

2018
IPRA WORLD CHAMPION SADDLE BRONC RIDER

RAYMOND HOSTETLER

AGE: 24

PIFFARD, NY

In 2017 Hostetler earned the Rookie of the Year title, in 2018 he left Oklahoma City with a gold buckle and a new title to add to his resume, World Champion. For a young man that has only been riding saddle broncs for 5 years, you might wonder how he's honed his skills in such a short period of time.

"I basically started riding on my own and then I met Sam Swearingen. I went to work for Rawhide Rodeo Company and Sam has taught me everything I know. I give him all the credit for my success. I still work for Sam and live about a mile down the road from him."

Raymond came into IFR49 trailing Travis Gardner by roughly a \$1,000. Hostetler scored 76 points to earn second in the first round. A 79-point ride in the second round earned the round win. Another second place check in the third round put him in the lead for the average and the gold buckle was within reach.

"I was a little nervous before the fourth round. I had tried not to pay any attention to the title race and just ride my horses. I tried to think about everything but the standings actually," said Raymond.

Raymond earned the win in the fourth round with an 82.5 point ride aboard Cherokee Kid from Rafter M. "He was a really nice horse. I'd never ridden him before. I didn't know until after the round that I had won the world and the IFR average."

"My favorite rodeo of 2018 was Attica, NY. It's a hometown rodeo and it was my first time to ride there and win it."

"I'm getting married in May and I'm planning to rodeo pretty hard again this year. I definitely plan to be back at IFR50 and hopefully have a shot at another gold buckle."

Living in upstate New York, Raymond enjoys ice fishing and skiing at the nearby ski resorts during the winter months.
