

Coors Light and Appliteck Inc. Tour Update

Holy Cow, this season is flying by. A bar K has been “hair straight back” since the beginning of June putting on rodeos. I’m taking this opportunity to thank all of the cowboys and cowgirls that are on the trail this summer. Also, I want to re-cap some of the action on the Coors Light and Appliteck Inc. Tour up to and including Kitchener (see website for tour standings).

Let’s start with Holstein.

Having \$2000/event on the line brought out the cowboy in everyone. We had the toughest of the toughs out in the bareback and saddle bronc riding. I was certain when Shawn Minor drew “Skywalker” in the bareback and “Incentive” in the bronc riding that we might as well write the cheques and save him the trip. Shawn rides great in both events and has the creds to prove it. However, it just goes to show you that on any given day at a rodeo, anyone can win first and no one should take anything for granted.

Shawn rode great as always but those two horses didn’t have their best days. Although Shawn was sitting first in both when he left, the door was still open to others.

DON’T leave the door open when you’ve got the likes of Joe Courville, Sylvain Meunier, Tyler Foster and Rod Weese lurking around.

I hadn’t met Joe Courville before Holstein. Being a bareback riding enthusiast, I’m always curious and excited to see people ride that I haven’t seen before. Joe didn’t disappoint. He drug it outta one of Joe Gauthier’s little outlaws for 78 points to claim the bareback riding money, buckle and prestige. I know who Joe Courville is now. He came back and won Kitchener and grabbed some more

cash at Chatham. I love it when a guy can get down the road on what he's winning.

Another cowboy that is impressing me in a big way this year is Rod Weese. Rod had his game face on from day one this year and consequently is carrying around one of the biggest wads of cash I've seen awhile. I like to see a good cowboy or cowgirl with their pockets full and their goals clear. Rod won All-Around titles at New Tec, Holstein, Kitchener and the tally isn't done for Chatham but I know he's in the hunt there, too. Just right Rod! Rod's bronc ride on Kamora at Holstein was worth 77 points and it's the kind of ride that I expect to see him make again and again.

The bull doggin' this year is RRRank! But, Rod Weese split win with Dan McGyver at Holstein in the toughest bull doggin' of the year so far. Cody Mousseau started it all when he lit one up with a 4.1 and one of the best handles I've ever seen anywhere. Sadly, he didn't get a SNIFF, 4.1 didn't even place. YEEEEEEHAW I love it!!! Let's talk about Danny Maciver. Here's a guy who has the best attitude in the world. He's laid back and friendly.....most of the time, lucky for all of us. But, puttin' the pressure on ol' Danny Boy in any arena is a bad strategy, particularly his hometown when there's a bunch of money on the table. As the bull doggin' got tougher and faster, it played right into his game. Danny told me that he came to work with a number of 3.1 in his mind. Dan was 3.3 just to keep All Around Champ Rod Weese honest and "make him like it".

No stranger to pressure and winning, Ross Scully came for the money. I get pumped when the Tie Down boys put the pressure on Rossco. Here's a cowboy who knows how to win and when to "cut loose" and shoot the moon. I watched him snatch the biscuit at the finals last year and it gave me

a whole new respect for his ability to handle pressure. For example, this year on the Coors Light and Appliteck Inc. Tour Ross has won two firsts and two seconds in four rodeos in the tie down roping against the likes of Jarod Nooren, Justin Thigpen, Brody Pappino, Cody McCartney and on and on. What can I say? Outstanding! Ross's wife Lacey is on the trail hard and holding her lead in the breakaway roping, also.

The team roping has been a crap shoot. You never know who's gonna win it. There are around 40 teams right now and 15 of them are super tough. The rest of the bunch can beat them all on any given Sunday too.

The tub turnin' has been a good mix of winners as well with no one really dominating it but typically you have to be in the low 15s to cash a cheque. Lisa Gray won Kitchener with a 15.185 followed by Laura Lee Thomas.

The junior events are full and competitive. That's what I like to see. The junior steer riding has typically about 10 entries. These kids are the nicest group of young cowboys and cowgirls that I've had the pleasure of being around in a long time. We have some new kids out this year and I've personally taken them down to the bucking chutes to meet the other kids, borrow equipment or just stand and watch. They are always well received by the up and coming champions. Even though everybody is there to win 1st, Josh Thomson, Dylan Van Koughnet, Tyson Kimmet and all the others have eagerly accepted and helped wherever they could. I know that Cory Lewis appreciates it and he'll be around for a long time. That's the cowboy way and I'm proud to have these kids as members. Cory got his first one rode for the required 8 seconds at Chatham on the weekend. That is a guarantee that he's getting it figured

out and just like all the other steer riders, he wants to win the money. Junior barrels has been won with times that would place in the open barrel racing. More evidence that the Coor Light and Appliteck Inc. Tour is the benchmark in rodeo in this part of the world and we're raising great young athletes.

BULL RIDING!! Luke McCoag was 85 points to win Holstein on Gauthier's "Blue Thunder". They've had to be around 80 points all year to get a win and Chatham was no exception. Bump Posthewaite took three good attempts to get out on "Scruffy" but couldn't. He and Shane Rickley had been on the trail pretty hard for a couple of weeks and Bump had a torn groin muscle bothering him. I offered him the re-ride bull "8 Mile" and he turned him down because he'd aggravated his injury trying to get out on Scruffy. Bump was leaning against the fence in pain, I walked over to him and said "you can win the rodeo on this bull if you think you can ride him". At that point his travelling partner Shane Rickley was leading the bull riding. Bump said, "OK, I'll get on him". Something that all young cowboys should understand is that you are going to get injured in any extreme sport and you will have to compete when you are not feeling 100%, rodeo is no exception. Bump's a cowboy and he wants to win first. He climbed over the plankin', strapped his twine on ol' 8 Mile and shut the pain out of his mind. 8 seconds later, Bump's the champ and Shane wins second. If anyone's gonna beat you, it might as well be someone riding in the same vehicle, it's good for moral. They grabbed a cold Coors Light and a sack full of money and hit the trail again. That's rodeo and this season has been a blast so far.

I'm looking forward to Wiarton this weekend. Some of the toughs aren't entered. This creates opportunity for the

“businessmen” cowboys. You can make the finals and/or win this tour just by “out rodeoing” people that are actually more skilled than you are. So let’s see if there are any changes to the lists of contenders after this weekend. There are only two chances to win this tour after Wiarnton,. However, Powassan is going to be a huge rodeo. Labor Day weekend and \$1000 added. We crown the Tour champions that weekend. So, make sure you get entered at Wiarnton, Shannonville and Powassan. You can win the tour and make the finals at those three rodeos alone.

Thanks from Amanda, Emma and I to all of you that are competing on this great tour and thanks to our sponsors for making it happen.

See ya down the road a piece,

Shawn C. Orr