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(Neb.) - CSC has lineup change for National Finals Rodeo

By: John Thayer Posted at: 06/08/2012 09:11 AM

There's been a change in the Chadron State College women's team that will be competing at the College National Finals Rodeo in Casper this coming week.

CSC rodeo coach Dustin Luper said one of original team members, Kaylee Gallino, is not eligible for nationals because of an inadequate grade point average.

Luper said the ruling is a setback, but the two cowgirls who will replace her are capable of doing well.

Amy Deichert, a freshman from Spearfish, S.D., will fill the opening in the barrel race and Jessie Sturman, a sophomore from Lusk, Wyo., will take over in breakaway roping.

The Chadron State team qualified by finishing second in the Central Rocky Mountain Region for 2011-12.

Gallino was the region's runner-up in barrel racing and was ninth in breakaway roping.

"Amy and Jessie don't have a lot of college rodeo experience, but they're good hands," Luper said. "Both are really excited to compete, and since their homes are pretty close to Casper, they'll have good support from their families and friends."

The Chadron State team will be led by another cowgirl whose home is only about 60 miles from Casper. Kelsey Scott, a senior from Douglas, Wyo., was on fire during the spring and ran away with region's breakaway roping title. She also joined with Matt Schieck, who attended Sheridan College, in the spring, and they finished third in the regional team roping standings.

Also a member of the Chadron State women's team will be freshman Katie Loughran of Broken Bow in the barrel race.

Another representative from Chadron State at the rodeo will be Miles Spickelmier of Imperial, who tied for first in the Central Rocky Mountain steer wrestling standings.

The rodeo will begin Sunday afternoon, June 10, and run through Saturday night, June 16. All performances will be in the Casper Events Center.

There are between 37 and 55 entries in each of the nine rodeo events. Each entry will compete three times, usually twice during slack and once in a performance. At the end of the three go-rounds, the top 12 contestants in each event will vie in the finals Saturday night.

There's a premium on consistency at the finals. Because of the caliber of the competition and the large number of entries in each event, it is difficult to make the finals after having a poor go-round.

Following Cowboy Church at 10 a.m. Sunday, the action will begin at 1 p.m. with two sessions of "Bulls, Broncs and Breakaway."

Full days of slack beginning at 7 a.m. are set for both Monday and Tuesday. The first rodeo performance will be at 7 p.m. Tuesday. The remaining performances will be nightly through Saturday's finals.

Scott, who has served as the student representative on the region's board of directors the past two years, is hoping

she can resume of good fortune she had in both breakaway and team roping this spring.

She won the region's breakaway title with 780 points, 450 more than the runner-up. She was first once and second once during the five fall rodeos, then dominated in the spring when she placed at least fourth in all five competitions and was the event winner twice.

Perhaps her most amazing feat was qualifying for the breakaway finals at all 10 rodeos. To do that, she had to catch her calf and place among the top 10 in the first go-round at every rodeo.

Scott, who does the heading, did not score in the team roping at any of the first six rodeos in 2011-12, but she joined forces with Schieck at the Colorado State rodeo. The new duo won both go-rounds and the averages in Fort Collins, finished second overall at Eastern Wyoming the next weekend and was first again at the Casper College rodeo.

They each earned 500 points at the three rodeos, good enough to seal third place in the regional standings and qualify for the national rodeo.

Both Scott and Spickelmier will be competing at the national rodeo for the second year in a row. Neither reached the finals last year, but Spickelmier missed them by just one place, winding up 13th after the initial three go-rounds.

Spickelmier got the 2011-12 season off to a fast start by winning the steer wrestling at the Chadron State rodeo Sept. 9-11. He also was second at the Eastern Wyoming College rodeo and fourth at the rodeos hosted by Lamar College and the Casper College to share the regional title.

Loughran was placed on the CSC women's team for nationals after making a strong showing in the barrel race late in the season after her paint gelding, "Blow the Smoke," recovered from an injury he had suffered about a year ago.

The rider and her horse finished second twice and third once during the four rodeos in April and wound up sixth in the regional standings.

Deichert also did well in the barrels in the spring. She placed third at both the Casper and University of Wyoming rodeos and was fifth at Gillette. She also reached the finals at Colorado State.

Sturman was second in breakaway roping at the CSC rodeo last September.