

SLACK/ This year the Rodeo has 138 barrel racing competitors

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This year, for example, the Rodeo has attracted 138 barrel racers.

Last year slack time was needed daily for about 15 tie-down ropers.

Another dozen competed between roughstock events during the Rodeo's traditional evening hours.

The luck of the draw determines who competes in the morning and who rides at sunset, according to Hamana.

"During slack time you usually get other ropers watching the ropers and steer wrestlers watching the steer wrestlers," Hamana said.

Contestants compete for the same purse no matter what time of day they ride.

Slack time at the Salinas rodeo during Thursday and Friday begins at 11 a.m.

It generally lasts for about two hours.

Slack time during Saturday and Sunday starts at 9 a.m.

Once slack time is over the arena is cleared and prepped for the evening performance.



RICHARD GREEN/THE SALINAS CALIFORNIAN FILE PHOTO

Contact George Watkins
at g Watkins@salinas.gannett.com

Todd Forsberg and Tommy Mullins who tied with a time of 9.4, compete in the team roping during the 2004 Rodeo.