

Heading Out for the Summer Run with Dustin Egusquiza

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It's something else. If it's something you want to do, then it's not as fun as it gets for a job. Really. It's what I've always wanted to do. And I wouldn't do anything else. It's I have so much fun doing it.

this is Chelsea Shaffer, and this is season four of the score. You all have listened to this podcast, three quarters of a million times, and we are here in season four to bring you even more of what you love.

happy to Tuesday ropers it's Kaitlin Gustave here with a special episode of the short score brought to you by us Roper you guys. On this episode, we have a special guest and that is Dustin Agassi. The, and he is here to talk about. All things, Woodward Elks Rodeo, the upcoming summer run, and his plans for the year.

He also gives some insights to the up and comers that want to, you know, jump into ProRodeo. So if you're wanting to get your hands a little dirty and dip into the pro rodeo scene, listen to this episode, Dustin has some great tips for guys that are wanting to come on the road. So, but Dustin was on this episode because he and Travis graves, one, the Woodward Elks rodeo in Woodward, Oklahoma, they were four seven, and that paid 4,600 to that team.

They were the high money earners of the weekend as well with that win. Plus they want to a little over a hundred dollars at another rodeo. Um, and they had a great weekend also at the Parker. County Sheriff's posse frontier days and PRC rodeo in Weatherford, Texas. There's a tie for first and those coy ramen and Douglas Rich and Colby level.

And Paul leaves, they each team rope their steer in 4.1 seconds. And that paid 3,299 for the team. Um, and then another big win was in Cortez, Colorado, Eric Rogers and Peyton Bray were four four, and that paid \$2,573 to them. They're still number one. In the ProRodeo standings. Um, they're gonna be the team to beat so far.

Uh, but everyone's heading out to the summer on, I know, uh, while we talked to Dustin, he was on his way to Reno. He had just left his home on his way to Reno. So all the guys are gonna be heading out there. They're heading out on the road for the next few months, so everyone's hungry for it. And it seems like it's going to be a pretty normal year this year.

Um, After last year's COVID-19 pandemic. So I, I personally am excited to see how everyone does this year and can't wait until we find out who is going to end in the top 15. Who's going

to be the big money winners each weekend. It's going to be fun. Fun year. So anyway, I will quit talking at you guys. I know you guys can't wait to listen to Dustin.

Excuse us. On this episode, this episode is brought to you by us Roper. We as Roper spend a lot of time on the road. Join us Roper for 24 7 coverage for both you and your equine athlete, us Roper provides nationwide coverage for your vehicles and your horse trailers from towing to flat tires to emergency farrier and vet referral.

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Hello. Hey, how's it going? Good. Good. How's the being back on the road ready for summer run feels pretty weird. Feels like it's been a while since you've done this. Yeah. I mean, let's kind of talk about that. How, I mean, obviously last year were so crazy with COVID you guys weren't on the road as much as you guys normally are.

Um, and now it's back pretty much to normal. How talk about that a little bit. Yeah, we are, we're real excited to be headed to Reno. It feels like, and it feels like five years. I haven't done this. This is more of our, it's pretty cool to pack everything up and head west and go to Reno. It's one of our favorite times, uh, I mean, it did feel pretty.

I wouldn't, you just left a couple hours ago, but it's still kind of surreal, like even just so much time without doing it, you know, it's real exciting. And so you guys are obviously going to be gone until the end of summer. For the most part. Yeah. Yeah. I mean, I think we might come home for a couple days or something like after Dutch city.

That's what we usually do. Gotcha. Gotcha. Well, uh, obviously want to talk about your win from last weekend. Um, tell me, how was that run? It would Woodward, uh, honestly I wasn't a real big fan of Woodward coming into it. Cause last year I roped over there and it was like, uh, 50 or 60 mile an hour headwind. I don't even remember what it was.

I used the hill road. Cause I thought that would be a better idea. Maybe have a little more weight, have a little more weight to get it to the steer and that didn't work out so good. And then I guess it, I guess it's harder to swing a hill or open the headwind. I don't know. But the wind was literally blowing so hard.

You couldn't, you couldn't even hardly swing your out. Yeah. So wasn't one of my favorite radios and then this year treated us a lot better than it was great weather. We do a real good steer and it felt like a pretty good run, but honestly we just, our stair is pretty good and all the other ones are pretty fresh, you know, it was just pretty good draw.

Yeah. I was just like, you guys took an early lead in it obviously held through the whole weekend, which is great. I didn't feel like we did anything. Out of the world, but all the stairs were pretty much fray. Like they only had four or five rounds on them. Some of them are just really fast, our stairs.

Pretty good. What was the horse you were riding there? That was Mohawk. I've had him for, I guess I got in just a couple of months before the NFR and he's been, he's been outstanding ever since then. He just, he scores good enough and runs good enough. Never does anything to hurt you? It always seems like you have, it always seems like I have a chance to win something.

Every time I ride them, whether it be feel like you're out of there open, and then you're just groping and then, oh, there I am back in it, or it just never feels like he's doing anything wrong. It always feels like he gives you a chance and it gives you a hundred percent every time it's been, he's been a real good horse farmer.

You know, I know you and Chelsea did like a, you know, story on, in the magazine of being comfortable reaching and what you've been working on as what you've been working on with your personal roping. Do you think that helped you at Woodward or, I mean, you're just you're clutch at reaching anyway. So

in particular, the steers were a little fresher sides. I was just focusing on getting as good of a start as I could because they weren't leaving very honest. I steer left pretty true. And I, I got a pretty good start and I was focused on just ride my horse and then open the steer instead of, instead of just kind of hitting the line and throw in which a lot of these circular videos have been that lately you just need to blast as fast as you can.

It feels like twin first felt like Woodward was a little bit more of a summer type rodeo. You know, I'm just focused on score and, and riding across there and then open the steer. It came together pretty good. Honestly, it didn't feel like we were four, seven. I thought they'd call out like some kind of five, two or five, three, and, oh, wow.

I couldn't believe where four said, say it felt like it was in slow motion. That's it. And getting a good start. What, what do you do or what do you work on to get a good start? And like, what are you looking at? Like at the shoot or on the steer to help you get a good start?

My opinion, getting good starts has everything to do with how good your horses score. And if your horse is sentence standing there, looking down the Brattle and standing in your hand, I'll never the gates open. It's going to be hard to get a good start. So I think that's real important. And then a lot of guys do at different on the score.

And I look at the end of the shoot and like, say, if I want to see point of the shoulder, whenever point of the shoulder goes past the end of the shoot, then I go, some people watch the pen. And I honestly don't know how they do that. I've tried to do at one time in the practice pen felt like I was going to fall off my horse.

I don't know. Oh, geez. Over 4,000 going into your guys's Paychex. How how's that going to help you guys right now? Starting the summer run. Yeah, it's pretty. I mean, anytime you, when 4,600 at UPROSE IDEO, that's a pretty good hit in the standings and. And the bank account also, but it feels like this time of year, it feels like you're already on your points more than anything.

And like in the standings, you know, 4,600 goes a long way. Yeah. Are you, I mean, when do you start getting concerned about the standings? Uh, it's something I always, uh, always watch it. I'd probably watch it too much, but. I just something I'm always doing. I always check on and see who's been moved up or exactly how much I got stuff, you know, where I want to get to how much money, what a goal is for me.

Gotcha. It's like speaking that goals have UNTG have you guys kind of made goals for the year or is it kind of just same deal? Well, we haven't like set a number, but we'll. Our main goal is we want to win the regular season. You know, obviously besides one in the world, we want to go in and win. And then when the regular season, I think he's only done it once or twice and I've never done it.

And that's something I've always, I've always wanted to do that. Get to ride the grand entry horse through the arena at the Thomas. And back before the RDS starts get the bonus in the buckle for winning the year end that's that's our main goal. Gotcha. Yeah. That's interesting. I guess I've personally never talked to anyone that, um, you know, about that.

That's interesting. That's a, that's a definitely a good goal to have. Um, and you're not far behind. I mean, right now, obviously Eric Rogers and Peyton Bray, they won the American till they got that big 50,000 paycheck, which kind of put them in the number one spot. And you have 61,000. Um, you're not too far behind them.

Yeah, I'm not terribly far behind them. I mean, a couple of big wins and we'd be right there back back with them, TGS quite, uh, quite a bit further than I am fine. He didn't get into Florida down there. Gotcha. So we're, that's kind of, I'm just worried about getting him to the top and if I get him to the top, surely I'll be at the top also.

Yeah. And it was, I guess, what horses are you taking on the road? Feels kind of weird actually, cause I just have two horses right now, but I really don't a lot. I'm taking, I had to leave one behind for Springdale, Arkansas and Pincus and Greeley. So I'm driving out here to Reno with one horse for horse trailer or horses.

It was pretty weird. Yeah. Are you, are you home by yourself or. Gotcha. Gotcha. So do you ever, I mean, obviously you probably jumped in with TG some places, but do you just kinda go on your own usually or? Yeah, usually it's just a lot of on our own, but this year our schedule is so crazy after like starting at the BFI.

Once we were up at the BFI, our schedule gets really crazy, like flying back. We opened spring, dark, and the next day, and then. Once we started doing all that flying and stuff, then it'll be me and Travis and Nelson and Levi kind of doing a lot of their running around together. Gotcha. Yeah. And speaking of Nelson and Levi, um, you guys are buddy teamed and you guys had back to back runs in Hugo, um, which we missed.

And I heard you gave Chelsea a lot of crap for . What like what we were slacking on this, I feel like, like, what are your thoughts on this? Yeah, I thought we'd get a little more attention or something. Where is the fastest round I've ever made? Three, four. And I didn't even get my rope off the steer and Nelson, our three, four.

I've never even seen that three, four in person at a PRC rodeo. Yeah, that's insane. I, I will apologize for that because I'm usually the one running social media and I didn't catch it at all. I take that back. I seen two, three threes in person. I've never seen it. Three, four of them. Yeah. Well, and back to back like that that's that was insane.

I couldn't believe that. Yeah, that's pretty cool. I was going to be, I was going to be really mad if they'd be in a sauce.

Oh my gosh. That's funny. That's uh, so I guess, you know, obviously both of you guys were going at it. Do you. Like Nelson. And you, do you guys kind of talk about your roping at all? Or your heading? Not a lot. Yeah. I mean, you know, you don't really try to pick on each other too much. I mean, we've been friends for a long time.

I grew up kind of grew up in Nelson, down there in Southeast. I was in high school when he was in high school. We were rodeoing together and I've just, I've known him since I was probably. 13 or 14 years old. We've been friends for a long time. It's pretty good to have a buddy team that you're friends with and everybody gets along.

I think it'd be a pretty fun year. Definitely. And it's also good that I've never had a buddy team before, but I think it'd be good to have some kind of like a little bit of competition bill, you know, I'm trying to do is trying to keep up with each other. Yeah, no, that's going to be cool. That's gonna be fun.

Um, who does all that? Who's going to do all the entering Levi's been doing all January. Gotcha. Is he the most trustworthy out of all for you guys? Yeah, definitely not me and Nelson. We probably shouldn't do that. Um, but Travis usually he's always done the intern for us and then Levi, he likes center and then he's pretty good at it.

So he's just been putting us down everywhere. Gotcha. As I say, Travis is more of the like veteran, um, on your guys's in the whole rig. Um, does he have any insights where you guys are heading? I mean, you guys have all just been pro rodeoing enough that it's normal. Yeah. It feels like this year is the first year and still felt like, kinda got a plan, you know, like what I want or what we want to do.

And there's ways to go about things that make it a little bit easier on them. Traveling and things like that, you know, and this, it feels like the first year kind of that I'm not just going out here, just entered, showing up, driving to wherever, wherever I'm internet. Like I feel like we kind of have a plan, even though it's pretty hectic.

I mean, we still have a plan and I think it's going to be, I think it's going to be good. It's not going to be too hard on anything. Yeah. Gotcha. Gotcha. And I guess, you know, I want to ask, like now that you've been going and you, you know, three times at the NFR, what's some advice that you can give to someone that's wanting to come up in the pro ranks.

Um, it's tough. Uh, heading is a little bit easier. I would say to get a partner, if you can show up and start heading good. There's a lot of guys that can catch to beat that. That you can get go in or with, but healing. I feel like it's harder healing just to break over that point where

you're one of the top guys, because there's so many guys that catch two feet really good, you know, and then to be a good healer, you have to have a good header.

There's not, I mean, I wouldn't say there's not good headers, but it just seems like there's, there's so many healers, so many guys that catch two feet. And then there's maybe only 30, 40, 50 guys that you'd actually want to go rodeo with, you know, and not try to make a living doing it, but it's, uh, it's something else.

It's, if it's something you want to do, then it's not as fun as it gets for a job. Really. It's what I've always wanted to do. And I wouldn't do anything else. It's I have so much fun doing it. I'm glad that I can do this for my living. Gotcha. And obviously, you know, making the living rodeoing, um, and you have all your sponsors, obviously that, you know, I hope you all on the road.

How important is it for you guys? Like, I guess, cause you know, you always get those kids that always ask people to sponsor them. Like what are your takes on sponsorships? Sponsors are huge. Uh, yeah. There's there's no. And how much sponsors can help you? It makes everything so much easier, whether it's your trailers or your rope company or saddles, or keeping your horses going.

That's very important. If you don't have the sponsors, it costs so much more to keep everything going the way you need it to. It's something you definitely want to have. And it's something you want. You want to market yourself. Pretty good to be able to get those good Spartan sponsors. I think. Gotcha. And how about, you know, keeping up on your end of the, you know, the sponsorship deal, how, how tough is that?

Or, you know, what do you do to make sure you, you check off the list that you're keeping your sponsors happy? Well, I think that like a lot of social media, so I've been, I have been past not very good at social media and I've been trying to get better about it lately. Tag my sponsors a lot. Give, give them some more credit on social media.

That way they get more recognition notes. It's more than just wearing the patch on your shirt. As social media is pretty big and that's how they get a lot of their, a lot of their recognition, I guess. So I've been trying to do better at that lately. Okay. Gotcha. Well, awesome. I appreciate you, uh, hopping on this podcast with me today.

You bet. Awesome. Well, you guys drive safe and we'll see you in Reno. All right, we'll see you out there. Thank you. Thanks. .