



For Immediate Release

Contact: Kelly Summers
kelannsummers@gmail.com
914-261-6379

Richest XTREME Bareback Riding Comes to the Bitterroot Valley
YELLOWSTONE Darby XTREME Bareback Attracts World's top Riders

April 12, 2023 – Darby, MT - For the fourth consecutive year, the Darby Rodeo Association (DRA-501 (c)(3)) will host the **YELLOWSTONE DARBY XTREME BAREBACK** (formerly the YELLOWSTONE Darby Riggin' Rally), at the Richard Cromwell Memorial Rodeo Grounds in Darby, MT, June 3-4.

The Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association (PRCA) sanctioned event will attract many of the top ranked bareback riders in the country, to compete for \$60,000 in added money, which is the richest purse ever offered at a bareback event. Paramount Network's original series, **YELLOWSTONE** will be the presenting sponsor again this year.

The event will run over two days, with the qualifier taking place on Saturday, June 3 at 2:00 PM (gates open at noon) with \$10,000 in added money up for grabs. The top ten qualifiers will move on to Sunday's XTREME, where they will be joined by twenty of the world's top PRCA riders, with \$50,000 in added money on the line. Sunday's performance will start at 6:00 PM (gates open at 3:00 PM) and be televised live on the Cowboy Channel.

Last year's event brought a world record breaking ride to the valley as young bareback rider Rocker Steiner scored a 95 aboard C5 Rodeo's Virgil. Prior to the history making ride, the record score was 94, set in 2002 by cowboy Wes Stevenson at the 2002 Texas Stampede. Stevenson rode Cover Girl and posted the score in his home state. Since then, the 94-point record score was tied four times, over a twenty-year period until Steiner's ride in Darby. The then 18-year-old bareback rider was named PRCA's Resistol 2022 Rookie of the Year in bareback riding.

The Yellowstone Darby XTREME Bareback event has quickly become one of the biggest events of the year, in the Bitterroot Valley," said Caleb Bennett, Corvallis resident and 10-time Wrangler National Finals Rodeo qualifier. "I look forward to this event each year. The competition is top notch and supporting the Darby Rodeo Association is a great way to give back to the community." Bennett has amassed close to \$2million in career earnings and finished last year ranked 12th in the PRCA RAM World Standings.

In addition to two days of great competition, the DRA will host live entertainment on Saturday evening, following the qualifier. The entertainment will be included in the ticket price for Saturday's event. Tickets for Saturday's qualifier are \$25.00. Tickets for Sunday's event are \$45.00. A combo ticket for both events can be purchased for \$60.00. Tickets can be purchased online at <https://www.darbyrodeo.org/tickets-events>, Darby Wine & Spirits, and Murdochs in Hamilton, or at the gate. The DRA will offer a 10% student discount to all students who buy tickets at the gate with a student ID. Net proceeds from both days of competition will benefit the DRA and their community programs, including their youth, high school rodeo and scholarship programs. Sunday's event will be televised live on the Cowboy Channel.

"The support we've received in the way of sponsorships from businesses and friends of the DRA, in the Bitterroot Valley and Missoula area is what allows us to bring these great events to the community," said DRA President Cal Ruark. "Our mission has always been to promote the sport of rodeo and the western way of life through quality entertainment. The net proceeds from these events go directly to support all our programs, including youth and high school rodeo and our scholarship program for graduating Bitterroot Valley rodeo athletes. To host the richest bareback event in the country, attracting the best riders is pretty darn special," continued Ruark.

About Darby Rodeo Association (DRA): DRA is a qualified – 501(c)(3) charitable community organization on a mission to preserve and promote the sport of rodeo and our western way of life through the production of quality western entertainment events, support and encouragement of youth and high school rodeo, and investment in building the community.

About Bareback Riding: a rodeo event that involves a rodeo participant riding a bucking horse that attempts to throw or buck off the rider. Originally based on the necessary horse breaking skills of a working cowboy, the event is now a highly stylized competition that utilizes horses that often are specially bred for strength, agility, and bucking ability. A rider must stay on for eight seconds to complete a qualifying ride. Riders are judged on their control, spurring technique, and ability to adapt to whatever happens during the ride. The horses are judged on their power, speed, and agility. A good score in bareback riding is in the mid-80s.

Photos available upon request

For information on sponsorships and how you can support the event, Contact:

Kelly Summers: kealnnsummers@gmail.com 914-261-6379

Nancy Shearer: nshearer159@yahoo.com 817-269-0779