

The Short Round

By TERRI MASON

ON THE MEND

At the CFR in Red Deer, Gary Rempel, the most famous pick up man in the world, was seriously injured when a Calgary Stampede stud kicked out after Rempel escorted the bronc through the out gate.

The bronc's hoof struck at the exact angle needed to cut through the heavy bull hide chaps and the shin pads to cut his skin and break his leg. Sport Medicine got Gary to the hospital where the surgeon operated on him at 4 a.m., inserting a pin into his leg.

Tyler Kraft, Calgary Stampede Ranch manager and a pick up man himself, geared up and finished the rest of the perf alongside Jason Resch.

Jason's twin brother and fellow pick up man, Jeff, received the call from the CPRA late that night to come and fill in for Gary in the arena.

"I had turned my horses out for the winter and hadn't ridden them for a few weeks, so they were pretty fresh," laughs Jeff. "They did really well though."

The twin brothers picked up for the rest of the Finals without incident. Each of the brothers has been voted in by contestants to pick up at the CFR many times before.

"I was in the arena and didn't see what happened," says Jason. "I went to see Gary the next morning, and we discussed it. It was a bad luck deal."

After the CFR perf, Ken "Goose" Rehill loaded up Gary's horses and took them to the Calgary Stampede Ranch, where they were looked after for the rest of the week.

After the CFR was over, the "Men of the CS" rounded up a newly cast Gary from Red Deer, Gary's horses and trailer from Hanna, his freshly repaired truck from High River (it had broken down near there on the way up), got everything squared away and delivered Gary and his outfit to his home near Fort Shaw, Montana.

"Gary is a legend," says Jason. "It's outstanding what he has done for picking up, and it's quite a deal to pick up with him. I hope he'll have a speedy recovery and be back in the saddle where he belongs."



Gary Rempel riding Herbie, one of his many pick up horses at CFR45



Jason and Jeff Resch pulling the flank off a Duffy saddle bronc, 10 Bootleg at CFR45