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## Rider-friendly P.J. gives cowboys a good shot at winning

GUYMON, Okla. – Bull riders talk bull – the kind that buck and spin, that might be hooky or nasty or just a dead rank.

It comes with the territory. It's their passion. It's their understanding.  
It's their livelihood.

And last May when Jason Beck showed up for the Guymon Pioneer Days Rodeo, he knew quite a bit about the Carr Pro Rodeo bull P.J., even though Beck had never tried to ride the animal. He also knew the random draw had matched him with a bucking beast that could take him to the pay window.

"He's a little black-horned bull that I'd seen a couple times," said Beck of Prairieville, La., a 29-year-old bull rider who finished 21<sup>st</sup> in the world standings a season ago. "I'd heard a lot about him. A lot of the guys had said just how good he was.

"He was just as good as I'd heard. He turned left right out of the gate and got after it."

The two got after it to a tune of 90 points, earning Beck the win at the 2009 Pioneer Days Rodeo, which has 2010 version is set for 7:30 p.m. Friday, April 30; 2 and 7:30 p.m. Saturday, May 1; and 2 p.m. Sunday, May 2. Beck said he likes his chances of getting on one of the great animal athletes in the Oklahoma Panhandle that weekend are pretty strong, and that gives him the best chance to win back-to-back titles.

In fact, Beck has already taken another of Pete Carr's bulls to the pay window this season, winning a round at RodeoHouston in March. That, combined with other elite contractors taking some of their best stock to Guymon, gives all cowboys opportunities to win the big money available at Oklahoma's Richest Rodeo.

"Korkows have a good set of bulls, and Powder River has some good bulls and is in with D&H (Cattle Co.), so there will be some really good bulls there," Beck said. "You can tell that Pete has gone out and gotten some good bulls, too. It should be a good rodeo.

"You really can't worry about the random draw, but you hope you get a good one. At that rodeo, you have a good shot at getting good ones."

A year ago, he drew a good one in P.J., a 6-year-old that was part of the Wrangler National Finals Rodeo field last December. Carr said the bull uses acceleration to try to dump cowboys to the dirt.

"P.J. is just a really good draw," said Carr, a former rough-stock cowboy who got into the stock business eight years ago. "He stands in the chute good and gives you a good shot when the gate opens. If you ride him, you are going to win something."

The animal athlete has been ridden 10 of 27 times in his young career. Of those qualifying eight-second rides, the average score is 86.05. In fact, Oklahoma Panhandle State University alumnus Jesse Bail rode P.J. for 86 points in the opening round of the Wrangler NFR – it was the first time since last May in Guymon that the bull had been ridden.

"Even when I was riding, that's the kind of bull I'd like to get on," said pickup man Paul Peterson, a cowboy who competed out of nearby Goodwell, Okla., before becoming one of the most sought-after pickup men in the sport. "He's always good, always nice. He's really rider-friendly, but you can be a lot of points on him."



Jesse Bail of Camp Crook, S.D., rides the Carr Pro Rodeo bull P.J. during the 2009 Wrangler National Finals Rodeo in Las Vegas. PRCA ProRodeo Photo by Mike Copeman.