

## **Packed Crowds See World Class Competition at the Indian National Finals Rodeo**

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LAS VEGAS, NV--Each year, Native American professional rodeo fans flock to the South Point Hotel and Casino to cheer on their favorite athletes. This year marked the 46<sup>th</sup> annual championship rodeo, spanning five days of competition from October 18-22<sup>nd</sup>. The week included a Jr/Sr. Championship Rodeo as well as the finals rodeo. No other rodeo association includes this format in their championship event, thus allowing for grandchildren and children to compete alongside their parents and grandparents. Family and culture sets the Indian National Finals apart from the rest, resulting in a true family affair.

This year, there were over 400 Native American contestants representing more than 100 tribal Nations from across the United States and Canada. These lucky few earned the opportunity to compete for the highest titles in Professional Native American Rodeo. The week was filled with top notch action featuring athletes showing off the skills that make them the best in their event and the sport of rodeo. All told, contestants competed for over \$1 million in cash and prizes in front of 13,000 spectators.

The President of the INFR Commission, Bo Vocu, in response to this year's rodeo stated, "15 years ago we moved the INFR to Las Vegas. We had a small budget and small staff. Since then, both have grown tremendously. We put on one of the largest finals in all of rodeo and have the best contestants, fans and personnel in the country. I can't wait to see what 2023 brings!"

On Saturday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>, the week culminated with the main event. The final round featured the 15 contestants in each major event with the highest accumulated scores battling for the ultimate titles. Competition was tight with hundreds of a second separating the athletes in several events. Nine athletes became INFR world champions and two more winning the All-around Bow boy and cowgirl titles. In response to his big win as the 2022 Bareback World Champion, Steven Dewolfe said, "It feels amazing! There's so much hard work and so much great competition that goes into this. I just want to say thank you to all those who keep supporting Indian rodeo."

The rodeo is made possible each year by the generous support of over 50 sponsors that include tribal nations and Native American enterprises as well as industry giants known for supporting the sport of rodeo such as Las Vegas Events, Cooper Tires, Roper, and Classic Ropes. Via the Parade of Nations sponsorship, 30 Native American tribes flew their tribal flags in the arena offering support for their member athletes while declaring that Native American people are still here. During the past two years, INFR has been especially excited to announce partnerships with Teton Ridge and PBR that will increase opportunities for Native American cowboys and cowgirls. Lastly, the rodeo would not be possible without the strong partnership with South Point Hotel and Casino and the support of the competitors, their families, and the thousands of fans who cheer them on throughout the year.

The Indian National Finals Rodeo will be returning to South Point Equestrian Center in 2023 from October 24-28<sup>th</sup>.

### **Indian National Finals Rodeo Results**

All Around Cowboy:	Erich Rogers (Navajo Nation)
All Around Cowgirl:	Kassidy Dennison (Navajo Nation)
Bareback Bronc:	Steven Dewolfe (Oglala Sioux Tribe)
Steer Wrestling:	Jim Stevens (Siksika Nation)
Ladies Breakaway Roping:	Bailey Bates (Navajo Nation)
Saddle Bronc:	Cash Wilson (Oglala Sioux Tribe)
Tie Down Roping:	Jaxon Clegg (Cherokee Nation)
Ladies Barrel Racing:	Sonya Dodginghorse (Tsuut'ina Nation)
Team Roping-Header:	Trey Begay (Navajo Nation)
Team Roping-Heeler:	Cody Lansing (Navajo Nation)
Bull Riding:	Robbie Taylor (Navajo Nation)

### **JR/Sr. Championship Rodeo Results**

Jr. Barrel Racing:	Tommie Kay Martin (Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe)
Jr. Bull Riding:	Tahj Wells (Blackfeet Tribe)
Jr. Breakaway Roping:	Kylie Dodson (Navajo Tribe)
Sr. Breakaway Roping:	Troy Crawler (Stoney Nakoda Tribe)
Team Roping-Header:	Don Bettelyoun (Oglala Sioux Tribe)
Team Roping- Heeler:	Spider Ramone (Navajo Nation)

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