

# Rodeo spectators recall scramble to get out of bull's way

CFR officials say Rewind is finished for this year's competition

BY ANDREA SANDS AND MARIAM IBRAHIM, EDMONTONJOURNAL.COM NOVEMBER 13, 2010



A bull broke loose and jumped over the fence on Day 3 of the Canadian Finals Rodeo in Edmonton, Alberta, on Friday, November 12, 2010.

**Photograph by:** Brian J. Gavriloff, edmontonjournal.com

EDMONTON — When 10-year-old Grady Quam saw a bull leap over the fence and into the audience at the Canadian Finals Rodeo Friday night, he had one thought: Run.

“I just started climbing seats,” Grady said Saturday, sitting in the same fourth-row seat he had been in the night before. “I was thinking, ‘Run! Get out of the way.’ ”

That thought probably crossed the mind of more than few spectators sitting in the section of ringside seats when, for the first time in the 37-year history of the CFR, a 1,600-pound, four-year-old bucking bull named Rewind jumped over the railing and into the stands.

Three injured people were treated on at the scene by paramedics and one woman, conscious but suffering back pain and numbness in her legs, was taken to hospital. Information about her condition is not being released at request of her family.

Grady, whose dad is competing in the team roping event, said he wasn't afraid to sit near the action again.

But he won't need to worry about a Rewind repeat. On Saturday morning, rodeo officials announced that the wayward bull would not be returning to action for the duration of this year's competition.

"The bull is finished as far as this rodeo is concerned," said Dale Leschiutta, president and interim general manager of the Canadian Professional Rodeo Association.

For spectators closest to the bull's surprising leap over the railing, an evening of cheering on their favourite cowboys became a mad scramble for safety.

Grady says his boot got stuck as he jumped over the seats backs above him. "I tried three times to kick my boot out," he said. Finally, he freed his foot and ran into the concourse to find his family.

"Him and his friend were just shaking," said Grady's mom, Tammy Quam, who was sitting higher up in the section. "I couldn't believe my eyes. It was crazy."

Terri Croisetiére and her three daughters had a frighteningly good view from their third row seats as the bull charged into the crowd right in front of them.

"My daughter (Ali) was actually going to take a picture with her phone when all of a sudden he was coming over," Croisetiére said from Rexall Place Saturday where she and her family were back to watch the rodeo.

"The people that were injured were sitting right in front of us ... I look at the footage on TV and it seems like it happens real fast, but when you're right there, it just seemed like it took forever. Everybody was screaming and trying to get out of the way."

As the massive animal scrambled into the stands, Ali, 14, raced up the stairs and Terri scooped up her four-year-old daughter, Serena, handing her to a man who lifted her to safety.

The bull had been lassoed by outrider Gary Rempel right before it jumped the railing and it hit the end of its rope and then turned around, said Terri.

"My oldest ended up getting clipped in the knee and on the ankle from the bull, but she's OK. While he was turning, I think his hoof just caught her," Terri said.

"Thank God Gary Rempel pulled the bull over, because it was coming up (into the stands). We tried to get out of there pretty fast."

Rolly Buchanan was sitting with his wife in row 12 when the couple heard people yelling and saw the bull climbing into the stands.

"I guess he maybe got two or three rows up into the section ... The outriders got ropes on him and kind of steered him back down toward the fence," said Buchanan, who has never seen anything like it in his 40 years of watching rodeo.

"He ran along the fence, kind of bulldozing through the seats and people were scrambling to get out of the way. He made a mess out of quite a few seats."

Video footage shows that rodeo officials got control of the animal within about eight seconds of him going over the steel railing that is about six feet high. Buchanan and Terri both praised the outriders, also called pickup men, who roped the animal and pinned him to the fence away from shocked spectators.

Rempel and Jason Resch were on horseback in the arena when Rewind, owned by the Big Stone Rodeo company, threw its rider, Tanner Girletz. The bull then ran down to the far end of the arena. Rempel lassoed the bull, as is the usual procedure, intending to coax the animal toward the gate and get it out of the arena.

"This one decided it was going to jump," Rempel said.

"I roped him just about the time he started jumping. I'm glad I caught him — that's all I can say."

This is the first time a bull has jumped the fence in the Canadian Finals Rodeo's 37-year history, said CFR commissioner John Windwick.

No immediate changes are planned to boost safety at the event, although rodeo organizers continue to examine the incident, he said.

"This is a rare occurrence," Windwick said.

"They're wild animals so these things happen, but we would like to reiterate to everybody that we have the right people in the arena and we had a physician on-site, paramedics and probably two of the best pickup men in the industry and they did exactly what they should have done last night, so we're actually quite proud (of the two men who roped the bull) ... I think we've taken all precautions."

The rodeo concludes today at Rexall Place.

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