



Christopher Onstott /The Spectrum

**Calvin Amy rides to the center of the rodeo arena presenting the American Flag for the National Anthem, and the start of the Wendy Wood Memorial PRCA Rodeo of the Utah Summer Games, on Friday, in Cedar City.**

## Rodeo draws a huge USG crowd

By **TANYA Y. SPENCER**  
tspencer2@thespectrum.com

**CEDAR CITY** — The Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association kicked up the dust Friday at the Cross Hollows rodeo area as part of the Utah Summer Games closing ceremonies.

The Wendy Wood Memorial Rodeo entertained a capacity crowd for the second to last night of the games. Committee member Toni Cornforth said this is the second year the PRCA has been a part of the event.

"This is a good turnout for this arena," she said.

Diamond G Rodeos Inc. of Toquerville provided the stock for the event. Cornforth said she credits owners Steve and Cyndi Gilbert with elevating the rodeo to the professional circuit.

"The Gilberts were instrumental in bringing it to this level," she said.

Cornforth also expressed appreciation to the sponsors.

"Our sponsors have been great to us," she said.

In addition to the traditional rodeo events,

**"This is so cool."**

— **Kaden Judd**  
Rodeo fan

According to the rodeo program, the horses weigh more than one ton and stand over 18 hands, a measurement of the height of a horse taken at the withers, or where the neck meets the back. A hand is four inches, so an 18 hand horse would be about 6 feet tall. They Shires are owned by Renn and Ree Zaphiropoulos and trained by Chris Hone.

"Chris is the best

## RODEO

• Continued from A1

trainer in the nation," Renn said.

Hone took the massive horses, which are said to float on air despite their massive size, through figure 8s and near-zero turning radius skills to the delight of the crowd.

Cowboys and girls from all over the West participated in the events, including Jessy Davis, Payson,

who is the second-ranked bareback rider in the world.

"The same acts will be here tomorrow (Saturday)" Cornforth said. "Come on down," she said.

Tonight, the Frank Lopez custom-built saddle hits the auction block. Tickets are \$100, but only 100 are available. The proceeds finance the cost of the rodeo stock.

"We decided to make it an opportunity draw," she said. "The saddle is worth

\$4,000 or more."

Outside the arena, spectators watched from the beds of pickup trucks, cowboys rested while they waited for their seconds in the spotlight, but for Kaden Judd, Baeli Cox and Brady Norman, the rodeo was about getting close to 31-inch tall, miniature horse, Hershie, which is part of the entertainment.

Potter's 6-year-old daughter, Cassidy, who is one of the youngest performers on

the circuit, takes Hershie through eight tricks.

But for the kids, he's just the right size to draw them in.

"He's not ours. We just found him," Baeli said.

"This is so cool," Kadenw said as he tried to swing up to Hershie's back.

Tonight the rodeo will begin at 7 p.m. and end with what Cornforth says will be a "spectacular fireworks display."