

The Short Score: CFD Champions

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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.

If you weren't in Cheyenne for championship Sunday, then you definitely missed out. Hey guys, it's Kaitlin Gustave on the short score. And this episode is brought to you by ADM and speaking of ADM, world champion, Clay Smith and Jade Corkill one, the Cheyenne frontier days, Clay Smith feeds ADM feeds. So what better than to have him on this episode of the podcast?

Clay and Jade one Cheyenne, with the time of 10 and two on their final steer on championship Sunday, and that paid \$8,930 a man. This was clay Smith's first time to ever win the daddy. It was actually his first time to ever make the short round, which is really shocking. Uh, he's been going to this rodeo since 2012, entering this rodeo.

And, uh, his first time to ever pull a check until now was in 2019. So, um, that's super awesome. Jade is now three times CFD champion heeler. He won in 2009 with Chad masters and won in 2013 with clay trine. Um, riding very iconic horses all three times. So congratulations to those guys. Uh, we'll have a special interview after I do some chit chatting with you guys.

Um, following that she was the second ever CFD champion, breakaway Roper, but she's the first ever WPR, a PRCA earnings channel. That is Sawyer Gilbert, the 19-year-old from Buffalo, South Dakota. Oh man, that was some fun watching. She was four and four on that final calf. And that paid \$12,175. She earned a total of 17,525 in CFD earnings, which is a huge payout.

She's unofficially moved into the top five of the WPR. Pro rodeo world standings. She was riding a very beautiful bay horse that actually was trained by the Cheyenne frontier days, arena director, Frank Thompson. So I think that horse kind of knew that set up, which was maybe an advantage for somebody. Um, so that was super cool.

Uh, she was ho you know, her traveling partners, Jordan Jo Fabrizio, who was the first ever CFD champion in 2019. So that's super cool that those girls got to keep the, those titles in the same rig and. And bounce off each other. And so super fun and Sawyer is also on the steps of the podcasts. But so first we're going to listen to clay and Jade.

Talk about their very cool. When, all right, you guys, I am here at the Cheyenne frontier days with the champions of the team roping. We have clay Smith and Jade. Corkill you guys, clay. This is your first time ever winning shine. How does it feel to finally get up on that stage? It feels good. Um, hadn't done very good here until 2019, I guess, was my first check to ever win here.

And, uh, so yeah, it's nice. Definitely. And Jade on the backside, you now have three CFD buckles, um, and they're kind of spaced out, like you said, how cool is it to finally do good at strand and, uh, you know, take home, take home the win? Well, that's good. It's always good. When you can do good at the big ones.

And, uh, like you said earlier, that. When you get towards the end of the year, like the big money starts getting more scarce. So, uh, anytime you can add lumps on things like this that are decent amount together, it helps out a lot. And you've wrote very iconic horses here. You've won on Iceman. You've won on caveman.

Now you won on Huey. Um, what's the difference? Between those heel horses in this setup. And, you know, and talk about more about Huey, how good he did in this setup. Uh, they were all, all three of them were pretty similar. You know, as far as this type of setup goes, they could all score good and they all ran hard and all read the cow.

Really good. So, uh, that's pretty important here, helium, cause you get to roll in pretty fast and you got to let them get measured off of the steer before you heal them. So you don't slip a leg or something like that. So. Um, I've had him like two years, I guess now. And he's, he's been really good. He's, he's probably one of the better ones I've ever had.

And, uh, I'm just glad, I'm glad to have him. Definitely. Yeah. I know. He's been a game changer for your career. I feel like. And clay, what's that shallow horse. I know you're not riding Marty here. Uh, let's start with her. So you've been riding, this is kind of more my jackpot horse. I got it from clay Dean. Uh, he's been, he's been nice to have had him for over a year now, I guess, but, uh, first time to ever ride him here.

Um, but he, he, he can run pretty hard and, and let you, and he'll kind of stay moved from moving forward. And so you're able to try to keep the stairs up. Cause sometimes you're going so fast that if a horse really uses left leg and really wants to come back, you can kind of jerk them around a little bit.

So he kind of stays moving forward a little bit. It makes it easier to try to keep the stairs up. Gotcha. And you guys. Steer was a good advantage for you guys because it's so tight coming out of the boxes right there, that steer came to the right. Um, you know, talk about, talk about that score and that run right there in that, in that championship Sunday run, uh, we knew that if we was going to try to win it, that we was going to have to try to nail the barrier and be pretty aggressive and, uh, I was almost a little too close to the barrier.

I had to pull a little bit at the end, but steer was good pattern. And then he healed him fast and got tight, fast. So like, I didn't know how fast he was going to be. I thought I took him long ways down there and, and then, um, looked up and was fast. I was faster than we was fashioned in what I thought was going to be, but still, like I said, being third out didn't really know, didn't know if that was a winning run or not, but some guys had heck and fortunate enough to do good Jade.

You know, talk about that, letting those steers go. That's really crucial in this setup. Yeah. Healing here. It's, it's actually really different because a lot of times, like down through there, you think you need to kind of start moving and start moving, but you really don't yet

because if you catch up at all before the header does and they want to move in front of them, they're already lined out to where they're headed and it can, uh, they can close the gap on him pretty fast.

And you see a lot of guys miss when that happened. So, um, I just kinda try to stay back and catch up when he does and just count on, count on them. I'm gonna wait on you. And, uh, it usually works out pretty good if you do it like that. You know, kind of walk me through the steps, getting to Sunday, you know, the, the slack and then the semi-finals all those performances.

Well, you know, it's, that's a long week just to get to Sunday. I feel like it's a little easier to make the finals now than it probably in years before when it's been two and a short, just because you can have a bad steer and especially slack that morning, you know, they take 12 guys back. And so like our first year was pretty strong, but, and we as first out, so, I mean, our mindset was just kept clean.

Make it back, you know, and then we made it back. And then the hardest is the semi-finals making the top four out of 12. I mean, because I mean, some sets, it was real tough and I mean, some sets of legs made it back. So you don't really know. And then we were, we were kind of in the middle of the road, uh, I think we were seventh or eighth out, maybe in the semi-finals.

And so we knew kind of what to do to make it back. And so anyway, but, um, we just kind of, our plan was kinda knock them down. There's really no big advantage. Take a big risk until today. And so we just tried to do what we could to get by to today and then try to do all you can, but don't miss today. So definitely, and I know there was a ton of teams that were, you know, they were going to be nine or so in the short round.

And unfortunately got legs. Do you guys sit back and after you rope watch the runs or, you know, where are you watching that final round? Uh, yeah, we, we were just sitting at the back end watching them, uh, you know, why don't, you don't ever wish any bad luck on anybody, but, uh, you can't do anything. Once she wrote, it's just, it's up to them.

And, uh, all you can do is your job. And our stair, we thought our stairs a little bit stronger, gonna be a little stronger today than, than some. But like I said, when we were third out, how you can really do is just make sure you catch them as fast as you can. And they pay eight out of 12. So, you know, if you don't win it, but she can win still when something, so it just went in our favor today.

Definitely, definitely. And standings wise, um, you guys are in the top 15. You know, what's this money going to do for you right now in the season. It's an old flirt halfway through the season right now, I believe, uh, you know, how's this money going to help you guys? And what's what are the goals going into the rest of the season?

I mean, uh, whenever you can win anything at all, I mean, like it helps build a house. I mean, anything, anything helps right now, but, uh, as far as standing goes, I try not to look at it too much. Um, try to win as much as we can to stay as close as we can. And then, I mean,

everybody knows Las Vegas is gonna. So the 10th round anyway, so, I mean, um, we're just gonna try to win as much as we can and see how it happens.

See what happens at the end of the year. Yeah. I'll just kind of the same thing, like you said, that should have, you know, today getting winning that much at one time, that should have probably got us locked down to where we should be safe now as far as making it. And, and then, like you said, after that, just do whatever we can do and try to try to do it on the last 10 when we get there.

And you guys, I know obviously. Everything was canceled last year, especially Cheyenne to have it be back and, um, you know, to be able to come back and win. What does that mean to you guys? Oh, I mean, it's, it's awesome to, to win. I mean, I've never even made the short round here, so it was good turnaround.

Yeah. That's, you know, have, have everything get back to somewhat seems like normal. It feels pretty good. I didn't, I didn't really like it the other way, so I hope, I hope it keeps going like this. What's the plan. Where are you guys? Next, you know, keep grinding what's what's up soon. Yeah, we got a pretty busy week this week.

We start Tuesday night at Sydney, Iowa, and then I think we're every day, somewhere until the Spicer grape are open on Sunday. So we have pretty busy here for the rest of August, I guess, I guess that's the first day, but still starting now, starting now. Yeah. And clay, you have your family on the road with you right now.

Are they gonna stay on the road with you or our house is just getting finished. So when we go back home after a Spicer grip, they'll probably jump out. Stay home for a little while and they probably fly back to the Northwest, but they've been with me for a little while and then my kids are getting a little bit road soured a little bit.

I think they're probably going to be ready to stay home for a little while and then they'll fly back out. Probably. Gotcha. So what are, what rodeos are you guys looking forward to for like, you know, At the end of the season, what's kind of your guys' favorite. I guess I like Ellensburg. Yeah. That time of years pretty fun up there.

They have a good jackpot. They got the WestStar roping up there. And even though you're still gone rodeo on a sill, seems like you can kind of relax and be in one spot for a little bit while you're around there. And, uh, was just the good, weather's getting kind of good atmosphere around that. So it's kind of like one of my favorites this time of year.

How about use clay? Yeah. Ellensburg is always favorite. And then, uh, Pendleton's going to be fun. I mean, I'm excited about that too. Northwest is always, it's pretty nice. I get to hang out and not, not so much traveling, just, uh, kind of all in one spot and, uh, while everybody's hot at home, we kind of get to relax.

Definitely, definitely. Well, I'm not gonna hold you guys for much longer. Uh, thank you guys for sitting here and talking to me and congratulations on this really big win. Thanks clay and Jade for joining me on this episode of the short score. And now we're going to take a minute to listen to surrogate.

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How does that feel? It's pretty cool. I mean it, in Cheyenne frontier days, everybody wants her to go to Cheyenne, the daddy of Vaughn. It's even cooler to say that she ever won it. And it's, it's really special to me that Jordan Raziel is my traveling partner. She was the first ever to win it. We're in the same rig together.

It's pretty amazing that two ever champions in Cheyenne frontier days are the same race. No, that's exactly what we were talking about on the way over here. That's awesome that so-called Jordan won that first ever in 2019. Now you hear 20, 21 winning it. Um, you know, did Jordan give you any kind of pep talks for today or how.

How's that going with the rig? Well, when we left, we were at Burwell, Nebraska. We were buddied together and I had my own rig and I was headed off back to Cheyenne and they were going to another priority and I asked Raven, I'm just like, you gotta get advice. And he, he was used as like, make sure you see the start.

And then I don't know. It was just like sitting in the trailer today. I was just like, I can't believe that I am about to run one for all this money at Cheyenne. And I'm like, I've got to wear a red shirt because it was Jordan's favorite color she wanted and went to red shirt. I'm like, it's going to be a thing.

I know this is a good calf. I got a chance. As long as I don't screw it up, it's we're gonna be. It's going to be great. I've got her, I got to wear a red shirt. Not red shirt must be lucky. So, uh, tell me about, did you know that calf going into it? I did. I got to watch it one other time in person and I actually got the video from the girl who had ran it and I, I was just like, this is he's good.

He's straight down the pen. I got a real chance. I just got to make sure I see my start. Yeah, I was gonna say that to been probably the best cap anyone could have drawn today. I, I would have wanted that calf if I was up today. And what, you know, going through the motions, getting ready for today, you know, you went through the semi-finals and then, or the, you know, the first performance and then the semi-finals and then the semi-finals.

And then now championship Sunday, you know, tell me about that trip to champions and championship Sunday. This was a week ago on Wednesday. We showed up here for the slack and it, yeah. It was pretty special, you know, like it was, it was kind of like one of those deals, I was tired and it was like at seven o'clock in the morning.

And I was like, damn, I gotta get, like, I got to make sure. But my, my whole, like, walking into this, I was like, if I just get out of the barrier, I don't have to be close. Very, you just get out of the barrier and go and catch him at my first shot. It'll be good. I know I'm riding enough horsepower. And then I was riding my good mirror that I wrote all summer and she crossed over and hit herself really hard and kind of hurt herself.

And so. After that she was, she was really sore. And so I actually had a couple of days off. So I went back to Buffalo, South Dakota, and my brother, Greg Gilbert was, I was thankful not if I got to steal his horse from him. And so it's actually, it's my brother's horse that I wrote the rest of the time. And it, Frank Thompson was the one that actually owned him.

And so he spent a lot of time in this arena. And so walking in there, I was just like, this is pretty cool. Like I have a, I'm not, I don't want. Stupid my shoulder, but like I just showed up with the first ever champion and I'm riding a horse at a spent, spent hours and days and weeks upon in this arena.

I'm like, I've, I've got a chance I just need, I just need to keep, keep it going for myself. That's cool. And you're not the only one in the breakaway rope that had a horse from Frank Thompson. I know Brady good. That great horse Ringo is from Brandi Thompson as well. So that's, that's super cool that those, both those horses get to come back to their home home arena.

Dominate. Yeah, this is cool. And you know, what do you call that horse that you rode today and how old is that horse? Well, I call him big enough and that was what Frank called them or whatever. And everybody, everybody around the barns calls and big, uh, he's quite, he's quite the character. I think he's like 12 this year, but he's pretty cool.

I've stolen a lot. He was my, kind of my backup horse, the year that I went to the American and I've wrote him, he's been in my trailer a lot. Yeah. My pesky brother keeps stealing them back for me. I can't keep them out there. Yes. I can't keep them out there. Yeah. And you know, everyone knows you with that iconic paint that you always ride, you know, how come that paint is not in the rig now?

I actually, so I rode, um, when the college rodeos were going on, I was riding him a lot. And then I was trying to like kind of seize in my mirror and get with her. And so I was riding, I was riding the pain horse a lot, and then I kind of, I had had an injury in the practice pen and it was, I hurt my leg. It just felt better on the paint.

I just didn't have to worry about it. I just have more confidence on my paint horse. And I think, I think some of that, it kind of got in my head and I started pulling on him pretty good. And so we just kind of started loping a little bit. And so I just made, I just made the decision. I was like, you know what?

He's had a lot of runs this summer or this fall winter and stuff. I'm like, he's going to go home. And he's just going to live out in a pasture for a couple months. And I, so I sent him home with all my rest of my horses when I came out here and I started riding that marriage. She just got amazing. I was, I felt so comfortable on her and I was, I got to see everything I want to see made my job so easy.

And then I went home. Now that I've kind of, after the 4th of July, we've been a little slower. I got to go home and practice a bunch and I got on him again. And I was just like, oh man, like, this is going to be cool. I've got three horses in the trailer. I just felt like for the longest time I was always like, I only have the pain horse.

And then yeah. Then it was kind of like now I only have the mirror now that looking back. Yeah. I've got all three. Yeah, no, that it's a good feeling to have a good, you know, first string, your second string or third string and you know, being on the road this much, it's so new for breakaway rovers. How are you handling it?

How, how has it, yeah, this is, I'm not, I'm not, I'm not going to lie and say that it's been. You know, flowers and daisies, but this is the most fun I've ever had in my entire life. This is the funnest summer I've ever had. And a lot of it's probably to thank for Jordan Reva. Cause they, I, I probably wouldn't be saying the same thing if they didn't, you know, pack my ass around a little bit.

She had to saddle my horse a couple of times. You know, it's, it's a team effort and I'm really thankful for them, for letting me they've taught me so much this summer. And, and like, just like the horses, like I've I had one, I had that mayor most of the rest of the summer, and then the pain horses he's coming out on the road, my mayor's going home.

She's going to get, she's going to get off until the finals now. And so the ma the paint horse is coming out and that big horse is staying out. And so now I got two of them that I can kind of flip flop. Keep them. So I always got a freshman underneath me. No, that's perfect. And speaking of the finals, I think they said you probably around 32 C and D.

I don't know. I think, I think somebody said top 20. I don't look at that stuff. I haven't looked at it yet. So not knowing where you are in the standings right now, but you just want a big chunk of change here, the daddy, how is that? What's that going to do for you right now? Um, for the standings and personally, you know, and personally, I, I get to have more fuel money to go down there.

Yeah, it takes some of the heat off that way. You know, like it's been, it's been a tough year. It's this tough competition. And so like the money is so spread out. I mean, like you can be doing good, but just placing, you know, two or three holes out and just cause you're not drawing the right calf or something had to take an extra swing.

Don't get any money. And so winning this, I think it takes some of the pressure off, but it's also like a little kick in the ass. Like you get on, you get on the website and you enter everything you can get to. Cause you got two fresh horses and enough money to go down the road. Like we're going after this thing.

Don't count, sir. Gilbert out. She's coming for that number one spot in the standings guys. And uh, sorry. I, we have talked about it cause you are so dominant in those fast, quick set ups being 1 9 1, 4 1, whatever you are, you're so fast and coming out here, you have to score. Run them down and make sure you catch them, you know, how do you battle those types of setups?

I always thought like, when I, cause I want to, I always like going down to Texas, cause it starts so much shorter and I was just like, that's like my kind of setup. And then we went to Prineville, Oregon, and it was kind of set up like Pendleton and I placed or something. And it was the first time I talked to my dad in a while and I was just like that.

I wasn't really expecting, like for me to do that good at like that kind of a setup. And he's like, what are you talking about? Like every kind of setup. Yeah. And I was just like, and that kind of stuck with me. I'm like, if I just, I just got to recognize what the kind of setup is and adjust my style. That, I mean, just like a couple of little things, like I can get my first swing at fast, but in China and you don't have to.

And so it's make sure you see your start, get you tip down and then fall through and go and rope the calf. Yeah. Yeah, definitely. No, that's, that's good. That's a good way to put it and look at it. And that I conic belt buckle that you're getting in saddle. What are you gonna, are you gonna wear the buckle?

I know. I think Jordan wears hers or she still wearing Raymond's. Are you guys gonna wear, have matching belt? I don't know. I don't know. I'm not sure. I didn't even look at the buckle. I just want to look at it. Cause I was trying to stay like call me collected and act like I'd been there before. And so I didn't look at it, but I don't know.

I probably will. I probably will. It's probably too cool to not, I mean, it's a cool blog. Yeah. It's a pretty cool buckle. I probably I'll probably wear it at least, at least, at least for the pictures or something. Yeah. You're going to put it on every now and then, right? Yeah, yeah. Yeah. What can you say to little girls coming up or women that are kind of nervous about buying their card and heading out on the road, but what can you tell them?

I jumped in with feet first and then like, if I'm all in or all out. And so there was never a hesitation in my mind, but I think some of the things that just listening to some of these girls struggle with some of the things that they didn't recognize, like out here on the road, don't want all that stuff, get to you.

Like it's here to do a job. This is your job. And you have to do your job. No, ma'am. You know, that's one of the things like I haven't written on my trailer, like do your job no matter what, like, even if you knew he broke the barrier, catch the cat because something might happen to you not. And so I think some of that is, you know, traveling partners, you know, girls have tendencies to fight with each other, but I don't, I mean, I've never heard it, but you know, like stuff like that, like don't want to bother you, just, you know, get, get the team, make sure you have a couple people that you can trust with all your heart and that you have somebody to fall back on and.

Keep it simple, stupid. I mean, do your job, so your scar, yes. Just, just do your job no matter what, that's like. The thing that I keep telling them, it's just that you don't have to worry about the drama and everything else. It's all the same when you back in the corner. Definitely. Well, Sawyer, congratulations on the super big Wayne.

I'm so excited for you. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you guys. That was so much fun. I really enjoyed talking to all of those channels. And don't forget, this podcast is brought to you by

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