



DEMOLITION DERBY starts at 7 p.m. on Saturday in front of the grandstands at the Cheyenne County Fairgrounds.

Derby is one of the biggest and best in the area

By Karen Krien

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There is a lot of excitement building with the Cheyenne County Fair Demolition Derby to be held Saturday night, Aug. 8.

Last year, the seating sold out so those planning to attend need to arrive early to get a seat.

"Last year, we had more cars competing than any other derby from here to Greeley," said Clay Zimbelman, Derby Committee chairman. "There should be even more this year."

New this year is the "point system" with St. Francis, Goodland and Colby all participating. Andy Blackhart with Woody's Motorsports, Colby, will be the judge for all three derbies. Points accumulated by the drivers will be added to find the results. The total purse will be \$1,000.

With Andy judging all of them, the rules will be consistent and, eventually, there will be a set of standardized rules, said Mr. Zimbelman. Derby Committees from other counties are showing interest in the point system, he said, so we can spread out to other derbies.

The Cheyenne County derby will be the last of the three derbies where contestants can earn more points.

We may have some contestants who want to try for a couple more points by participating in our derby, Mr. Zimbelman said. The point winners will also be announced at the Cheyenne County derby because it is the final derby.

Mr. Zimbelman said the committee is already expecting 30 cars and hoping for up to 40 cars at the derby.

"We have already had good response," Mr. Zimbelman said.

This year, there will be only one class — the modified hobo.

"This levels the playing field," he said.

There are fewer and fewer 1960s and 1970s models which are stronger vehicles. This allows cars to change bumpers and other parts on the newer vehicles to enable them to better compete.

"We are expecting some really good competition this year," Mr. Zimbelman said.

The rules are the same as Goodland's (rule books are available by calling Mr. Zimbelman, 785-332-5122 or Mr. Blackhart, 785-443-0437).

Guaranteed \$1,500 purse

There is a guaranteed \$1,500 first-place purse as well as a trophy. Besides first prize, there will be second-, third- and fourth-place prizes along with heat place money. There are also handcrafted trophies awarded.

The Mad Dog award has a guaranteed \$500 purse. The most aggressive, hardest hitting (within the rules) driver in the derby earns the Mad Dog award.

Check in

Check in starts at 4 p.m. and ends at 6:30. The derby begins at 7 p.m. in front of the grandstand. Mr. Zimbelman said the derby is expected to start on time with the drivers' meeting being held prior to starting time.

Lawn mower tractor pull

This is the second year for the lawn mower tractor pull. The event keeps the crowd entertained between the derby heats.

Lawn mowers will be pulling a sled on which weights can be added. There will be both a stock and modified class and prizes will be awarded.

Mr. Zimbelman said the only restriction is: the mower has to be air cooled and the motor can be no larger than 30-horse power.

Ten to 16-year-old contestants will need a parent's signed release. Contestants 10 to 14, need to have the release plus have the parent(s)



LAWN MOWER Tractor Pull will be held in between Derby heats again this year. Thomas Douthit was one of the participants in the pull last year.

there to help them.

All contestants must wear a helmet.

We are hoping to keep everything moving

smoothly, said Mr. Zimbelman. We want the crowd to be entertained throughout the entire derby.