

2017 Notable Contestants

**All contestants' competition subject to mishap, accident or injury while competing and traveling to other rodeos during Cowboy Christmas week.*



The 2016 Mandan Rodeo's contestant line-up includes 589 entries from 30 states, two provinces of Canada and New Zealand. These professional cowboys and cowgirls (age 18 and over) will compete for more than \$120,000 and world championship points. The roster includes current world champions and leaders for the 2017 titles, several individuals who have qualified for the Wrangler National Finals Rodeo (NFR) and top contenders from the Badlands Circuit (North and South Dakota.) Some contestants to watch for:

Sunday, July 2 – 8 AM

**Slack is the overflow portion of the competition as not all 589 entries will fit into the three scheduled rodeo performances. More than 260 will compete this morning. This is NOT qualifications or eliminations. Contestants in slack pay the same entry fees and compete for the same prize money as those in the performance and can win first place if their time is the fastest of the entire rodeo.*

- Barrel Racing
 - It would be hard to find more talent than is represented in the barrel racing field. There is the 2017 world standings leader Tiany Schuster, two-time world champion Lindsay Sears, RAM National Circuit Finals champion Emily Miller and newly crowned college champion and The American winner Haley Kinsel, and multi-time NFR qualifier and former reserve world champ Lisa Lockhart.
 - Last year's Mandan Rodeo champion and reigning Badlands Circuit champ Jana Griemsman, NFR qualifiers Jill Moody, Kassidy Dennison, Britany Diaz of Solen will compete along with Tillar Murray who's currently ranked seventh in the world
- Steer Wrestling
 - Former NFR cowboys Beau Franzen and Dru Melvin compete today along with newly crowned College champion Denver Berry and last year's college All-Around champion Marcus Theriot.
- Tie-Down Roping
 - The tie-down roping field for slack includes former NFR ropers Scott Kormos, Sterling Smith, Randall Carlisle and Rhen Richard. Carlisle is currently ranked seventh in the world standings.
 - Former Mandan Rodeo champions Jared Kempker and Cole Robinson are also in the field along with several top cowboys from the Badlands Circuit.
- Team Roping
 - Three-time NFR heeler Matt Zancanella is roping with Jr. Dees of Aurora, S.D. Also heeling is 18-time NFR cowboy and former world champion Bobby Harris, three-time NFR qualifier Bret Tonozzi and NFR cowboy Travis Woodard.
 - Rodeo legend Rich Skelton who has won eight world championships and roped at 22 NFRs ropes with Rhen Richard. Other headers include NFR cowboys Ty Blasingame and Travis Tryan.

Sunday, July 2 – 7:30 PM (Gates open at 5 p.m.)

- Bareback Bronc Riding
 - Former world champion Justin McDaniel will compete along with Blake Smith of Zap who was last year's reserve champion in the Badlands Circuit.
- Saddle Bronc Riding
 - NFR veteran, reserve world champ and \$1 million American winner Wade Sundell is here. So is 2015 Mandan Rodeo champion Taygen Schulke and reserve Badlands Circuit champion Ty Manke.
- Team Roping
 - NFR qualifier Kelsey Parchman, Chase Tryan, and Martin Lucero join four-time world champion Allen Bach who has qualified for 30 NFRs.
 - J.B. and Levi Lord are the reigning Badlands Circuit Champions.
- Bull Riding
 - Tonight's bull riding features three-time world champion Sage Kimzey, NFR cowboy Trevor Kastner, and several who are currently ranked in the standings including early-season leader Cole Melancon and ninth-ranked Trey Benton. Jeff Bertus is third in circuit.
- Tie-Down Roping
 - Oklahoma cowboy Bryson Sechrist is currently ranked 12th in the world championship standings.
- Barrel Racing
 - Three-time NFR qualifier Trula Churchill competes tonight along with New Zealand native and RNCFR qualifier Carmel Wright.
- Steer Wrestling
 - Former world champion and seven-time NFR qualifier Stockton Graves is the rodeo coach at Northwestern Oklahoma State. J.D. Struxness, one of Graves' students, won the college championship last year and qualified for the NFR. He's currently ranked 10th in the world.

Monday, July 3 – 7:30 PM (Gates open at 5 p.m.)

- Bareback Bronc Riding
 - Justin Pollmiller, who is in the top 50 in the standings, four Canadians, and four Badlands Circuit cowboys are on the roster.
- Steer Wrestling
 - NFR cowboy Jule Hazen and 2015 Rookie of the Year Jace Mevin will compete.
- Tie-Down Roping
 - Reece Riemer is ranked 25th in the world and Dane Kissack is 12th in the Badlands Circuit.
- Saddle Bronc Riding
 - New Zealand's Curtis Garten is ranked 18th in the world. Indian National Finals Rodeo champion Jeremy Meeks and Tate Thybo was top 10 in the Badlands Circuit last year.
- Team Roping
 - Caleb Smidt who leads for the 2017 World Champion All-Around Cowboy title will rope with B.J. Dugger. Manny Egusquiza has been the the NFR.
- Barrel Racing
 - New mom and NFR veteran Nikki Hanson of Dickson competes tonight along with her sister Kristi Steffes who won the college title last year.
- Bull Riding
 - Former Mandan rodeo champion Garrett Vig joins a packed field of bull riders.
 - Five-time NFR qualifier and former world champion Shane Proctor heads a roster that includes NFR qualifier, Badlands leader and reigning circuit champ Ardie Maier and New Mexico's Lon Danley who is currently 23rd in the world.

Tuesday, July 4 – 7:30 P.M. (Gates open at 5

- Bareback Bronc Riding
 - College rodeo will be represented newly crowned champion and one of the few freshmen to win a rough stock title - Lane McGehee - as well as by Tanner Aus and Casey Breuer who are both former champions. Tanner has qualified for the NFR twice and is currently ranked third in the world. Casey will be competing against his older brother Ty who has qualified for the NFR twice and won this rodeo and the Badlands Circuit last year. He's 13th in the world this year.
- Steer Wrestling
 - Texan Tommy Cook and Oklahoman Sean Mulligan have both made multiple trips to Las Vegas for the NFR. Another Oklahoman, Cole Edge, qualified in 2014.
- Tie-Down Roping
 - Clint Cooper has roped at the NFR five times. Timber Moore, a two-time winner at The American, has won the Canadian championship and the Calgary Stampede and qualified for the NFR four times.
- Team Roping
 - Clayton Hass is currently ranked fourth in the all-around. Garrett Tonozzi has made the NFR twice, the same number of times he has won this rodeo. Joe Beaver, the three-time all-around and five-time calf roping world champ, has also been to 22 NFRs - four in the team roping.
- Barrel Racing
 - Mary Burger, the reigning and two-time world champion, is still going strong at age 68. Samantha Jorgensen competed at the college finals and finished in the top four of the all-around
- Bull Riding
 - Trevor Rieste is ranked 10th in the world standings. Brennon Eldred has qualified for three NFRs and is currently ranked 7th. Elliott Jacoby is 22nd.
 - Riley Blankenship is currently third in the bull riding standings in the Badlands Circuit.

North Dakota Contestants

BARREL RACING

Bobbi Grann, Sheyenne, ND
Nicole Fritz, Killdeer, ND
Cassidy Kohlnhofer, Dickinson, ND
Lindsey Horner, Dawson, ND
Mackenzie Weber, New Rockford, ND
Chelsey Benson, Bismarck, ND
Lakken Bice, Killdeer, ND
Karlee Kalberer, Hazelton, ND
Carey Rivinius, Carson, ND
Brittany Diaz Solen, ND
Sadie Dale, Halliday, ND
Hope Peterson, Velva, ND
Kaitlyn Forster, Hazen, ND
Coralee Neer, Williston, ND
Tisa Kraft-Peek, Berthold, ND
Hali Gjermundson, Marshall, ND
Dawn Carson, Grassy Butte, ND
Heather Bosse, Cogswell, ND
Hail Gjermundson, Marshall, ND
Erin Williams, Dickinson, ND
Fonda Galbreath, Oakes, ND
Molly Otto, Grand Forks, ND
Alie Dorn, Mandan, ND
Whitney Entzel, Killdeer, ND
Bailee Murnion, Bowman, ND
Kennedi Kautzman, Mandan, ND
Heidi Schmidt, Belfield, ND
Nikki Hansen Dickinson, ND
Lindsey O'Keeffe, Mohall, ND
Samantha Jorgenson, Watford, ND
Karleen Weigel, Napoleon, ND
Desirae Earl, Bismarck, ND

TEAM ROPING

Bryce Vigen, Mandan, ND
Turner Harris, Killdeer, ND
Ross Carson, Killdeer, ND
A.J. Zieman, Sheyenne, ND
Luke Morast, Halliday, ND
Cody Hilzendeger, Bismarck, ND
Derek Fleming, Killdeer, ND
Nate Horner, Dawson, ND
Wyatt Bice, Killdeer, ND
Clint Gorrell, Beach, ND

Tanner Wznick, Cavalier, ND
Ethan Rodne, New Town, ND
Parker Murnion, Bowman, ND

STEER WRESTLING

Justice Johnson, Bismarck, ND
Tristan Hall, Dunn Center, ND
Scott Kleeman, Killdeer, ND
Del Day, Bismarck, ND
Tyler Schau, Almont, ND
Tyler Pittsley, Killdeer, ND
Joe Robert Nelson, Alexander, ND
River Voigt, Killdeer, ND
Tyler Thorson, Towner, ND
Anton Helfrich, Killdeer, ND
Sheldon Portwine, Dickinson, ND
Cameron Morman, Glenullin, ND
Bridger Anderson, Carrington, ND

TIE DOWN ROPING

Jon Peek Berthold, ND
Dan Bishoff, Cogswell, ND
Grady Egly, Ft. Yates, ND
Joe Smidt, Belfield, ND
Dustin Entzel, Killdeer, ND
Chade Lako, Arthur, ND
Cole Hatzenbeuhler, Solen, ND

BAREBACK RIDING

Jordan Pelton, Halliday, ND
Blake Smith Zap, ND
Tate Schwagler, Mandan, ND
Mike Fred, Killdeer, ND
Ty Breuer, Mandan, ND
Casey Breuer, Mandan, ND

SADDLE BRONC RIDING

Will Gullickson, Mandan, ND

BULL RIDING

Logan Zinke, Mercer, ND
Tate Smith, Litchville, ND
Clayton Enzminger, Steele, ND