

MEDIA RELEASE

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World Champions & SDSU Alums coming to Brookings for the First Chance Bonanza Rodeo

When the 255 cowboys and cowgirls roll into the Swiftel Center in Brookings for the PRCA rodeo on November 5 & 6 at 7:30PM, there will be several recognizable names. Not only Pro Rodeo greats like 2005 World Champion Saddle Bronc Rider Jeff Willert and 2006 World Champion Saddle Bronc rider Chad Ferley, but also many SDSU Alumni. Joe Gunderson in particular leads the way. The SDSU Alumni who finished all 4 years of his College Rodeo career among the top 10 in the nation with a College National Finals Rodeo Reserve Championship for the Jacks in 2006. Joe will not only be competing at the First Chance Bonanza, but will be making his 1st appearance at the Wrangler National Finals Rodeo in Las Vegas in December by finishing 14th in the World Standings. Pro Rodeo's regular season wrapped up on September 30th and the top 15 in the world standings in each event qualify for the Super Bowl of rodeo the Wrangler National Finals Rodeo. There will be a record 72 Barrel Racers competing.

Other notable entries include a list of current and former NFR qualifiers; Jesse Bail of Camp Crook, SD (11x NFR); Chad Ferley of Oelrichs, SD (2006 World Champion Saddle BRonc Rider, 4x NFR); Joe Gunderson of Agar, SD (2010 NFR); Lisa Lockhart of Oelrichs, SD (2008 Canadian Finals Champion, 4x NFR); Scott Montague of Rapid City, SD (4x NFR); Jill Moody of Letcher, SD (3x NFR); Jake Rinehart of Highmore, SD (2x NFR); Jeff Willert of Belvidere, SD (2005 World Champion Saddle Bronc Rider, 6x NFR); Matt Zancaneli of Aurora, SD (3x NFR). Some other notable entries include: 5x Linderman Award winner Kyle Whitaker of Chambers, NE; 2010 Rookie of the Year in Bareback Riding Ty Breuer of Mandan, ND; DNCFR Team Roping Champion Brett Price of Faith, SD, Paul Grimesmann of Piedmont, SD and Brent Sutton, SDSU grad, finished in top 3 at College National Finals in Steer Wrestling. All current Dodge National Circuit Champions are also entered in the rodeo.

The rodeo livestock will be provided by Sutton Rodeos of Onida, SD. The Suttons, who have been in the rodeo business for 84 years have had livestock selected for all but 2 Wrangler National Finals Rodeos. The Suttons raise over 90% of their bucking horses which over the years have included: Deep Water (1979 PRCA Saddle Bronc Horse of the Year) and Tombstone (1985 PRCA Bareback Horse of the Year). Sutton Rodeos swept the livestock awards at Dodge Badlands Circuit Finals in Minot, ND winning Bareback and Saddle Bronc Top Animal with Chuckulator and the bull Devils Dust. They also won the year end Bareback with Crystalyx.

Keith Isley of Goldston, NC will be the rodeo entertainer at the First Chance Bonanza. Keith won the Triple Crown of awards during the PRCA Awards Banquet last year being named the "Clown of the Year" (for the 4th year in a row); PRCA Clown Act of the Year; and Coors Man in the Can (for the 2nd time).

Tickets for the First Chance Bonanza Rodeo are on sale now at the Swiftel Center Box Office, online at swiftelcenter.com, at any ticketmaster outlet or charge by phone at 1-800-745-3000. There will be a Tough Enough to Wear Pink Night on Friday, November 5th. Wear your pink t-shirts and save \$2 on your tickets, SDSU Students bring your ID on Friday and pay only \$8.