

Livestock sale hits record \$412,000: Grand Champion Steer brings in \$50,000, the highest price in decades.

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Byline: John Norton

Aug. 29--A healthy increase in the number of goats and intense bidding by teams from Denver and Pueblo set a new record for the Colorado State Fair Junior Livestock Sale Tuesday evening.

More than \$412,000 was raised for the 120 young people in 4-H and Future Farmers of America whose animals qualified for the sale.

Puebloan Sam Brown, who last year paid \$46,000 for the grand champion steer, was outbid in that sale this year but nevertheless paid out \$70,500 for a baker's dozen assortment of steers, goats, lambs and hogs.

The top bidders who paid \$50,000 for 15-year-old Lisa Reid's crossbred steer named Casino Royale was a quartet from the large Denver Rustlers team: Jake Jabs of American Furniture Warehouse, Dean Singleton of the Denver Post, Larry Mizel of MDT Holdings Inc. and Rick Sapkin of Delemont Development.

Fair officials said it was the best price for a steer in more than 20 years.

Brown drove up the bidding with a willingness to pay as much as he did a year ago, but auctioneer John Korrey may have raised the ante when he needled Jabs, saying: "Come on, Jake, I paid \$50,000 for a couch at your place."

The Brighton girl's steer didn't seem to appreciate the bid, however, and balked when she led him away for pictures. Casino Royale proved to be the most stubborn animal at the auction.

Lisa said she plans to go to Colorado State University in Fort Collins after high school.

Brown did get the winning bid for the Reserve Grand Champion, paying Tanner Anderson of Eaton \$13,000 for his crossbred.

Throughout the evening's bidding, the auctioneers did all they could to get the youngsters the best prices for their animals. Korrey and Wayne Kruse alternated at the microphone, playing the Denver and Pueblo crowds against each other and even as the evening waned, they managed to get decent bids for the third-, fourth- and fifth-place animals.

One of the biggest surprises in the auction came from a new group, the Friends of Football at Colorado State University-Pueblo, who fittingly called themselves the "Pigskin Buckaroos."

They aggressively bid during the beef section but really turned on the gas to bring home the

bacon, buying 19 hogs. In all, the team spent \$97,450. They bid \$30,000 for the Grand Champion Hampshire exhibited by 14-year-old Trey Morris of Meeker and \$12,000 for the Reserve Grand Champion belonging to Mitchell Peterson of Sanford.

In the lambs, Kelly Knight of Longmont sold her Grand Champion blackface to Brown for \$18,000, and Emily Horvath's Reserve Grand Champion went to Singleton and Mike and Walt Imhoff of Stifel Nicolaus and Co. for \$6,000.

John Freyer Jr. of Land Title, another Denver Rustler member, bought the Grand Champion Goat from Shelby Teague of Fort Morgan for \$3,800 and TIC Corp. paid \$1,900 for the Reserve Grand Champion owned by Ryan Throckmorton of LaSalle.

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