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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

135th Mandan Rodeo Days Draws 540 Pro Cowboys and Cowgirls

MANDAN, N.D. (June 30, 2014) – Mandan Rodeo Days celebrate 135 years this week and professional cowboys and cowgirls are doing their part to make this milestone memorable. A total of 540 cowboys and cowgirls are scheduled to compete during the three-day rodeo for more than \$100,000 in prize money and world championship points.

Contestants will travel to Mandan from 28 states and five Canadian provinces. Among the entrants are nine current or former world champions. More than 24 familiar faces from the Wrangler National Finals Rodeo (NFR) held annually in December in Las Vegas will be competing in Mandan and those individuals have 133 NFR qualifications to their collective credit.

Headliners include reigning and four-time World Champion Bull Rider J.W. Harris of Mullin, Texas, who is currently second in the world title race for 2014, and Lisa Lockhart of Oelrichs, S.D., who leads the race for the 2014 world championship in barrel racing.

Rodeo legends Joe Beaver of Huntsville, Texas, and Walt Woodard of Stephenville, Texas, are in the field, alongside two-time collegiate rodeo champions, rookies and standings leaders.

The 540 entrants include 34 bareback riding contestants, 84 steer wrestlers, 73 calf ropers, 44 saddle bronc riders, 126 barrel racers, 54 bull riders and 132 team ropers (66 teams).

Among the entrants are 109 North Dakotans, including seven from Bismarck and five from Mandan.

Competition begins at 8 a.m. on Wednesday, July 2 with timed event “slack” competition. These are the overflow who did not fit into the three rodeo performances, but still are part of the competition.

The three rodeo performances are schedule Wednesday, July 2, through Friday, July 4, at 7:30 p.m. More information is available online at www.mandanrodeo.com.

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