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(Neb.)-CSC rodeo team returns to action

By: Andrew Lacy Posted at: 03/13/2013 09:09 AM

The Chadron State College rodeo team will swing back into action this weekend, when Gillette College hosts its rodeo. The performances in Gillette's Cam-Plex will begin at 7 o'clock Friday and Saturday nights and 11 a.m. Sunday.

CSC rodeo coach Dustin Luper said 14 women and 18 men have entered the rodeo, which will be the first of five this spring in the Central Rocky Mountain Region.

Five rodeos also were held last fall in the region. The CSC women are fourth in the team standings while the men are eighth. There are 12 women's teams and 13 men's teams in the region, which includes CSC and schools in Colorado and Wyoming.

Luper said CSC has numerous capable contestants. However, most of them will have to show more consistency this spring to be among the top three in their events and qualify for the College National Finals Rodeo at the end of the season.

The two CSC students the highest in their events so far are Shelby Winchell of Scottsbluff, who is second in goat tying with 440 points, and Mitch McAdow of Littleton, Colo., who is third in tie down roping with 285 points.

Jordan Thurston of Gillette College leads Winchell by just 30 points in goat tying. James Wolf of Northeastern Junior College at Sterling leads the tie down ropers with 530 points.

Also ranking among the top 10 in the region from CSC are Jace Blackwell of Rapid City, who is tied for fourth in saddle bronc riding; Colten Blanchard of Sulphur, La., sixth in bareback riding; Amy Tierney of Oral, S.D., sixth in barrel racing; and Kourt Starr of Dupree, S.D., eighth in tie down roping.

Luper noted that because the competition is so strong in the region, two or three good rodeos are often enough to vault a contestant to the top of the standings.

The remainder of the spring schedule:

March 29-31—Colorado State at Fort Collins, April 5-7—Eastern Wyoming at Torrington, April 19-21—Casper College, May 3-5—University of Wyoming at Laramie and June 9-15—College National Finals at Casper.