



Palisade cowboy takes second in the event

By Russ Pankonin

The Imperial Republican

Chase County fair board members deemed their first ever Chase County Bullriding Challenge held Saturday night at the fairgrounds a big success.

Board members are already looking at bringing the event back next summer.

Saturday night's event drew an estimated crowd of around 1,000 people.

Bullriding fans were treated to a first-class show with a total of 29 cowboys challenging the bulls for superiority.

In many cases, the bulls proved the victor but several cowboys put up some mighty good scores by winning the eight-second battle.

The event was won in the long go-round by Mullen's Josh Call, who put up an 86 to take the lead into the short-go.

Not far behind was Palisade's Justin Huston.

Huston landed an 83 on his first ride which stood in second place after the long go.

In the short-go, the bulls came out ahead as none of the 10 riders were able to make the eight-second ride.

Huston, who is a lineman at Southwest Public Power in Palisade, was closing in on the whistle when the bull sent him over the top to the ground.

The bull did a little tap dance of his own on Houston, who was finally able to scramble away and jump up on the fence for safety.

Fair board pleased with event

Fair board member Kenny Smith of Wauneta, who helped organize the event, said he's heard good feedback about the event.

He said he was really happy with the turnout and the amount of support people throughout Chase County put behind the event.

He emphasized this was a Chase County event, not just a fair board event.

The fair board was assisted by the Chambers of Commerce from both Wauneta and Imperial, as well as the Chase County Tourism committee members.

Smith said sponsors in communities throughout the county really got on board to make it a success.

The fair board started looking at a bullriding production several years ago and took steps during this year's fair convention to make it happen this year.

V Lazy S Productions of Tryon produced the event. They brought in their own bucking chutes, corrals and staff and contracted for the bucking stock, bull fighters and barrel man.

By having their own chutes, they were able to bring the action right to the fans, placing their facilities just behind the west fence of the arena.