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BEST IN THE NATION

WCJC Men's Rodeo Team competes at National Finals

WHARTON, TEXAS – Three out of five members of the Wharton County Junior College Men's Rodeo Team finished in the top 12 in the nation at the College National Finals Rodeo, held earlier this month in Wyoming.

Ty Arnold of Midway, Mason Boettcher of East Bernard and Kaine Warnken of Schulenburg all made it to the finals in team roping during the rodeo, held June 12 to June 18 in Casper, Wyo.

"Making it to the finals means you are one of the top 12 competitors in the nation," said WCJC Rodeo Coach Sean Amestoy. "I'm proud of what they did. They had a great year."

WCJC's team competed against more than 400 competitors from 100 colleges across the nation during the event. Five WCJC cowboys qualified for the CNFR after impressive finishes in the Southern Region of the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association (NIRA). That included Boettcher, Arnold and Warnken as well as Reid Zapalac of Smithville and Paden Hurst of Navasota.

As a team, WCJC finished in third place in the region for 2016, beating out much larger universities like Texas A&M. The women's team did well, too, finishing seventh.

Since the CNFR, Amestoy has remained busy recruiting for next year's team. Of the CNFR qualifiers, only Warnken and Hurst will return to WCJC next year. The other qualifiers have graduated and transferred on to four-year universities.

"We will have a lot of new guys and girls next year," Amestoy said. "I think we've got some good athletes who will compete well for us."

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