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Immediate Release

Melby makes history for Minnesota, claims \$17,885 in prize money for 13.83 seconds of work in Las Vegas at the Wrangler National Finals Rodeo

Third time a charm for Barrel Racer, Jane Melby in go-round number three

December 5, 2011 Las Vegas, NV. - Jane Melby of Backus, MN won the third go-round of the 2011 Wrangler National Finals Rodeo (WNFR) on Saturday December 3, 2011. Melby is competing in her first WNFR with her barrel horse RC Black in Black "Beauty." Melby and her horse Beauty turned in a run of 13.83 seconds to claim the coveted third go-round championship buckle and prize money of \$17,885 over the weekend.

Forget four leaf clovers!

Gold Buckles are won by three quick turns in her sport known for the "cloverleaf" pattern. "I'd say qualifying for the NFR was a big honor, but winning the round is just doubling it," exclaimed Melby.

This is the first time in history a Minnesota cowgirl has competed at the WNFR dubbed the Super bowl of Professional Rodeo. Melby enthusiastically said, "It's just an incredible feeling. First out on the ground, end up first. Have to sweat it out for the other 14 to run." Melby in the third go-round on the third of December ended her run in 13.83 seconds. The number three is certainly her lucky number in Las Vegas.

Arena conditions are extremely important in the sport of barrel racing. The riders at the beginning have the best footing for their horses. Jane took full advantage of running at the top of the ground. The repetition of the horses digging into the dirt can be a disadvantage for riders further down the lineup. Each night the lineup changes for the contestants.

Melby is one of fifteen women from across the United States and Canada competing for the title of World Champion Barrel Racer in the Women's Professional Rodeo Association. The Thomas & Mack arena on the campus of UNLV hosts the 53rd Wrangler National Finals Rodeo through December 10, 2011.

The opening ceremonies each night of the rodeo include a grand entry of all 119 contestants on horseback. Each performance Melby has the honored of carrying in the Minnesota State flag to a crowd

of over 17,000 rodeo fans. During her first interview in the WNFR Press Room she reflected on how exciting and emotional it was to carry her state flag.

The total payoff for the 2011 Wrangler NFR is six million dollars. Per go-round , per event pays a total of \$57,692.31 with it broken down by 1st place \$17,884.62, 2nd place \$14,134.62, 3rd place \$10,673.08, 4th place \$7,500, 5th place \$4,615.38 and 6th place \$2,884.62. Seven events make up the nightly rodeo performance. The average pays out #173,076.92 per event.

At the conclusion of go-round four on December 4, 2011 Jane Melby had won a total of \$23,942.31 in prize money at the WNFR making her yearend total reach \$87,224.88. She split 4/5 place with Sherry Cervi in go-round number one with a time of 14.08 seconds and a paycheck of \$6,057.69

Media Notes:

Interview footage and WNFR Media Room photos with JaneMelby are uploaded on facebook Kirchmann Media Group

Arena action photos credit in print and online to photographer Alex Compton