckle is rectangular in design, many of them are circular.



2014 CCA Year End Champion Hi - Point Buckle won by Blaine Switzer



1999 CCA Calf Roping Champion Buckle won by Blaine Switzer



NFR Top Bareback Horse Buckle won by High Chaparral



CPRA Bareback Horse of the Year Buckle won by High Chaparral

Rodeo in the Digital Age

It used to take competitors and organizers forever to enter or get an event ready. They had to write letters, make phone calls, etc. Now with email and social media the sport is more accessible than ever. People who have never had the opportunity to see rodeo before are now becoming exposed to the sport and it has become a great tool for promotion. Facebook sites like the Brian Claypool Memorial Facebook Page have allowed people the opportunity to learn about rodeo's past heroes and the present. Far from vanishing, the sport of rodeo is adapting and growing with the times thanks to the hardworking individuals who maintain these networks and influence the sport behind the scenes.

Beechy Western Days 50th Anniversary Belt Buckle

Fifty limited edition buckles were ordered featuring the Beechy Western Days' logo. Number 1 of 50 was donated to the Community Rink Auction and purchased by Brett Jenson. It is a fitting home for the buckle as Brett created the Brian Claypool Memorial Facebook Page, where individuals can learn about the sport while keeping Brian's memory alive. - *Note on belt buckle won by Brett Jenson*



Beechy Western Days 50th Anniversary Belt Buckle



Brian Claypool Memorial Buckle

Rodeo Queen Competitions and the Queen Attire

A rodeo queen is the “face” of a rodeo organization. She represents her region for one year and is required to wear a cowboy hat, tiara, and sash with her title on it. Being a rodeo queen requires skills in riding, speaking, and appearance. Rodeo Queens represent their title at not only rodeos but other events such as parades, interviews, school events, and charity events.



1973 Miss Rodeo Saskatchewan Tiara, Buckle and Sash from Sandy Stewart

When it comes to the animal athlete, the item usually won is a fancy leather trophy halter.

These items are not only very useful but also very easy to display the horse's credentials on.

1982 CCA Champion Bronc Halter
Loaned by
Brenda and Don Peterson



Both horses, Coyote and High Chaparral who are featured in the exhibit have won a number of these halters through the years that they were active in the sport.

1987 CCA Champion Bronc Halter
Loaned by
Brenda and Don Peterson



The Fellowship of Christian Cowboys is a very strong support for many individuals involved in rodeo. This leatherbound trophy bible was sponsored by the group and awarded to Blaine Switzer in 1996 when he was awarded the CCA Cowboy of the Year title.



There are certain awards given for years of participation and involvement in the sport. The CCA has one such award titled the *Gold Card Membership*. To receive a Gold Card is no small thing, these members have not only participated but have contributed greatly to building the sport of Rodeo within Saskatchewan and Canada.

The Gold Card featured in our exhibit was awarded to Blaine Switzer in 2007. Blaine has been involved with the CCA for many years and has been very successful in the sport.



This Bernie Brown sketch titled *In the Chute* was awarded to Brenda Peterson in 2005 for her 30 years of dedication to Swift Current's Frontier Days Rodeo.



Art and Sport

Art and rodeo have been in combination with each other from the beginning. In Canadian tradition, the combined efforts by Guy Weadick, Charles M. Russell, and Ed Borean made the Calgary Stampede a hub for Western Artistic practice. Over time, the Western art show and sale grew and artists from all over North America began to enter their art in competitions and other events leading up to it.

Western Bronze is a tradition that has influenced and has been influenced by the Calgary Stampede. Starting with Charlie Russell, then Charlie Beil, the bronzes began to be used as trophies for the champions in the competition.

The relief below was created by Charlie Beil for the 1967 Boys Wild Steer and Cow Riding competition at the Calgary Stampede and was won by Brian Claypool. The other bronzes featured in the exhibit are by Regina based sculptor Richard Loffler who has been commissioned multiple times to create works for the Calgary Stampede. The art of Richard Loffler reflects beautifully the athleticism of the animals he is sculpting. The two pieces I have been loaned by him; *Outlaw*, and *Making Rainbows*, are perfect examples of this talent. Because he actually spends time with them and studies them, nobody knows the animal quite like Rich.



1967 Stampede Boys Wild Steer and Cow Riding Award - Charlie Beil



Making Rainbows A/C - Richard Loffler



Outlaw A/C - Richard Loffler



Modern Day Warrior - Colleen Dahlstrom

This particular skull was designed to honour Aaron Roy who is a Professional Canadian Bull Rider. It shows Aaron on one of his many bull rides with the Canadian flag waving proudly in the background. Aaron's Initials were incorporated into the graphics complimenting his image riding the bull. Aaron personally autographed this art piece to be sold at a fund-raising auction for the Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame.

Prairie Fire

Rodeo in Saskatchewan

This exhibit was curated by Kylie Rae Dahlstrom for the Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame to fulfill the requirements for her Masters work placement through the University of Regina.