

Big Opportunity for 2017 Rookies

Throughout one's life there are memorable events that are cause for celebration, especially when it is a first – like a first birthday or a first anniversary. In the rodeo world, the first year a cowboy is a full card-carrying member of the PRCA is known as his rookie season, and they have just one shot at the coveted PRCA Resistol Rookie of the Year title. To be crowned the Rookie of the Year, one must win more money than any other rookie in that particular event.

In 2017, thanks to the Days of '47 Cowboy Games and Rodeo, one rookie in each event will have an opportunity of a lifetime to compete for a share of \$1 million. Not only could a big win go a long way toward winning the 2017 Rookie of the Year title, but could also qualify the individual(s) for the Wrangler National Finals Rodeo presented by Polaris RANGER that boasts a \$10 million payout.

"It is jaw-dropping and a pretty big and exciting opportunity," said Wyatt Bloom, who is currently leading the bareback riding rookie standings and on the Wrangler NFR bubble as the busy summer season gets underway. "It gives me goosebumps to think about winning the rookie title and making the NFR. I have to keep reminding myself that I have worked hard for this and that I am ready."

Bloom currently has a sizeable lead on the rest of the bareback riding rookie field. Although he is just in his rookie year, he is very aware of how tough the rodeo world can be, having competed in high school and college rodeo.

"Anything can happen on any given day, so I just have to keep working for it," said Bloom of Bend, Ore., who used to compete in team roping before trading his rope in for a bareback rigging in the more adrenaline-filled event. "I have been very blessed so far this year. Things have been falling into place and I will continue to try to get the most out of every situation.

"If I was able to win the Rookie of the Year title it would mean a lot and be another stepping stone for my future in the PRCA."

A total of 32 contestants each in bareback riding, steer wrestling, saddle bronc riding, tie-down roping, barrel racing and bull riding, along with 32 teams in the team roping, will earn the right to compete in the Komatsu Equipment Days of '47 Cowboy Games & Rodeo presented by Zions Bank, July 19-22, 24. The leading rookie in each event as of July 5, 2017, will earn a spot in this prestigious event, which will award the winner \$50,000 and a one-of-a-kind Gold Medal.

"I am very appreciative to the committee for designating one spot for the rookie as they could have just as easily taken only the top guys," Bloom said. "It is a great opportunity for all of us rookies and gives us a taste of something big before we are actually there. Fifty thousand is an unheard of number these days. It would open a lot of doors financially and within the sport. It is a good deal."



Rookie bareback rider Wyatt Bloom competed at his first RNCFR in April 2017.

PRCA ProRodeo photo by Ric Andersen



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The Days of '47 Cowboy Games and Rodeo committee wanted this event to provide opportunity for all those competing and knowing how rough the rodeo road can be, they wanted to include the rookies in the mix.

"It is never easy to be the new kid on the block, so as a committee we wanted to give one rookie in each event an opportunity to have a life-changing experience at the Days of '47 Cowboy Games and Rodeo," said Tommy Joe Lucia, Days of '47 General Manager. "A big win here in Salt Lake for a rookie would no doubt change his life forever."

In addition to the leading PRCA Rookies, the top 10 contestants in the WEATHER GUARD® PRCA World Standings and the leaders from each of the 12 national PRCA circuits as of July 5, will earn a chance to compete for this large payout. The 2017 Ram National Circuit Finals Rodeo Champions (RNCFR) have already punched their ticket to the big event. For more information on how the final eight contestants can earn a spot visit www.daysof47cowboygames.com.

– Ann Bleiker, Courtesy Days of '47 Cowboy Games and Rodeo