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For Kansas' Biggest Rodeo

MUD OUT

Phillipsburg rodeo team roping champs prevail despite wet conditions

Phillipsburg, Kans. (August 5, 2023) – Mud at Kansas Biggest Rodeo in Phillipsburg didn't deter team ropers Jake Clay and Kollin VonAhn from winning their event on the final night of the rodeo.

The area, which has been in a drought, received as much as five inches of rain in the last week, making the arena heavy in spots.

Clay, Sapulpa, Okla. and VonAhn, Blanchard, Okla. turned in a time of 4.3 seconds, four-tenths of a second faster than the number two team, Luke Brown and Hunter Koch.

In less than perfect conditions, the ropers came in with a winning mindset.

It was VonAhn, the heeler, who set the tone for the run. "Kollin said, we're going through all this weather, we want to win first," Clay said.

"It's one of those deals," VonAhn said. "We're all going to get wet, we're all going to get muddy. I told Jake, I'd like to win this rodeo for going through all this trouble. Usually when the conditions are tough, it's mind over matter."

There's a decade and a half in ages between the two; Clay is 24 and VonAhn is 40. That's been a good thing, VonAhn said. "He's a young guy that's got a lot of good things ahead for him. He's breathing fire, and it's fun to rope with somebody who's excited. It keeps you feeling young."

VonAhn is a two-time world champion (2009, 2015); he is ranked fortieth in the world standings. Clay is ranked seventeenth.

VonAhn appreciates the purse money the rodeo committee adds to the team roping purse: \$18,000 in the team roping alone.

"We appreciate the committees raising the extra money to help us out," he said. "It dang sure doesn't go unnoticed.

"Anytime you go up here for the Kansas run, this is a rodeo you can't miss."

It was a 90 point ride in the bull riding that won the Phillipsburg rodeo.

Florida cowboy Ernie Courson put 90 points on the Beutler and Son Rodeo Co. bull Moody Muley for the win.

The bull isn't easy to get along with in the chute, being "touchy," Courson said. "If you touch him with your spurs (in the chute), he'll jump forward, and you don't really want that," he said. "So you have to ease up on him. I barely touched him with my spurs, and he felt it."

So when Courson left the chute, he wasn't sitting close to his bull rope, which is usual form for a bull rider. "I just nodded, sitting on his flank, and hoped for the best.

"Which is not good, because you want to be as close as you can to your rope when you nod. With that bull, he's got a hair trigger, and you have to nod and jump to him."

When the bull came out of the chute, he hit the chute and "rocked me over to the side, but when he turned back into my hand, it popped me back up there. It was all fun after that."

Courson has had a good rodeo year, winning money at every one of the big Texas winter rodeos, the short round at San Angelo, Texas, and at the National Western Stock Show and Rodeo in Denver.

Ranked 21st in the world standings, his check for more than \$3600 from Phillipsburg will help jump him up in the standings.

After his ride, Courson did the "Ernie special:" a back flip from the top of the panels to the ground.

Courson and his wife Liz have two sons: Trenton and Ryder.

Other champions from this year's rodeo include bareback riders Jacek Frost, Browns Valley, Calif. and Gauge McBride, Kearney, Neb. (83 each); saddle bronc rider Trent Burd, Madison, Kan. (85); steer wrestler Trisyn Kalawaia, Hilo, Hawaii (3.4 seconds); tie-down roper Denton Oestmann, Alva, Okla. (8.0 seconds); and barrel racer Haley Kinsel, Cotulla, Texas (16.75.)

During the rodeo, a check presentation was made, recognizing the donation for Tough Enough to Wear Pink. This year, a total of \$10,774 was raised for the Hope in the Heartland Fund. Donations were picked up at the rodeo, with an additional six businesses matching funds. Those six businesses are the Phillipsburg Rodeo Association, Amber Wave, A&A Coors of Hays, Rodgers & Associates Insurance, Inc., Farmers State Bank, and B&B Redimix.

During the August 3 performance, the 2023 Phillipsburg Rodeo Queen was crowned. Dakota Glasshoff, Murdock, Neb., won the crown. She is a junior at Elmwood-Murdock High School, where she is involved in FCCLA, Student Council, and 4-H. She competes

in barrel racings and youth rodeos and in her spare time, trains horses, reads, and sees movies. She is the daughter of Tiffany Glasshoff.

The 2024 rodeo will be held August 1-3.

For more information, visit www.kansasbiggestrodeo.com.

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Cutlines:

For the second time, Hailey Kinsel wins the barrel racing at the Phillipsburg rodeo. The four-time world champion barrel racer won this year's rodeo with a time of 16.75 seconds; she won the 2021 rodeo with a time of 16.61 seconds. Photo by Terri Abrahamsen.

Florida's Ernie Courson wins Kansas Biggest Rodeo with a 90 point ride on the Beutler bull Moody Muley. Photo by Terri Abrahamsen.

Final results, Kansas Biggest Rodeo, Phillipsburg, Kansas – August 3-5, 2023

All-around champion: Chett Weitz, London, Texas – tie-down roping and team roping

Bareback Riding co-champions: Gauge McBride, Kearney, Neb. and Jacek Frost, Browns Valley, Calif.

1. (tie) Gauge McBride, Kearney, Neb. 83 points on Nutrena's Pebbles and Jacek Frost, Browns Valley, Calif. 83 points on Cap Rock; 3. Rocker Steiner, Weatherford, Texas 82.5; 4. Jess Pope, Garnett, Kan. 82; 5. (tie) Roedy Farrell, Thermopolis, Wyo. and Mark Kreder, Collinsville, Okla. 77.5 each; 7. (tie) Briar Dittmar, Dallas Center, Iowa and Ty Pope, Garnett, Kan. 76.5 each.

Steer Wrestling champion: Trisyn Kalawaia, Hilo, Hawaii

1. Trisyn Kalawaia, Hilo, Hawaii 3.4 seconds; 2. (tie) Kaden Greenfield, Lakeview, Ore. and Dirk Tavenner, Rigby, Idaho 3.5 each; 4. (tie) Stetson Jorgensen, Malad, Idaho, Stephen Mullins, Mendenall, Miss. and Skyler Woolls, Sour Lake, Texas 3.6 each; 7. (tie) Jesse Brown, Baker City, Ore. and Dakota Eldridge, Elko, Neb. 3.7 each; 9. (tie) Walt Arnold, Coleman, Texas, Stockton Graves, Alva, Okla., Marc Joiner, Loranger, La. and Tyler Pearson, Atoka, Okla. 3.8 each.

Team Roping champions: Jake Clay, Sapulpa, Okla. and Kollin VonAhn, Blanchard, Okla.

1. Jake Clay, Sapulpa, Okla./Kollin VonAhn, Blanchard, Okla. 4.3 seconds; 2. Luke Brown, Rock Hill, S.C./Hunter Koch, Vernon, Texas 4.7; 3. (tie) Spencer Mitchell, Orange Cove, Calif./Justin Davis, Cottonwood, Calif.; Joe Macoubrie, Alva, Okla./Chase Johnson, Okeene, Okla.; and Dustin Egusquiza, Marianna, Fla./Levi Lord, Sturgis, S.D. 4.8 each; 6. (tie) Marcus Theriot, Lumberton, Miss./Cole Curry, Liberty, Miss. and Andrew Ward, Edmond, Okla./Buddy Hawkins II, Stephenville, Texas 4.9 each; 8. (tie)

Coy Rahlmann, Ellsinore, Mo./Jonathan, Torres, Ocala, Fla. and Mason Appleton, Chelsea, Okla./Cooper Freeman, Carthage, Mo. 5.0 each; 10. Casey Hicks, Talala, Okla./Steve Orth, Guthrie, Okla. 5.1

Saddle Bronc Riding champion: Trent Burd, Madison, Kan.

1. Trent Burd, Madison, Kan. 85 points on Wound Up; 2. Sterling Crawley, Stephenville, Texas 82.5; 3. Logan Cook, Alto, Texas 82; 4. Parker Fleet, Axtell, Texas 81; 5. Will Pollock, Utopia, Texas 80; 6. (tie) Weston Patterson, Waverly, Kan. and Warwick Southern, Weengallon, Australia 78.5 each; 8. Jarrod Hammons, Stephenville, Texas 78.

Tie Down Roping champion: Denton Oestmann, Alva, Okla.

1. Denton Oestmann, Alva, Okla. 8.0 seconds; 2. Dylan Hancock, San Angelo, Texas 8.2; 3. (tie) Tom Crouse Gallatin, Mo. and Cory Solomon, Prairie View, Texas 8.7 each; 5. Shad Mayfield, Clovis, N.M. 8.8; 6. (tie) Chet Weitz, London, Texas and Nolan Richie, Bristol, S.D. 8.9; 8. Booker McCutchen, Harrison, Ark. 9.0; 9. Trevor Hale, Perryton, Texas 9.1; 10. Colton Greene, Rocksprings, Texas 9.2.

Barrel Racing champion: Hailey Kinsell, Cotulla, Texas

1. Hailey Kinsel, Cotulla, Texas 16.75; 2. Summer Kosel, Glenham, S.D. 16.96; 3. Brittany Pozzi Tonozzi, Lampasas, Texas 17.12; 4. Stephanie Fryar, Waco, Texas 17.16; 5. Emily Beisel, Weatherford, Okla. 17.17; 6. LaTricia Duke, Three Rivers, Texas 17.21; 7. Molly Otto, Grand Forks, N.D. 17.22; 8. Andrea Busby, Brock, Texas 17.31; 9. Jordan Driver, Garden City, Texas 17.35; 10. Kassie Mowry, Dublin, Texas 17.38; 11. Suzanne Brooks, Seminole, Okla. 17.42; 12. (tie) Victoria Proctor, Ledbetter, Texas and Josey Groves, Lipan, Texas 17.44 each; 14. Rachel Werkmen, Wellsburg, Iowa 17.47; 15. Tracie Couch, Marshall, Okla. 17.48.

Bull Riding champion: Ernie Courson, Okeechobee, Fla.

1. Ernie Courson, Okeechobee, Fla. 90 points on Moody Muley; 2. Patterson Starcher, Ft. Scott, Kan. 87; 3. Caden Bunch, Tahlequah, Okla. 86; 4. Maverick Potter, Waxahachie, Texas 84; 5. Deklan Garland, Marlow, Okla. 81.5; 6. Jack Gilmore, Ironton, Mo. 79.5; 7. Harrison Klinka, Freeman, Mo. 79; 8. Jace Trosclair, Chauvin, La. 77.5.

** All results are unofficial. For complete results, visit www.prorodeo.com. For more information, visit www.KansasBiggestRodeo.com.

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