

Bull riders compete in Goodland

Spectators packed the grandstands at the Sherman County Fairgrounds on Wednesday evening for one of the highlights of fair week: the Western Plains Chute-Out professional bull-riding event.

There were several riders from northwest Kansas including Clayton Appelhans from Colby, Dustin Munk from Menlo and Kyle Zeigler from Atwood.

Brady Sims from Holt, Mo., won the short go. He scored 87.5 in the long go while riding Father Flannigan. In the short go, he scored 85 on Buffalo Hunt for a total of 172.5.

Only one other competitor scored in the short go. Skeeter Kingsolver of McLouth got 84.5 riding Scat Rat. In the long go he

scored 80.5 on Rip Cord for a total of 165.

Other riders who made it into the short go were Lane Lasley of Little Rock, Ark., with 84; Reese Cates of El Dorado, Ark., with 82.5; Chon Miranda of Ruidoso Downs, N.M., with 84; Travis Briscoe of Edgewood, N.M., with 85; Chance Roberts of Jewett, Ill., with 84; Carrson Hiatt of Longmont, Colo., with 85.5; Mike Lee of Decatur, Texas, with 79.5; and Joseph McConnel from Bloomfield, N.M., with 87.

The competition was part of the PBR Touring Pro Division, considered to be the minor-league tour.

Riders earn money to qualify for the PBR Built Ford Tough Series and World Finals.



Clayton Appelhans from Colby competed in the Western Plains Chute-Out professional bull-riding event Wednesday evening at the Sherman County Fairgrounds. KEVIN BOTTRELL/Goodland Star News

U.S. gymnast shatters glass ceiling with win

By Will Graves

AP Sports Writer

LONDON – Gabby Douglas believed two years ago, when she convinced her mother to let her move halfway across the country.

Martha Karolyi became a convert over the winter, when the bubbly teenager with the electric smile developed the tenacity required to be a champion.

Under the brightest lights, on the biggest stage, that belief shattered a glass ceiling.

Even if the first African-American to win an Olympic all-around title didn't quite realize it.

"I kind of forgot about that," Douglas said with a laugh.

Don't worry, Gabby, the world is going to have fun reminding you.

Douglas soared her way into history Thursday night, leading the whole way to climb a mountain paved by Ron Galimore, Dominique Dawes and a handful of others who showed the sport isn't just for the white or the privileged.

"How inspiring is that?" said Natalie Hawkins, the woman who allowed her then 14-year-old

"baby" daughter to move from Virginia to Iowa in 2010 after Douglas convinced her that she was good enough to compete at the top.

She didn't have to wait long to find out.

Douglas was still trying to get used to the feeling of having her second gold medal in three days around her neck when Oprah chimed in.

"OMG I'm so THRILLED for Gabby. Flowing happy tears!!" Winfrey posted on Twitter.

Karolyi, the U.S. women's team coordinator called it "history made" while Liang Chow, the coach who channeled Douglas' precocious talent, believes his star pupil is "ready to move onto higher things."

She certainly looked like it on a flawless night in which Douglas grabbed the gold during her first event and never let silver medalist Viktoria Komova of Russia come close to wrenching it from her hands.

Explosive on vault and exquisite on uneven bars, Douglas never trailed.

Though she sealed the third straight women's all-around title

for an American with a floor routine that delighted the O2 Arena crowd, it was her pretty set on beam that provided the difference.

The event is a 90-second test of nerves, a twisting, turning ballet on a 4-inch slab of wood 4 feet off the ground. And for months, Douglas struggled to find a rhythm on it.

She led the national championships after the first day, only to hop off the beam moments into her first rotation of the finals, opening the door for world champion and friendly rival Jordyn Wieber to claim the title.

Wieber watched the Olympic finals from 20 rows up in the stands with the rest of Team USA after failing to make it out of qualifying.

Teammate Aly Raisman never really recovered from a workman-like set on bars and an uncharacteristic wobble on beam.

Raisman ended up tying with Russia's Aliya Mustafina for third, but the steely Russian earned the bronze on a tiebreaker, a wrenching setback for the American captain, an integral part of the group that won the first U.S. team gold in 16 years on Tuesday.

Quarterback doesn't miss a beat

By Arnie Stapleton

AP Pro Football Writer

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. – Even with Eric Decker down, Peyton Manning didn't miss a beat.

Decker has been the star of the Broncos' training camp so far, but when he went out with a strained groin, Demaryius Thomas stepped up to solidify his standing in Manning's eyes and with Denver's refurbished offense.

Thomas made several big catches Thursday, even turning a rare wobbly pass from Manning into a 35-yard TD when he outleapt Drayton Florence and Raheem Moore at the goal line. Another time, he gave Tracy Porter a taste of the stiff-arm he used on Ike Taylor to beat Pittsburgh in the playoffs.

Whether on posts, curls or slants, Thomas was there to haul in Manning's fastballs during the no-huddle work to the delight of yet another record crowd – 5,034 – at Dove Valley.

"Well, I think Demaryius has had a really good camp even when Eric's been practicing," Manning said. "Demaryius is a guy that we are going to feature. His size and strength and speed just allows you

to do certain things with him that other players just can't do."

After all, Manning's game is built on finding the hole in the defense and getting the ball there as quickly as possible so his receiver can use his legs to turn short passes into long plays.

Good thing, too, because Thomas had some catching up to do.

The oft-injured Thomas needed an operation to remove pins from his left thumb this offseason and was sidelined when Manning signed with the Broncos (No. 10 in the AP Pro32) in March.

So, he was rehabbing while Manning was throwing tons of passes to Decker at local high school football fields while working his way back from a nerve problem in his neck that caused him to miss all of last season and led to his release by the Colts.

Thomas returned to the field in May and quickly made a big impression on Manning, who never had such a huge target in Indy.

Also making plays and an early impression on Manning is free agent receiver Andre "Bubba" Caldwell, who signed with the Broncos this offseason after four years in Cincinnati.

Labor Day Rally planned

A.B.A.T.E. of Kansas Inc. will be holding the 37th Annual National Labor Day Rally from Friday to Monday, Aug. 31 to Sept. 3, at Paradise Point in Lake Perry.

There will be plenty of camping areas, music and bike events all weekend as well as a deejay in the vendor area. The gate opens at noon Aug. 31 and admission is for all weekend, so people can enter and leave as they please.

Cost is \$25 per person for Motorcycle Rights Organization and Abate members, \$35 per person for nonmembers and an extra \$20 for those with recreational vehicles, campers or all-terrain vehicles.

During the weekend, the 22nd Annual Motorcycle Olympics will be held, with bike events being run on Sept. 1 and the bike show being held on Sept. 2. There is an entry fee to participate.

Twelve entertainment acts will be at the rally. Revolver, Final Drive and Southern Reign will

perform Aug. 31; The Breeze, Laurie Fank Comedy, Double Vision, Change of Heart and Josh Vowell and The Rumble will be on stage Sept. 1; and The Dry White Toast Band, Laurie Fank Comedy, James Wesley and Shawn Ward will perform on Sept. 2.

No one under 18 will be admitted unless he is a member of a Motorcycle Rights Organization (IDs will be checked), anyone under 18 must be in their family campground after 8 p.m., pets stay in their owners' campsite only, four-wheel vehicles stay in the camping area and only vendor, emergency or service vehicles can be in the vendor area.

Abate is a motorcyclist rights organization that is community-minded and helps with charities whenever possible.

For information or to reserve a spot, contact Abate by e-mail at office@abateks.org, online at www.abateks.org or by phone at (785) 597-5140 or (800) 657-5763.

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