

THE USST CUP FINALE

THE TOP 12 CONTESTANTS IN EACH EVENT (BAREBACK RIDING, STEER WRESTLING, SADDLE BRONC RIDING, CALF ROPING, BULL RIDING, BARREL RACING, TEAM ROPING) QUALIFY FOR THE USST CUP FINALE, AS DETERMINED BY POINTS EARNED AT WRANGLER PRORODEO TOUR STOPS.

MGM GRAND GARDEN ARENA
LAS VEGAS, NEV.

JUNE 13-15

PRIZE MONEY:
\$470,000

TICKET INFORMATION

TICKET PRICES ARE \$25, \$50 AND \$100. TICKETS MAY BE PURCHASED BY CALLING TICKETMASTER AT 702-474-4000 OR THE MGM GRAND AT 877-669-0360.

TELEVISION COVERAGE

THE NATIONAL NETWORK (TNN) WILL BROADCAST THE USST CUP FINALE AT 7 P.M. (ET) ON SATURDAY, JUNE 22, AND AT 7 P.M. (ET) ON SATURDAY, JUNE 29.

2002 USST CUP FINALE

Let's dance Top broncs, bulls to challenge sport

By Troy Schwindt

Mr. USA danced with 2000 world champion bull rider Cody Hancock last year at the USST Cup Finale to the tune of 94 points.

Six months later, the pair matched steps again at the Wrangler NFR. This time, they broke a 25-year-old record with a 96-point mark.

The duo will return for a another possible showdown at the USST Cup Finale in Las Vegas, June 13-15, inside the spectacular MGM Grand Garden Arena.

Mr. USA, owned and raised by Steve and Cyndi Gilbert of Diamond G Rodeo Company, is one superstar bull in a livestock lineup that warrants a five-star rating.

"He gives 110 percent every time he bucks," Cyndi Gilbert said of the soon-to-be 5-year-old Mr. USA.

Mr. USA carried Blue Stone, the 2001 world champion, to a gold medallion at the Command Performance Olympic Rodeo in Farmington, Utah, in February.

Stone rode Mr. USA for 96 points, but was stepped on after the ride and suffered a fractured sternum.

"The cowboys absolutely adore that bull because if you ride him you win," Gilbert said.

While Mr. USA has put up the numbers, one of his stall mates, T-Bug, has put down more than his share of cowboys.

T-Bug, last year's top bull at the USST Cup Finale, has bucked off everyone (140 attempts) except Jesse Bail. Bail conquered T-Bug at the 2001 San Bernardino (Calif.) rodeo, scoring 92 points.

"He has so much power," Gilbert said of T-Bug, who will be back at the Finale. "Some have said he bucks an

awful lot like Bodacious, but he doesn't. He's not a bull that damages people."

Mr. USA and T-Bug are just two examples of the outstanding stock chosen to buck next month in Las Vegas.

In the bareback riding ranks, Greg and Duane Kesler return with a strong slate of all-star buckers, including Order Up, Alley Ways and Cool Alley.

Cool Alley, a 6-year-old mare, claimed the PRCA's top bareback horse honor last year and at last year's USST Cup Finale hooked up with Kelly Wardell for a winning 91-point trip in the final round.

"I felt if I could do my job I knew this horse could take me to first," Wardell said after his triumphant ride.

Wardell, the bareback event representative who picks the stock for the USST Cup Finale,

said the field is stocked with superstars.

Ike Sankey's Wagon Box is one of those extraordinary horses. The bareback bronc nearly bucked off Clint Corey at last year's Wrangler NFR and was included in the eliminator pen there.

"Clint kind of clinged to him (71 points in Round 3), won him the average title," Wardell said. "That's one of the buckingest horses other than Cool Alley that I've seen in a long time."

Cotton Rosser's Sundowner Snuff, another young horse, carried Larry Sandvick to the ninth round victory last year at the Wrangler NFR.

"He's spectacular," Wardell said. "Someone is going to win a lot of money on that horse."

Wardell said Sundowner Snuff will be featured in the final round



Record-breaker: Cody Hancock, the 2000 world champion, reels off a Wrangler NFR record 96-point ride on Mr. USA.

'Some have said he bucks an awful lot like Bodacious, but he doesn't. He's not a bull that damages people.'

— Cyndi Gilbert of Diamond G Rodeo Company on T-Bug

2002 USST CUP FINALE STOCK ROSTER

with Cool Alley, Order Up and Tahiti Treat, also of Kesler's.

Two-time world champion Lan LaJeunesse won the last round at the Dodge National Circuit Finals Rodeo aboard Tahiti Treat.

"This is an electric, really bucky little horse," LaJeunesse said after winning the DNCFR. "She did a lot better than me tonight. She's a snappy, buckin' little booger."

The saddle broncs are equally impressive, according to Red Lemmel, the event representative who picked the Finale herd.

In addition to the 2001 PRCA saddle bronc of the year, Painted Smile of the Kesler string, Mike Cervi's RodeoHouston Rio Bravo and Bennie Beutler's Commotion are on tap to buck at the USST championship event.

RodeoHouston Rio Bravo and four-time world champion saddle bronc rider Billy Etbauer combined for a Wrangler NFR record 90-point ride in 1999.

Commotion is a three-time PRCA bareback horse of the year winner (1998-2000). Beutler has moved him to saddle bronc riding this year.

There will be no nights off at the Finale, Lemmel said.

Other examples of the elite saddle bronc field are Cervi's Sunday Silence, Chad Burch's Blood Brother and Red Wasp, owned by Stace Smith.

Sunday Silence tossed Glen O'Neill to the dirt at last year's Wrangler NFR.

Blood Brother earned second-place stock honors at last year's USST event in Las Vegas.

And Red Wasp, "he's a TV pen type of horse," Lemmel said. "Pretty rank. Not an eliminator, but sure can buck you off."

In the final round, Painted Smile, Blood Brother, Commotion and Sunday Silence get the nod from Lemmel.

"It will be good-watching every performance," Lemmel said. "If a cowboy stubs a toe, he'll hit the dirt."

BAREBACK HORSES

Beutler Brothers and Cervi
Teacher's Pet
Three Forks

Beutler and Son Rodeo Co.
Tucson
Sure Foot Sue

Burch Rodeo
Sacred Sunday
Margaritaville
Cathy's Clown
Papoose
Silk Stalking

Burns Rodeo Company
Badger

Cervi Championship Rodeo Co.
Blue Monday
Red Cloud Dip

Flying U Rodeo Co.
Sundowner Snuff

Honeycutt Rodeo Inc.
Ragged Edge

Kesler Rodeo
Order Up
Sugar Shack

Kesler Championship Rodeo
Alley Ways
Icicle
Pack Rat
Cool Alley
Bar None-Tahiti Treat
Cloverleaf
Triple Crown

Korkow Rodeos
Anchor Bay
Haywire
Dirty Girl
Yankee Doodle
Mud Shovel

Rafter G Rodeo Co.
Durango

Rosser Rodeo
Lady Red Hawk
Samantha

Sankey Rodeo
William
War Wagon
Sheep Dog
Parlor Game
Wagon Box
Exotic Trail
Barn Dance
Trey
Jamboree

Stace Smith Pro Rodeos
Vanderbilt

SADDLE BRONCS

Beutler Brothers and Cervi
Crow Country
Boot Scootin' Boogie
Sunday Silence

Beutler and Son Rodeo Co.
Golden Chances
Commotion
Rodeo Drive
Popeye

Burch Rodeo
Blood Brother
Bath Bubbles
Sandra Dee
Curley Joe
Cajun Queen

Cervi Championship Rodeo
RodeoHouston Rio Bravo
Brown Bomber

Flying U Rodeo Co.
Sams Town Snuff
Lady Blackhawk

Gronoway Brothers Rodeo
Canadian Sunrise
Prorodeo.com

Harper and Morgan Rodeo
Teddy Bear
Sweet Dreams

Kesler Rodeo
Painted Smile

Kesler Championship Rodeo
Collect Call
Firecracker
Cool Shadows

Korkow Rodeos
Little Vegas
Vidalia
Crazy Horse
Stardust
Queeny

Rafter G Rodeo Co.
Ringo

Russell Rodeo Co.
Fancy Pants
Caldwell

Sankey Rodeo
Dunny
Side Show
Dimensha
Wild Card
Robin Who
Stace Smith Pro Rodeos
Red Wasp
Desperado
Flying High
Mc Hammer
Shaggin

BULLS

Beutler and Son Rodeo Co.
Flip Flop
No. 610
No. 741
No. 744

Burns Rodeo Co.
Classical T.
Slammer

Cervi Championship Rodeo
Explosive Binion

Diamond G Rodeos Inc.
Mr. USA



Red-Blooded: Red Lemmel spurs out Burch Rodeo's Blood Brother during the fourth round of the 2001 Wrangler NFR.

Wanna Dance
T-Bug
Orange Crush

Flying U Rodeo Co.
Quickdraw

Gronoway Brothers Rodeo
Cash
Free Loader
Top Gun
Wild Side
Smokin' Gun
Say La Vee

Harper and Morgan Rodeo
Smoke
Rampage II

Honeycutt Rodeo Inc.
Que Ball

Kesler Rodeo

No. 840
No. 666

Rafter G Rodeo Co.
Johnny Rotten
Spectacular

Rosser Rodeo
Wild Thing

Salt River Rodeo Co.
Freckles
Alligator
Clayton's Pet
Freak on a Leash
Prime Time
Diamond's Ghost

Sutton Rodeos Inc.
Jack Daniel's
Little Yellow Whale

Western Rodeo Co.
Lightning Strike
Broken Bone

