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Greg Bowen wrestles a steer during slack time at the 2000 California Rodeo Salinas. Slack time is for team ropers, calf ropers, steer wrestlers and barrel racers.

No lack of action during slack

Spectators can watch overflow of Rodeo contestants for free

By **GEORGE WATKINS**
The Salinas Californian

It's not exactly prime time, but slack time at the California Rodeo Salinas

can be just as rewarding for some ropers and steer wrestlers.

The main difference: During slack time the only audience may be fellow contestants, while during prime time the grandstands at the Salinas Sports Complex fill with thousands of spectators.

Both periods are used to allow large numbers of team ropers, tie-down (calf) ropers, steer wrestlers and barrel racers show their stuff.

The top 15 ropers and steer wrestlers,

regardless of what time they compete during the week, qualify for Sunday's short round.

Prime time at the California Rodeo Salinas is when the roughstock events — bull riding, saddle bronc riding and bareback riding — start at 7 p.m. Thursday and Friday and 2 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

Slack time, which falls during the morning hours, is held the first three days of the Rodeo, doesn't involve any

roughstock events and is free to the public.

"We have an overflow in so many of our timed events that we need the extra time to get in all the contestants," said Sally Hamana, marketing coordinator for the California Rodeo Salinas. "We want to keep the show for our regular performances to two to two-and-a-half hours."

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