

**2018**  
**IPRA WORLD CHAMPION COWGIRL BARREL RACER**

**TAYCIE MATTHEWS**

**AGE: 16**

**WYNNE, AR**

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Taycie Matthews made a goal in May of 2018 that she was going to win the world title. "I knew it would be a lot of work and a lot of hauling, but I wanted to give it a try. We went to 72 rodeos last year."

Taycie came into IFR49 in the number one position with a slim lead over former world champion Kindyl Scruggs. Matthews and her stud, Heavenly Firewater, aka Bud, took the win in the first round. She placed fifth in the second round and rallied back to win the third round and finished third in the fourth round. Taycie claimed the average win with a total time of 61.648 seconds on the four runs.

"I was a little nervous at the finals, I tried to treat it like any other rodeo. By the fourth round I knew I had to stay clean and make a good run," said Taycie. "I was so excited when they announced I'd won the world title. I was hugging Bud, I wanted to take him into the arena to be in the pictures too."

"I had a blast at the finals, all of my friends were there and we got to hang out, it was awesome."

"Bud had fractured his hock in September of 2017 and had to have 5 months off to heal. We did a lot of therapy and swam him to get him back in shape. I was finally able to get back on him in February of 2018. In March we picked up our first check and we didn't look back."

"I'm going to try to make IFR50, but I'm not going to haul as hard as I did last year. I want to give Bud a break, he deserves it."

Taycie gives her great horse Bud, all of the credit for their success in winning the gold buckle. "He did everything, I just hung on!"

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