



BRISBANE, Qld, Australia: Old foes Rocky McDonald and the never-before-ridden Jungle Rumble went head to head in the first of the 2011 Professional Bull Riders (PBR) Australian Cup Series at the Brisbane Entertainment Centre last night – and McDonald won.

Landing in town the morning of the event and hot off a winning streak that saw the 31 year old Mexican bull rider take the Canadian Montreal title two weeks ago, McDonald last night bagged the Brisbane Invitational Champion buckle – the first of Australia’s four-stop elite bull riding competition – and leap frogged almost 20 spots in the world standings, possibly edging him into the PBR Top 40 World Cup qualifiers.

The first rider to ever score on the nine year old Jungle Rumble, McDonald opted for the fiery bull in the Championship round Draft (bulls nominated by riders rather than by draw), a “rematch”, he said, to settle a four year grudge.

McDonald last met the “unrideable” bull at the PBR World Cup on the Gold Coast in 2007 and actually rode him to time, but didn’t score because he slapped him.

“It was an old wound,” said McDonald. “I’m glad it’s now healed.”

The only rider in the 22 man competition to cover three bulls, McDonald went into the Brisbane Invitational Championship round (Top 8 qualifiers) with 171 points – second to Rothbury’s (NSW) Jason O’Hearn on 172.5.

First out of the gate in the first round McDonald got all sauced up covering Hot Dogs for 83.5. It was good pickins for him again in the second with a score of 87.5 on Bad Booger. He held the lead until Jason O’Hearn romped in with 89 points on Big Brian. In the first O’Hearn had ridden light as a bird on Danger Mouse, equalling McDonald’s 83.5.

Only twelve riders scored in the 52 buck out night and Missouri’s (USA) Luke Snyder was the only other cowboy besides McDonald and O’Hearn to cover both bulls in the first two rounds.

Snyder went into the Championship round in third place with a combined score of 168.5 (81 on I’m Wild Too in the first and 87.5 on Rattle Ya Cage in the second).

Oregon's (USA) Cody Campbell, Ayr's (QLD) Jock Connolly and Uralla's (NSW) Duncan Elks all headed into the Championship round with an equal score of 87.

Campbell locked in on his second bull Trigger. Third time lucky, Elks got two re-rides in the second round and finally brushed off any moves from the spidery Arachnophobia to earn his spot.

Connolly lost out to White Noise in the first round and in the second The Down Side literally put his rump in the dirt to give Connolly a re-ride.

Connolly screamed out his 87 on the little bull with a "lot of go", Little Secret.

Rockhampton's (QLD) Jason Mara earned his place with 86.5 on Strike Force in the first round and next in line was a toss between equal point scorers, brothers Jared and Pete Farley, 86 each on Beau Duke (Jared) and Cruel Intentions (Pete). The decision went to the back judges and it was older brother Jared who moved into the Championship round.

Third to ride and first to score in the Championship round Connolly dominated with a pistol packin' 85.5 ride on Great Western Slinger, the bull he'd conceded after Cody Campbell chose That's Gold, the bull Connolly had wanted. "I been on him twice, but only scored on him once. I wanted another go at him."

Rubbing salt into the wound Cody Campbell came out fifth on the creamy yellow beast and became only the second rider in history, after Connolly in 2009, to cover the bull who took out the night's Champion Bull title. Campbell rode him for an awe inspiring 90.5, the highest score of the night.

McDonald came out seventh, the second last ride of the night and took the lead with his 88.5 on Jungle Rumble.

O'Hearn, the leader going into the Championship round, was the last to ride in the nail biting finish.

He blazed on Up In Smoke but the bull stubbed him out and McDonald finished the winner.

"Anyone could have been the winner here tonight," said the Mexican. "You get on some bulls, you ride them and anything can happen.

But it worked for me tonight and I feel good."

McDonald pocketed \$12,320 of the \$45,000 payout and not previously in contention, moved into third position for the PBR Australian Champion crown.

Defending Australian Champion, Kyogle's (NSW) David Kennedy was left with more than a hangover on Dark & Stormy in the first round. Kennedy's hopes were dashed when he aggravated his injured shoulder, had to sit out the night and is out for the Townsville competition.

Rockley's (NSW) Brett Hanrahan, out the last few months with a broken hand, was all sweetness and light for 83.5 on Mood Swings in the first round, but got hung up on Boss Hog in the second, hurt his hand again, and is also out for Townsville.

The openings make way for Boulia's (QLD) Grant Wells and Goondiwindi's (QLD) Jim Rowsell who returns from the USA to take his berth in the Townsville competition.

Jock Connolly's performance keeps him #1 and leads the home-town boy into Townsville in the top spot. Jason O'Mara is in second.

Don't miss this Saturday night's PBR Australian Cup Series TROY DUNN INVITATIONAL at the Townsville Entertainment Centre.

2011 Australia National Points Standings

	Points	Brisbane	Townsville	Newcastle	Sydney	Total Pnts	
1	Jock Connolly	826	537.5			1363.5	
2	Jason Mara	641.5	306.5			948	
3	Rocky McDonald		804.5			804.5	
4	Jim Rowsell	802				802	
5	Duncan Elks	458.5	297			755.5	
6	Sam Larsen	673.5				673.5	
7	Troy Wilkinson	451	205			656	
8	Grant Wells	617				617	
9	Cody Campbell		607.5			607.5	
10	Beau Willis	602.5				602.5	
11	Jason O'Hearn		567.5			567.5	
12	Michael Ford	549.5				549.5	
13	Roy Dunn	538				538	
14	Luke Snyder		483.5			483.5	
15	David Mason	370				370	
16	Mitchel Paton	334				334	
17	Fraser Babbington	296.5				296.5	
18	Ryan Storey	243				243	
19	Trefor Sproule	228.5				228.5	
20	Clayton O'Brien	225				225	
21	Cliff Richardson	212.5				212.5	
22	Cameron Taylor	203.5				203.5	
23	Pete Farley		196			196	
24	Jared Farley		196			196	
25	Brett Hanrahan		153.5			153.5	
26	Matt Ladhams	138.5				138.5	
27	Craig Postle	106.5				106.5	
28	Ben Jones		103.5			103.5	
29	Darcy Nixon Smith	74				74	
	Totals	8592	4458	0	0	0	13049.5

2011 PBR AUSTRALIAN CUP SERIES:

Saturday June 18	BRISBANE Invitational	BRISBANE ENTERTAINMENT CENTRE Tickets: www.ticketek.com.au
Saturday June 25	TROY DUNN Invitational	TOWNSVILLE ENTERTAINMENT CENTRE Tickets: www.tecc.net.au
Saturday July 2	BRENDON CLARK Invitational	NEWCASTLE ENTERTAINMENT CENTRE Tickets: www.ticketek.com.au
Saturday July 9	NATIONAL FINALS	ACER ARENA, Sydney Tickets: www.ticketek.com.au