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## Vaira's Bucking Horse Background Pays Off at Mandan Rodeo

MANDAN, N.D. (July 4, 2014) –Troy Vaira of Richey, Mont., comes from a big rodeo family. His family owns a rodeo stock contracting company and own about 300 bucking horses. That's provided him with plenty of practice in bareback bronc riding.

All that practice opportunity paid off at the 135<sup>th</sup> Mandan Rodeo Days Celebration July 4 when he scored 82 points on Sankey Rodeo's Bartender to win first place and \$2,414. The 25-year-old cowboy, who is 5'2" tall, is a fraternal twin, in a family with three sets of them.

"At least I know my student loans will be paid this month," Vaira said.

The highest score of the weekend was an 85-point ride in the saddle bronc riding by Ty Thompson of Wanblee, S.D., on Sankey Rodeo's Hermit. Thompson won the event and \$2,662.

Lisa Lockhart, Oelrichs, S.D., increased her season winnings by \$3,568 to take home the biggest paycheck from Mandan Rodeo Days. Her time of 15.59 bested more than 100 other barrel racers.

The Mandan Rodeo is becoming a favorite for Boe Brown of Valentine, Neb. He roped and tied his calf in 8.7 seconds to win second in the tie-down roping. Last year he tied for first place with legendary champion Fred Whitfield. Cole Robinson of Moorcroft, Wyo., won the event and \$2,810 for his 7.9-second run on Wednesday, July 2.

Garrett Vig of Newell, S.D., won the bull riding with a score of 84 points on Dakota Rodeo's Slim Bisquits at the rodeo's opening performance. Vig made the eight-second time requirement by only milliseconds, but that was enough for total winnings in day money and overall prize money of \$3,267.

Other winners were Cole Fulton, Miller, S.D., all-around cowboy and Tyler Thorson, Towner, N.D., steer wrestling.

Mandan Rodeo Days is held annually on July 2, 3 and 4.

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Results from the third performance of the 135<sup>th</sup> Mandan Rodeo Days in Mandan, N.D., July 4, 2014.

Bareback bronc riding: 1. Troy Vaira, Richey, Mont., 82 points on Dakota Rodeo's Bartender. 2. Joe Wilson, Longvalley, S.D., 77. 3. Ethan Assman, Stephenville, Texas, 76. 4. (tie) Logan Berg, Mandan, N.D., and Chase Redfield, Opheim, Mont., 74.

Steer wrestling: 1. Cole Fulton, Miller, S.D., 4.2 seconds. 2. J.W. Lorenz, Washburn, N.D., 4.9. 3. Matt Mousseau, Hensall, Ontario, 5.0. 4. Colt Floyd, Buffalo, S.D., 5.6.

Tie-down Roping: 1. Boe Brown, Valentine, Neb., 8.7 seconds. 2. Logan Hofer, Magrath, Alberta, 8.9. 3. Cheyenne Harper, Iowa, La., 9.9. 4. Cole Fulton, Miller, S.D., 10.3

Saddle Bronc Riding: 1. Ty Thompson, Wanblee, S.D., 85 points on Sankey Rodeo's Hermit. 2. Preston Kafka, Wagner, S.D., 79. 3. Rhett Fitzpatrick, Opheim, Mont., 78. 4. Britt Luger, Fort Yates, N.D., 75.

Team Roping: 1. Joe Wilson, Longvalley, S.D., and Galen Means, Eagle Butte, S.D., 5.6 seconds. 2. Jeff Johnston, Thedford, Neb., and Todd Hollenbeck, Long Pine, Neb., 5.7. 3. Logan Olson, Flandreau, S.D., and Jordan Olson, Surprise, Ariz., 10.6. 4. Jason Thorstenson, Rapid City, S.D., and Michael McPherson, Box Elder, S.D., 11.7.

Barrel Racing: 1. Nikki Steffes, Vale, S.D., 16.01 seconds. 2. Chloe Hoovestal, Helena, Mont, 16.22. 3. Kayce Engen, Volga, S.D., 16.45. 4. Jenna Beaver, Huntsville, Texas, 18.42.

Bull Riding: (one ride) 1. Jay Dunford, Balldwin, ND, 80 points on Dakota Rodeo's 117X.

Final Results:

All-Around Cowboy: Cole Fulton, Miller, S.D., \$1,747.

Bareback Bronc Riding: 1. Troy Vaira, Richey, Mont., 82 points on Dakota Rodeo's Bartender, \$2,414. 2. (tie) Heath Ford, Slocum, Texas; Thomas Kronberg, Forbes, N.D.; Joe Gunderson, Agar, S.D., and John Addison, Midland, S.D., 80, \$1,164 each. 6. Zachariah Phillips, Casper, Wyo., 79, \$402. 7. Ty Breuer, Mandan, N.D., 78, \$322. 8. (tie) Blake Smith, Zap, N.D., and Joe Wilson, Longvalley, S.D., 77, \$121 each.

Steer Wrestling: 1. Tyler Thorson, Towner, N.D., 3.9 seconds, \$2,554. 2. Del Day, Bismarck, N.D., 4.0, \$2,285. 3. Brett Gumb, Burwell, Neb., 4.1, \$2,016. 4. Cole Fulton, Miller, S.D., \$1,747. 5. Tee Burress, Piedmont, S.D., 4.3, \$1,479. 6. (tie) Jim Hansen, Watford City, N.D., Scott Kleeman, Killdeer, N.D., and Dillon Evenson, Humboldt, \$940 each. 10. (tie) J.D. Struxness, Appleton, Minn., Casey Cronin, Gettysburg, S.D., Jade Berry, Rapid City, S.D., and Biff Swan, Dickinson, N.D., 4.5, \$134 each.

Tie-down Roping: 1. Cole Robinson of Moorcroft, Wyo., 7.9 seconds, \$2,810. 2. Boe Brown, Valentine, Neb., 8.7, \$2,444. 3. Jon Peek, Williston, N.D., 8.8, \$2,077. 4. Logan Hofer, Magrath, Alberta, 9.7, \$1,710. 5. (tie) Timber Moore, Aubrey, Texas, and Michael Otero, Lowndesboro, Ala., 9.7, \$1,161 each.

7. Cheyenne Harper, Iowa, La., 9.9, \$611. 8. Daine McNenny, Sturgis, S.D., 10.1, \$244.

Saddle Bronc Riding: 1. Ty Thompson, Wanblee, S.D., 85 points on Sankey Rodeo's Hermit, \$2,662. 2. Jade Blackwell, Rapid City, S.D., 83, \$2,041. 3. Dalton Rixen, Richardton, N.D., 80, \$1,509. 4. (tie) Kaden Deal, Cheyenne River, S.D., Tyler Corrington, Hastings, Minn., and Preston Kafka, Wagner, S.D., 79, \$680 each. 7. Rhett Fitzpatrick, Opheim, Mont., 75, \$375. 8. Jeremy Meeks, Belle Fourche, S.D., 76, \$266.

Team Roping: 1. (tie) Scott White of Oelrichs, S.D., and Justin Johnson, Casper, Wyo., and Ty Blasingame, Sugar City, Colo., and J.W. Borrego, Weston, Colo., 5.0 seconds, \$2,516 each. 3. (tie) Tyrell Moody, Letcher, S.D., and Rory Brown, Edgemont, S.D., and Garrett Tonozzi, Fruita, Colo., and Jared Bilby, Bridgeport, Neb., 5.2, \$1,814 each. 5. (tie) Brady Wakefield, O'Neill, Neb., and Ty Talsma, Verdigre, Neb., and Drew Gartner, Killdeer, N.D., and Paul Gnemsman, Piedmont, S.D., 5.5, \$1,112 each. 7. (tie) Billy Bob Brown, Stephenville, Texas, and Logan Medlin, Stephenville, Texas, and Justin Parrish, Mineral Wells, Texas, and Trey Johnson, Burleson, Texas, 5.6, \$410 each.

Barrel Racing: 1. Lisa Lockhart, Oelrichs, S.D., 15.59 seconds, \$3,568. 2. Andrea Cline, Springtown, Texas, 15.61, \$2,855. 3. (tie) Cassidy Lantis, Spearfish, S.D., and Desirae Weigel, Bismarck, N.D., 15.62 each, \$2,052. 5. Jessica Leach, Rockwell Neb., 15.67, \$1,427.30. 6. Britany Diaz, Solen, N.D., 15.68, \$1,070.47. 7. Carmel Wright, Roy, Mont., 15.71, \$892.06. 8. Lexus Kelsch, McLaughlin, S.D., 15.74, \$802.85. 9. Wanda Brown, Edgemont, S.D., 15.77, \$713.65. 10. Shelby Frasier, Dublin, Texas, 15.79, \$624.44. 11/12 Molly Childers, Mead, Okla., 15.88, \$490.63. 11/12 Teresa Wolff, Circle, Mont., 15.88, \$490.63.

Bull riding: (four rides) 1. Garrett Vig, Newell, S.D., 84 points on Dakota Rodeo's Slim Biscuits, \$3,267. 2. Clayton Savage, Yoder, Wyo., 83, \$2,608. 3. Jay Dunford, Balldwin, ND, 80, \$2,045. 4. Jeff Bertus, Avon, S.D., 69, \$1,034.

Total Prize Money: \$99,180.00

Photo cutline: Troy Vaira rides Dakota Rodeo's Bartender for 82 points and \$2,414 to win the bareback bronc riding at Mandan, N.D. Photo by Jackie Jensen.





