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University of Montana rodeo will determine several new champions

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Recommended Citation

University of Montana–Missoula. Office of University Relations, "University of Montana rodeo will determine several new champions" (1966). *University of Montana News Releases, 1928, 1956-present*. 1919.

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NEWS

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PHONE 243-2522 AREA CODE 406

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Amundson
4-12-66

UM RODEO WILL DETERMINE
SEVERAL NEW CHAMPIONS

New champions are assured in six of eight events at the three-day University of Montana Intercollegiate Rodeo which opens Thursday at 7:30 p.m. in the Field House.

Calf roping and bull riding are the only men's events that have winners returning. In addition, the 1965 all-around cowgirl, Carole O'Rourke of Montana State University will return for her fourth year of competition.

Don Thompson of Brigham Young University will defend the calf roping title he won last year. Myrle Gollaher of Northern Montana College returns for a second bull riding crown.

Gollaher rodeoed for Montana State last year but transferred to Northern this season. Last weekend at the first college rodeo of the year in Nampa, Idaho, he won the bareback riding.

UM Intercollegiate champions not returning are Tom Buxton, BYU, bareback riding; Doug Martin, Northern Montana, saddle bronc riding; Harold White, BYU, ribbon roping and men's all-around; Dale Little Soldier, BYU, steer wrestling; Karen James, Utah State University, women's goat typing, and Greta Gustafson, MSU, barrel racing.

One of the better contestants expected here is Dave Holt of Montana State. Holt is president of the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association and is a fine roper too.

Two years ago he won the calf roping at UM and went on to take second in the Rocky Mountain region and third in the nation.

Holt had a few comments about the NIRA yesterday. "The NIRA is an affiliate

(more)

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of the Rodeo Cowboys Association, the professional organization, and all livestock, judges and other officials at college shows must be RCA approved.

"A college contestant may be a member of both organizations and may also rodeo in RCA shows for limited periods with only the NIRA permit."

Holt said three main objectives of the NIRA are to promote college rodeos, to encourage participation and to strive for better scholastic standards among contestants.

After the nine rodeos in the Rocky Mountain region this season the top two men's and women's teams as well as the top three contestants in each event will advance to the national finals at Vermillion, S. Dak.

In the region last year BYU won the men's title, followed by Utah State and Montana State. Montana State and Utah State headed the women's division.

Miss O'Rourke, last year's regional all-around cowgirl, is the only winner returning to the circuit this season. She was Rocky Mountain barrel racing champ in 1963.

In national competition the MSU entrant was second in barrel racing in 1963 and finished among the top 10 in goat tying last year.

Casper College, Wyo., not a member of the Rocky Mountain Region, has won the NIRA men's title three straight years.