

MSU-N rodeo produced plenty of excitement

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Over the weekend, Havre hosted its 29th Annual Festival days. And joining in the festivities, the Montana State University-Northern men's and women's rodeo teams played host to Big Sky Region rodeo action. Friday-Sunday, the Lights and Skylights welcomed teams from the University of Montana, University of Montana -Western, Montana State University, Dawson Community College, Miles Community College, Montana Tech, University of Great Falls, Northwest College and Blackfeet Community College to the Great Northern Fairgrounds for three, jammed pack days of rodeo. Overall, the Lights and Skylights had two standout freshmen holding their own in the ranks. In Steer Wrestling, it was former Havre High star athlete Phillip Sutherland placing in the No. 8 spot with an average time of 19.6 seconds. And in Bull Riding it was A.J. Crasco of Dodson who finished in the No. 7 spot for the Lights with an average score of 73. Crasco only rode in the Long-Go Round, but performed well enough to hold a spot amongst the top finishers. Sutherland turned in an impressive time of 4.4 seconds in the Long-Go Round, which was good enough for the round's top spot. But in the Short-Go Round, he recorded a time of 15.2 seconds to land a spot in the top eight. Crasco and Sutherland were the only Lights' riders to average top eight scores or times, but the weekend's events produced a lot of good performances from good programs. In the nine events, five different schools captured a No. 1 spot. They were Colin Adams of Dawson Community College with an average of 143 in Bareback Riding, Cody Proctor of Northwest College with an average time of 5.7 seconds in the Breakaway, Benn Grann of Dawson Community College with an average time of 9.4 seconds in Steer Wrestling, Sam Levine of Montana with an average time of 20.5 seconds in Tie Down Roping, Trevor Lytle and Sam Levine of Montana with an average time of 16.8 seconds in Team Roping, Robbi Nace of Montana State University with an average of 32.32 seconds in the Barrels, Jessica Picchiatti of Montana with an average time of 16.6 seconds in Goat Tying, Ty Owens of Northwest College with an average of 148 points in Bull riding and Wyatt Smith of Montana-Western with an average of 145 points in Saddle Bronc Riding. The Lights and Skylights have big hopes for its riders and program this season, and have a collection of national contenders. And with this being only their second rodeo of the season, they have plenty of time to climb up in the Big Sky Region standings. Thursday-Saturday, the Lights are back in action. They will travel to Miles City, where Miles City Community College will host their annual rodeo.