



## WORLD'S TOP COWBOYS EN ROUTE TO CLOVERDALE FOR 2009 RODEO EVENTS

For Immediate Release (April 9, 2009)

Surrey, British Columbia – The 2009 Cloverdale Rodeo will have the strongest slate of competitors in the event's 63 year history – with the reigning world and Canadian champions in each of the four events committed to attend.

*"This is an incredible opportunity for Canadians to see the world's best – and it is very rare to have all four world champions attend a single rodeo event, outside of the Canadian or US National Finals,"* says Cloverdale Rodeo Chairperson Penny Smythe.

**The world's #1-ranked competitors in bareback, saddle bronc, bull riding and ladies barrel racing events will convene this May Long Weekend to vie for the more than \$360,000 in prize money up for grabs at this year's 63<sup>rd</sup>-annual Cloverdale Rodeo.**

With gold buckles on their belts courtesy of the 2008 Wrangler National Finals Rodeo Dec. 3-13 in Las Vegas, these four fierce competitors are raring to win again under Cloverdale's "invitational" format, introduced in 2008, which offers competitors a chance to win at the second highest paying pro rodeo in Canada.

### **Bareback:**

**Justin McDaniel**, of Porum Oklahoma, won his first world's gold buckle in bareback riding last year at just 22 years old. But he didn't stop his record-book-setting ways there. McDaniel also goes down in history for scoring 859 points on 10 of the rankest horses in the world. McDaniel climbed the ladder from 10<sup>th</sup> place to earn his first-place finish, ending 2008 with winnings in excess of \$216,000.

### **Saddle Bronc:**

**Cody Wright** earned his first-place title in saddle bronc at the world championships before the competition was even over, claiming his gold buckle in Round 9. Finishing with more than \$247,000 on the season, Wright – a family man from Milford, Utah – is a return visitor to the Cloverdale Rodeo and is hungry for another win.

### **Bull Riding:**

In bull riding, **J.W. Harris** made an impression to the world by riding six bulls to win the average with 507 points, edging out the season-long leader. Harris, of May, Texas, finished the year with more than \$208,000 in winnings.

### **Barrel Racing:**

Canadian-favourite **Lindsay Sears**, who has been heating up the standings for quite some time, is now ladies barrel racing's first \$300,000 competitor (her 2008 earnings topped \$323,000). After an amazing showing in Las Vegas, she is also the first Canadian to take home the gold buckle in barrel racing while her beloved horse, "Martha", earned the AQHA-PRCA horse of the year title.

Canadian champions confirmed are **Kyle Bowers** of Brooks, Alberta (bareback); **Dusty Hausauer** of Dickinson, North Dakota (saddle bronc); **Tyler Thomsom** of Black Diamond, Alberta (bull riding); and **Lisa Lockhart** of Oelrichs, South Dakota (ladies barrel racing).

The 2009 Cloverdale Rodeo and Country Fair will take place May 15<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> at the Cloverdale Fairgrounds, for more information visit [www.cloverdalerodeo.com](http://www.cloverdalerodeo.com).

**About:**

The Cloverdale Rodeo and Exhibition Association is the non-profit organization that manages the world famous Cloverdale Rodeo & Country Fair held every year on the May long weekend (May 15<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>, 2009) at the Cloverdale Fairgrounds in Surrey, British Columbia.

The Association is also responsible for the year-round management of the eight facilities on the Cloverdale Fairgrounds that host over 1000 events annually, including trade shows, concerts, festivals, sporting events, horse and dog shows, swap meets, flea markets, weddings and meetings.

For more information on the Association and the 63rd annual Cloverdale Rodeo and the 120th Country Fair visit: [www.cloverdalerodeo.com](http://www.cloverdalerodeo.com).

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