

The Southeastern Showdown

29 years of rodeoing open to any state hits a record payout over \$36,000...

The Southeastern Showdown was held November 8-10 in Perry, Georgia at the Georgia National Fairgrounds. It is most known for being the largest multi-state rodeos and one of the oldest. It was created for members to get a chance to compete at an elite event that wasn't either of the National Finals. The Southeastern Showdown hosts a multitude of events over the three-day weekend including a Friends of AQHA Breakaway Jackpot, the Cinch Varsity Cup, Junior American Qualifier, a Junior High Rodeo and continuous jackpots in other arenas. Contestants had the chance to compete for Corral Boots, Cinch Jean certificates, Cinch Goody Bags and of course over \$36,000 in added money. 300 contestants gathered to compete at the Southeastern Showdown from 12 different states; Alabama, Georgia, Ohio, Mississippi, Florida, North and South Carolina, Virginia, Tennessee, Kentucky, New York and rounding out with New Mexico. With hosting 12 states and 300 contestants that ranks the 2019 Southeastern Showdown as their biggest one in 29 years.

The Southeastern Showdown began Friday around noon taking entries for a \$1,000 added Friends of AQHA Breakaway Roping. This event was open to any NHSRA member who was also an AQHYA Member or you could join AQHYA on-site. Following the jackpot, which was won by Florida member, Kaleb Bedsole, was performance one. There were about 20 contestants ran through each event and it lasted over three hours. Continuing in the night was slack which was a deep field full of fast times and great runs. Saturday morning brought more slack to the arena floor, then as noon rolled around we headed into the Cinch Varsity Cup, which hosted 8 different teams. The Cinch Varsity Cup is a specialized event ran in a team format with one contestant in each event then by the end the team with the most points wins. Cinch Jeans is the title sponsor of this event awarding a champion buckle to each event winner, a \$400 check to each event winner, \$200 to second place and a gift certificate for third. The overall high team received a check for \$2,000 and a cinch duffle bag. The winning team this year was South Carolina, with a whopping 70 points.

After the conclusion of the Varsity Cup, we headed into our evening performance. With an electric night of rodeo, the crowd was roaring, the times were fast and the points were high. Slack began at the completion of the performance and again Sunday morning. One event that took place over the course of the weekend was the Jr American Qualifier. Contestants from the weekend had the chance to take their average times and submit them for Jr American Qualification. Of course, the winner in those events for the Jr American took home prize money as well. The highest payout went to the Barrel Racing with Kaleigh Stackpole from Georgia walking away with \$562.50.

“It was a great weekend visiting the Southeastern Showdown and promoting the sport of rodeo and giving these kids a chance to compete at an elite event,” states Chanel Schvaneveldt, NHSRA VP of Marketing. NHSRA Executive Board Member, Ronnie Haslerig claims, “I think the sport of High School Rodeo changed this weekend and I'm happy this event and the one in Oklahoma could help make that jump.”

Jessica Wahlert, marketing manager for Cinch Jeans exclaims, “The Southeastern Showdown is what we strive for when partnering with events, Ronnie Haslerig and the folks involved with GHSRA are hard-working, first-class individuals and put the kids first. They worked sun up to sun down to ensure that the weekend was a success and represented our brand with the Cinch Varsity Cup and we look forward to next year.”

Southeastern Showdown Results:

All-Around Cowboy - Trevor Boatwright, Georgia

All-Around Cowgirl - Kayla Earnhardt, North Carolina

Reserve AACB - Jaxson Mirabal, New Mexico

Reserve AACG - Della Bird, Florida

AQHA Breakaway - Kaleb Bedsole, Florida

Bareback - Trent Tuton, Florida

Saddle Bronc - Jaxson Mirabal, New Mexico

Goat Tying - Gracie Griffin, South Carolina

Tie-Down Roping - Trevor Boatwright, Georgia

Breakaway - Brighton Bauman, Florida

Steer Wrestling - Riley Kittle, Georgia

Team Roping - Wyatt Allen (Header), Colton Allen (Heeler), Alabama

Bull Riding - Casey Roberts, Alabama

Barrel Racing - Kaleigh Stackpole, Georgia

Pole Bending - Elizabeth Jolley, South Carolina

Cinch Varsity Cup Results

Overall Team - South Carolina

Bareback & Saddle Bronc - Jaxson Mirabal, New Mexico

Goat Tying - Gracie Griffin, South Carolina

Tie-Down Roping - Trevor Boatwright, Georgia

Breakaway - Rennie Chavis, South Carolina

Steer Wrestling - Clayton Culligan, Florida

Barrel Racing - Courtney Stalvey, Florida

Team Roping - Della Bird (Header), Bryce Hart (Heeler), Florida

Pole Bending - Layla Overly, Alabama

Bull Riding - Ross Price

Junior American Rodeo Qualifiers

Tie-Down - Clay Livengood, North Carolina

Steer Wrestling - Paxton Wood, Florida

Breakaway - Courtney Stalvey, Georgia

Barrel Racing - Kaleigh Stackpole, Georgia