

# Cowboy Poker thrills 'em at Iron County Fair



Spectrum photo / Jennifer King

It's called Cowboy Poker, pardner, and you'd better know when to hold 'em and when to fold 'em in this game. It's played with a regulation deck of 52 cards, some cowboys and a bull whose

job is to get players to drop out. Saturday night at the Iron County Fair, Dee Smith and Nathan Lister split the winnings. The fair concludes with another round tonight.

By JENNIFER KING

The Spectrum

**W**hat appeared to be a simple game of poker was the highlight of Saturday night's PRCA Rodeo for the sell-out crowd at the Iron County Fair.

However, this hand of poker had a couple of extra players — two raging bulls.

"Cowboy poker" was a crowd pleaser as five tough cowboys sat down in the middle of the rodeo arena for a mock game of poker as an angry bull was dealt into the game.

Within the first few moments of the game, three of the five players decided to fold their poker hands in fear of the bull. The absence of the three players left only Dee Smith, 27, and Nathan Lister, 18, to withstand the taunting from the bull.

The two players succeeded in outlasting the first bull so a second bull was released into the arena.

Even after a couple of encouraging nudges, shoves and threats of charging made by the bull, the players stayed in their chairs.

Finally, as the second bull was growing accustomed to the card players, a tie was called and Smith and Lister split the \$200 winnings.

Lister said he was willing to share the prize once they let the second bull out into the arena. "I was calling for a split," Lister said.

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"I was waiting for you to kiss him (the bull)," Ron MacIntosh said. MacIntosh was one of the five players who folded early in the game.

Smith said he was nervous before the entertaining game began. "My heart was thumping when I was walking out (into the arena)," he said.

As the bulls neared the two

players, Lister and Smith said they decided not to run for fear the bull would charge after them. "I wasn't going to move," Smith said.

"Cowboy poker" will also be featured at tonight's rodeo as the Iron County Fair concludes.

The crowd was also entertained by the comedy of Rooster Kersten and his pet llama and Marty Martek as he posed as Rambo between the bronc riding, steer wrestling, bull riding, barrel racing and calf roping events.