

By Russ Pankonin

The Imperial Republican

Ty Spickelmier of Imperial earned a ticket to the 2013 National High School Finals Rodeo after finishing fifth in the Nebraska Finals and third for the season in the tie down roping.

The Nebraska High School Finals were held in Hastings last week. Spickelmier was joined at the rodeo by Kelsey Wood of Imperial and Jordyn Doetker of Wauneta.

In Thursday's first go, Spickelmier missed his calf but came back with catches in the second go Friday and the short go Saturday.

His 11.79 in the second go was the third fastest for Friday's performance.

He came back with a 11.32 in the short go, good for third place in the final performance. His time which was just eight one-hundredths of a second off the first place time of 11.28.

Despite his miss on Thursday, Spickelmier still finished the state finals in fifth. Only three cowboys roped all three of their calves in the finals.

With the points gained during the state finals, combined with points throughout the season, Spickelmier finished the season in third. The top four in each event qualify for the national finals.

Spickelmier also competed in the team roping as the heeler with his header partner Blayne Bradley of Milburn. They recorded a time in the first go but didn't in the second or short goes.

Their one catch earned them a ninth place finish in the finals. Spickelmier finished eighth for the season in team roping.

Kelsey Wood

Wood competed in the barrels, poles, breakaway roping and team roping.

She turned in times of 18.24 and 17.964 in the first two goes but didn't make the short go, finishing 12th overall. For the season, she finished 18th.

In the pole bending, she turned in times of 22.406 and 28.148, finishing the finals in 16th. For the season, she finished 24th.

In the team roping, she and her heeler partner, Reed Kraeger of Avoca, made a catch in the first go, with a time of 40.54. As a team, they finished in 17th place in the finals. The team finished the season in 29th place.

Wood didn't turn in a time in the breakaway and finished the season in 26th.

Jordyn Doetker

In the girls' cutting, Jordyn Doetker of Wauneta finished the finals in second place.

She won the first go with a 140, finished fourth in the second go with a 139 and was third in the short go with a 139.5, earning her second place in the finals.

She finished the season fifth in the standings and will be an alternate to the national finals.

The finals will be held in Rock Springs Wyo., July 14-20.