

Activities abound at Kansas' Biggest Rodeo

PHILLIPSBURG — For the 82nd time, rodeo week stampedes into Phillipsburg Aug. 4, 5 and 6.

The town of 2,300 people triples during rodeo week, as 450 pro rodeo cowboys and cowgirls, and 15,000 fans make their way to the Kansas' Biggest Rodeo arena a mile north of town on Highway 183.

Kansas' Biggest Rodeo kicks off at 8 p.m. each evening. The rodeo features two unique specialty acts this year. Troy Lerwill, "the Wild Child", has entertained at the National Finals Rodeo. In his act, he jumps a motorbike over a truck and sixty foot trailer. Lerwill, an eight-time Pro Rodeo Cowboys Association Comedy Act of the Year winner, will also work the barrel in Phillipsburg.

The second specialty act is Erik Martonovich's Big Horse Productions. Erik and a team of riders bring eight Belgian geldings to town, and Erik roman rides the Belgians as the other riders vault

from horse to horse, performing "equine gymnastics" on the beasts as they gallop around the arena.

Phillipsburg rodeo fans will recognize the familiar face and voice of eleven-time Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association Announcer of the Year Randy Corley, who has worked the Phillipsburg rodeo at least 25 years. Bullfighter duties will be shared by Dusty Tuckness, Meteetse, Wyo., and Greg Rumohr, Rio Vista, Texas. And the bulls and broncs will be provided by Bennie and Rhett Beutler, the father/son duo of Beutler and Son Rodeo. Co., Elk City, Okla. The Beutler family has brought livestock to Kansas' Biggest Rodeo since 1960.

A free barbecue for all rodeo ticket holders will be held on Thursday, Aug. 4, sponsored by Phillips County Farm Bureau. Aug. 4 is also the rodeo's Tough Enough to Wear Pink night. For every fan wearing pink, \$1 is donated to the Phillips County Relay

for Life. Prairie Horizon Agri-Energy will match the rodeo's donation, dollar for dollar.

Friday, Aug. 5 is Coors night, and Coors caps will be given to the first 1,800 fans. Dances follow the rodeo on both Aug. 5 and 6; the band is "Railroad Avenue." The rodeo parade takes place on Saturday, Aug. 6 at 2 p.m. and the final night of rodeo is at 8 p.m.

Armbands will be given to all adults who buy alcohol at the rodeo's beer garden.

Tickets are still available at Heritage Insurance, the former Tri-County Insurance office, in Phillipsburg. Reserved tickets for adults are \$14 and for kids ages 3-12 are \$10. General admission tickets for adults are \$12 and for kids are \$9. Children ages 2 and under are free. For information, visit www.KansasBiggestRodeo.com, call (785) 543-2448, or visit the rodeo's Facebook page.

Don't tie me down



KAYLA CORNETT/Colby Free Press

Lucas Phillips of Selden chased down a calf Monday during the tie-down roping competition at the Kansas Professional Rodeo Association's Rodeo and Queen Contest at the Thomas County Fairgrounds. The rodeo was at the fair Monday and Tuesday nights.

Broncos show up at Dove Valley

By Pat Graham
AP Sports Writer

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. — Eager to get back to work, Broncos quarterback Tim Tebow beat just about everyone to the team's practice facility.

The veteran he is trying to replace wasn't as ambitious.

His future with the team uncertain, Kyle Orton didn't show up at Dove Valley on Tuesday, the first day players were allowed to voluntarily report following the 4 1/2-month NFL lockout.

Training camp opens Wednesday with the first full workout slated for Thursday.

Tebow was one of the first players to roll in for voluntary strength and conditioning, driving through the gates at 7:40 a.m., just behind offensive lineman Jeff Byers.

This soon could be Tebow's team, especially with speculation swirling that Orton's days in Denver are numbered.

Orton has started the last two seasons for Denver, posting career-best passing numbers to go with 41 touchdowns and 21 interceptions. But with the Broncos looking for a fresh start following a franchise-worst 4-12 season, Orton might be more valuable on the trade market, paving the way for Tebow to be the starter for new coach John Fox.

Teams are allowed to make trades, and Orton's name keeps surfacing. He is due more than \$8 million this season, a hefty price tag with Tebow and Brady Quinn waiting in the wings.

There were more than two dozen players who arrived at the facility over the course of the day, including Brian Dawkins and Robert Ayers.

"This lockout has been a long time," defensive tackle Kevin Vickerson said. "Football is back."

The Broncos spent the day negotiating with their draft picks, including No. 2 overall selection Von Miller, who said he planned to be ready to practice when training camp starts.

"I want to come in and just learn. I don't want to put myself anymore behind than I already am," Miller said.

Miller stands to make much less money in the new labor accord, with a four-year deal likely worth about \$25 million or so, some \$45 million less than he could have gotten under the old setup.

"I've been playing football all my life for free. So, whatever it is, whatever my contract may be, I'm good with whatever," Miller said. "You really can't be possessive over something you didn't have."

On top of that, Miller figures he will simply make it up during his career.

"I plan on getting three, four, five contracts," Miller said, smiling. "I don't plan on just getting this one."

"I just want to play football. I'm not really worried about all that other stuff."

Quarterback pleads not guilty

LAWRENCE (AP) — Kansas freshman quarterback Brock Berglund will report to the Jayhawks' training camp next week after entering a not guilty plea to a misdemeanor assault charge in Colorado.

Berglund entered the plea Monday in Douglas County, Colo. He is charged after third-degree assault after allegedly punching

in his standout career at Texas A&M, Miller donned No. 40. But since linebackers/defensive ends aren't permitted to wear that jersey on this level, he's switching to No. 58. It's also a way to honor the late Derrick Thomas, after whom he patterned his game.

Not to mention feed off the play of teammate Elvis Dumervil, who missed all of last season because of a torn chest muscle a year after leading the league with 17 sacks. Miller has already tabbed himself "Robin" to Dumervil's "Batman."

"We're here to save the day," Miller said. "I want to be there to back him up. If I can get me (a sack), I'll get me one, too."

Less heralded rookie linebacker Mike Mohamed made his way to team headquarters on the first day, as well. Like everyone else, Mohamed has been growing antsy waiting for the lockout to end.

Under the new system, the Broncos were allowed to start negotiating with their own free agents on Tuesday.

The Broncos have two restricted players in kicker Matt Prater and special teams maven Wesley Woodyard. Offensive tackle Ryan Harris and defensive tackle Marcus Thomas are unrestricted free agents.

a man April 9 during a party in Sedalia, a town about 25 miles southwest of Denver.

His attorney issued a statement Monday saying Berglund, who had enrolled at KU early but left the campus in the spring, will report to training camp Aug. 3. His trial is not scheduled until Dec. 13, after the season ends.

Big Bass Challenge set for Aug. 6th, put on by Hays anglers association

LAKE WILSON — Anglers are excited about the hot bass fishing at one of Kansas' best bass fishing destinations as teams from across the Midwest get ready to compete in the Big Bass Challenge set for Saturday, August 6, on Lake Wilson.

This is the 11th year for the event which is put on annually by the Hays Bass Anglers Association.

The tournament will be conducted out of Wilson State Park which is located about 10 miles north of I-70 at the Wilson exit about 20 miles east of Russell. The route to the lake takes tourists along part of the Post Rock Scenic Byway, and provides spectacular views of the lake.

"The Big Bass Challenge gives more anglers a chance to win with weigh-ins every hour," said Nate Brown, president of Hays Bass Anglers Association.

"We have a lot of father-son and husband-wife

teams that fish every year and the atmosphere is just really fun," Brown said.

Lake Wilson is one of the best Kansas bass fishing lakes with quality fishing for both largemouth bass and smallmouth bass.

"Numbered starts are a new addition this year, and starting positions are based on the order that entries are being received," said Darrel VonFeldt, the association's tournament director for the event.

This year, the event is part of Skeeter Boats' Real Money Program. The event is set to begin at safe light at the Wilson State Park boat ramp. Prize money payout will be 80 percent.

Registration forms are available for download on the Hays Bass Anglers Association web site at www.haysbass.com, or by contacting the club at haysbas-anglers@yahoo.com.

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