

Sport Gets More Hazardous with 9/11 Bull Blowout At Strong City

The most dangerous sport participated in by man is getting even more treacherous.

Unlike days of yesteryear, when rodeo bulls from the Southwest rangelands threw cowboys off largely due to shear size, strength and male prowess, today's bulls are bred with the sole purpose of bucking off cowboys.

However, the cowboys of today are a different lot as well, not like the range-tough rancher who typically participated in a weekend rodeo as a pastime. Modern-day bull riders are not, trim, athletes on stringent diets and calisthenic programs who climb on mean buckers to make a living.

The best of the best rodeo bucking bulls and the top rodeo cowboys in the Midwest are to be featured at the first annual Flint Hills Bull Blowout, seemingly appropriately scheduled on 9/11 as a memorial to those who lost their lives in the tragic New York City bombing nine years ago.

famous by world champion cowboys Gerald and Ken Roberts, their sister Margie and dad E.C.," emphasized Kim

Reyer, former rodeo bull rider and organizer of the event.

Sponsored by Reyer's Country Store, just across Highway 50 from the arena and Flint Hills Genetics, Reyer's partnership bucking bull breeding program, the competition will feature bulls from Jimmy Crowther's world-renowned New Frontier Rodeo Company at Roxbury, Kansas.

The bull riding event will also be a fund raiser for the "Ride Rank for a Cure," according to Ricky Ritter, Augusta bull rider and energetic promoter of that effort. "Our goal is to increase cancer awareness and support those suffering from the disease," he explained.

"Jimmy Crowther has the top string of bucking bulls in the country backed by more than 60 years of strict selection for bucking ability,"

black or reddish brown Brahma looking, but the classic Plummer line now has White Park and Longhorn genetics incorporated in, so they are white speckled or spotted bulls with black muzzles and eye pigmentation.

"Today, Jimmy Crowther has the purest Plummer breeding of anyone in the bucking bull industry," Reyer explained. "And, the percentage of his bull calves that buck is through the roof compared to anyone else in the industry."

Verification of the quality of Crowther's bucking bull program is that he was co-owner of Big Bucks, the Professional Bull Riders Bull of Year in 2005.

The Flint Hills Bull Blowout will feature many of New Frontier Rodeo's most elite bucking stock.

"The top 5 percent of the herd is reserved for the finals round at the largest rodeos and Professional Bull Riders events," Reyer noted. "But with several hundred head of buckers to pick from, the stock at

been qualified on to this point."

Among the contestants will be Cooper Kanngiesser of Attica, who has won five Championship Bull Riding event titles and is a past National Finals Rodeo qualifier.

Also scheduled to compete will be Dustin Rogers, Buhler, who is presently leading the bull riding standings in the Central Plains Rodeo Association. All contestants have not entered at press time, but Brad Harris from Udall and Cooper Link from Kechi, also both elite bull riders, are expected to participate.

A muttin' bustin' with a \$5 participation fee for youth six and under starts at 6:30 p.m. Entries can be made by calling 620-273-6229

First of 70 bulls to buck from the famed Flint Hills Rodeo chutes will come out at 7 p.m. In addition to cowboy entry fees, a purse of \$1,000 has been added to money that will be awarded to the top riders. Entry books open at 5 p.m., on September 5, at 785-254-7385.

A Cowboy's Faith
By Frank J. Buchman

"We are really excited about the quality of the bulls and the top notch cowboys who will be competing at our Flint Hills Bull Blowout Saturday evening, Sept. 11, right here in the Strong City rodeo arena made

credited Reyer, who with his partners, sons-in-law, Adam Spain and Kyle Gibb, has bulls traveling this year in the New Frontier string.

Crowther, a former champion bull rider, started breeding bucking bulls while he was still rodeoing after purchasing his first Plummer cows in 1978.

"The cows get that name from rodeo producer Charlie Plummer of Sayre, Oklahoma, who started producing rodeos in the 1950s featuring his own bulls that bucked and had a lot of fight in them," Reyer pointed out.

The original Charlie Plummer bulls and females were gray,

Strong City will be plenty 'juicy.'

"Bulls headed to Strong City have had 98 outs at Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association sanctioned rodeos in Kansas and Oklahoma so far this year with seven completed rides. That equates to a 92 percent buck off," Reyer qualified.

Crowther told Reyer that fans would want to especially watch for Gray Squirrel, the bull that was the Runner-up Bull of the 2009 Prairie Circuit Finals.

Other bulls that have extreme spectator appeal and high buck-off records are Cruel and Unusual, Perfect Poison, Wee Man, and After Party.

Several bulls owned by Reyer's Flint Hills Genetics are also to be in the draw.

"Our bull called Overstreet has been to five Professional Bull Riders events. He's been out of the bucking chute a total of 10 times and has only been covered once," Reyer commented. "Another of our young bulls named Fat Lester will also be in the draw, and he's never

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Overstreet, owned by Flint Hills Genetics, a bucking bull breeding operation at Strong City, will perform during the Flint Hills Bull Blowout in Strong City on September 11.

Color commentary for the dangerous cowboy and bull action will be provided by Troy Goodridge, former Great Lakes Circuit bull riding qualifier and PRCA announcer from Fort Scott.

Entertaining and protecting cowboys as bull fighters are Mark Peters and Danny Munsell.

A dance to the music of Rusty Rierson and Dead Eye will follow the most dangerous sport known to man, and those attending the Bull Blowout get free dance admittance.

Information is available by calling 620-273-6229.