

190 Teams attend Opening Night At the 185 Ranch & Arena

Labeled as a huge success, the 185 Ranch & Arena was officially opened for business Friday night as team ropers from around the State gathered in Perry for the facility's inaugural Team Roping.

Named for the exit number on Interstate 35, the 185 Ranch & Arena is located immediately North of the Sooners Corner Restaurant between the I-35 exits 185 and 186. "Location is everything", said Sloan Smallwood of Stillwater, Oklahoma. "I had friends here tonight from the Tulsa and Oklahoma City areas and all of us agree that this is one of the easiest arenas in the State to get too. I predict these Perry events will get very big, very quick."

Evening activities began at 7:00 p.m. and concluded shortly after 1:00 a.m. "We really didn't know what to expect," said Cody Leitner, Arena manager. "When the trailers kept coming in, we knew we had something."

Top honors went to 15 year old Cody Withey of Stillwater. As "high-money" winner, Withey received a cash award and a trophy buckle. "I had a great time at a great facility," said Withey. "Winning the 185 opening night will be a memory I'll keep with me the rest of my life. The really great thing was getting to celebrate with my mom and dad over breakfast at the 24 hour truck stop. It's rare that you can find food after a roping. Perry is really perfectly designed for these type events. I want to thank those involved with putting it all together."

Winners in the #12:

- 1st.....Jared Smith & Chris Smith
- 2ndAdam Sullins & Sloan Smallwood
- 3rd.....Ryan Dawson & Derrick Jentzen
- 4th.....Sloan Smallwood & Devon Thrash
- 5th.....Cody Dees & Devon Thrash

Winner in the #10:

- 1st.....Cody Withey & Derrick Jansen

- 2ndCody Withey & Brad Thrash
- 3rdJosh Dawson & Cody Magnus
- 4thRyan Dawson & Josh Dawson
- 5thCody Withey & Bob Priess

The 185 Ranch & Arena will host a regular Wednesday evening Team Roping practice and Jackpot and a Friday night #10 and #12 roping through September 2008. “We hope to schedule a barrel racing practice night on Tuesdays just as soon as our ground gets better conditioned”, said Cody Leitner. “Once ground conditions improve to the expectations of competitive barrel racers, regular barrel racing events will be scheduled as well.” Saturday’s are reserved for regional and national barrel and team roping events. Times and dates will be posted as these events are booked.

Just prior to the first team’s run on Friday night, event announcer Beverly Clinkscale of Stillwater paid special thanks to those who volunteered their time in the development of the arena. Locals receiving special recognition included: Darren Billingsly, Jason Clinkscale, Bill Streller, Scott Johnson, Cody Sewell, Alvin Golay, Bob Bornt, Randy Parrish, Randy Hughey and Jacob Hamburger.

Those needing additional information may contact the manager at 580-336-8660.