



Robert Bowers records a score of 84 to share the go-round lead with Vince Stanton in bull riding on Tuesday night.

# Two tie for first on bulls

□ Robert Bowers and Vince Stanton handle the pain to reach the top of Tuesday's go-round.

By Jeff Wolf  
Review-Journal

Cowboys don't make a big deal about catching a bad break because it's just part of rodeo, whether it's an unfavorable draw or a fractured bone.

Robert Bowers and Vince Stanton are proof. The two cowboys tied for first place in the bull-riding go-round Tuesday night in the National Finals Rodeo, when only five bulls were ridden for the full eight seconds.

That was a big improvement over the previous two days when a total of five riders were able to stay on, making it the rankest event of the week.

The bulls have been especially rough on Bowers and Stanton on their the way to the finals.

Stanton is in his first finals and brought along injuries to both shoulders. He also has taken a shot of a pain-killer in his left ankle twice in the past two days.

Bowers, who had broken his left forearm in each of the past three years, thinks he might have made it four in a row during his 84-point ride Tuesday.

"I heard (my forearm) pop real bad when I was riding," Bowers said, an ice pack attached from wrist to elbow.

If it's broken, he has had plenty of practice on what to do.

"I'll just go to my other hand if it's broke," he said. "I'll do that if I have to. I'll get on no



**A healthy leg up on her competitors**

- Barrel racer Janet Stover reaps the rewards of patience with her horse's injury/8C
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## From 1C

matter what.

"I feel confident with my right hand, but I might not be able to ride the rankest bull."

Stanton's pain was eased when he drew Mail Man, a bull he had ridden two months ago at the Original Coors Rodeo in Phoenix.

"He's just good to ride," Stanton said as he untied his shoulder brace. "He kicks like a bareback or bronc."

Stanton — son of Bill Stanton, a five-time finals bull-riding qualifier — not only had not made a full ride in the finals, a wagonload of injuries had contributed to him riding only five bulls successfully in his last 20 rodeos over the past two months.

"I almost forgot what it's like to ride," said Stanton, of Weiser,

Idaho.

Bowers and Stanton each won \$11,555.

While a bit of physical agony dimmed the glee of the bull riders, Pete Hawkins couldn't quit smiling.

Hawkins padded his lead in the world-championship standings by winning the bareback event for the second consecutive night and third in the last four. The win pushed his finals earnings to an NFR-best \$35,726 and his season total to \$125,221.

"If it's all right, y'all, I'll be back every night," said Hawkins, of Weatherford, Texas.

Hawkins rode I'm A Tiger Skoal for 88 points.

"I know damn well if every time I nod my head and do my best, that's all I can do.

"That's the way God intended

everyone to live their life: to try their damndest and hardest every time."

Other winners in the fifth round were Birch Negaard, steer wrestling; Speed Williams and Rich Skelton, team roping; Billy Etbauer, saddle bronc; Mike Matt, bull fighting; and Janet Stover, barrel racing.

The only change in finals average leaders was Williams and Skelton, who regained the lead in team roping from Daniel Green and Allen Bach.

For the all-around world championship, Cody Ohl has won \$39,452 in calf and steer roping to pull to within less than \$10,000 of Fred Whitfield, who came to Las Vegas as the leader. Whitfield, who has won \$21,549 in the finals, leads Ohl \$173,887 to \$164,702.

## NFR scoreboard

Results Tuesday of the \$4.4 million National Finals Rodeo at the Thomas & Mack Center:

### Fifth Go-Round Bareback

1, Pete Hawkins, Weatherford, Texas, 88 points on Harry Voids Im A Tiger Skoal, \$12,909. 2, Jason Wylie, Rosebud, Ark., 86, \$10,202. 3, (tie), Mark Gomes, Nickerson, Kan., Deb Greenough, Red Lodge, Mont., and Larry Sandvick, Kaycee, Wyo., 85, \$5,483. 6, Clint Corey, Powell Butte, Ore., 83, \$2,082.

### Steer Wrestling

1, Birch Negaard, Buffalo, S.D., 3.9, \$12,909. 2, (tie), Mike Smith, New Iberia, La., and Ote Berry, Checotah, Okla., 4.0, \$8,953 each. 4, (tie), Mickey Gee, Wichita Falls, Texas, and Randy Suhn, North Platte, Neb., 4.5, \$4,372 each. 6, Chad Hagan, Leesville, La., 5.0, \$2,082.

### Team Roping

1, Speed Williams, Jacksonville, Fla., and Rich Skelton, Llano, Texas, 4.4 seconds, \$12,909. 2, Daniel Green, Oakdale, Calif., and Allen Bach, Valley Home, Calif., 4.7, \$10,202. 3, Steve Purcella, Hereford, Texas, and Wayne Folmer, Lubbock, Texas, \$7,704. 4, Jimmy Tanner, Tifton, Ga., and Brad Culpepper, Poulan, Ga., 5.0, \$5,413. 5, Matt Tyler, Weatherford, Okla., and Kory Koontz, Sudan, Texas, 5.4, \$3,331. 6, Bobby Hurley, Ceres, Calif., and Monty Joe Petska, Turlock, Calif., 5.6, \$2,082.

### Saddle Bronc

1, Billy Etbauer, Ree Heights, S.D., 86 points on Sankey Rodeo Companys Dunny, \$12,909. 2, Scott Johnston, DeLeon, Texas, 85, \$10,202. 3, Dan Mortensen, Manhattan, Mont., 84, \$7,704. 4, Rod Hay, Canada, 83, \$5,413. 5, (tie), Steve Dollarhide, Wikeup, Ariz., and Cliff Norris, Goodwell, Okla., 82,

\$2,707 each.

### Calf Roping

1, (tie), Stran Smith, Tell, Texas, and Tony Reina, Brazoria, Texas, 7.6 seconds, \$11,555 each. 3, Jerome Schneeberger, Ponca City, Okla., 8.1, \$7,704. 4, Trevor Brazile, Childress, Texas, 8.2, \$5,413. 5, Fred Whitfield, Hockley, Texas, 8.3, \$3,331. 6, Ricky Hyde, Conway, Ark., 8.4, \$2,082.

### Bull Riding

1, (tie), Vince Stanton, Weiser, Idaho, 84 points on Gilbert Rodeos Mailman; and Robert Bowers, Canada, 84 points on Beutler and Gaylord Rodeos Wimpey, \$11,555 each. 3, (tie), Mike Moore, Wellington, Colo., and Justin Daugherty, Mineral Wells, Texas, 82, \$6,558 each. 5, Cody Custer, Wickenburg, Ariz., 78, \$3,331. 6, Jason McClain, Kiowa, Colo., 77, \$2,082.

### Barrel Racing

1, Janet Stover, Jacksonville, Texas,

14.04 seconds, \$12,909. 2, Sherry Cervi, Midland, Texas, 14.07, \$10,202. 3, Kristie Peterson, Elbert, Colo., 14.11, \$7,704. 4, Tona Wright, Moriarity, N.M., 14.12, \$5,413. 5, Rachael Myllymaki, Arlee, Mont., 14.15, \$3,331. 6, Melissa Hubier, Cleveland, Texas, 14.18, \$2,082.

### Second Go-Round Wrangler Bullfight

1, Mike Matt, Billings, Mont., 85 points with Coyote Hills Sabonas Lil Richard, \$10,813. 2, Rob Smets, Sharmock, Texas, 83, \$8,110. 3, Greg Rumohr, Rio Vista, Texas, 80, \$5,407. 4, Lance Brittan, Windsor, Colo., 78 \$2,703.

### Standings

#### All-Around

1, Fred Whitfield, Hockley, Texas, \$177,219. 2, Cody Ohl, Stephenville, Texas, \$164,703. 3, Blair Burk, Durant, Okla., \$144,108.