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Thanks again to Farnham for sponsoring this episode of the ride. This week, we talked to NRCA J professional Aaron termino, so excited to sit down and talk with Aaron. She is really been a huge inspiration to me as I joined the cow horse industry. Um, she has a similar background to you and I, Julian. Um, she came from the all around.

Uh, Jillian is currently still doing all around stuff. And then I did the all around stuff for a long time before transitioning over to the cow horse. And it was just really cool to talk with her because Erin is kicking butt in the cow horse world right now. I mean, she is at the top of every big event.

So exciting to see a female professional, you know, out there. Cause there's not many women that are professionals in the cow horse industry. And, um, it's, it's just really cool to see someone that's strong and that talented be up at the top. Yeah. And honestly, even though I'm started in the all around and I'm still here after talking to her and watching the documentary that Susan, like, I don't know, I might, might have to start getting my feet wet and with the cow horse.

It's super fun, but yeah. Um, like ju like Jillian just said, uh, she was part of down the fence, which was a, um, very big documentary that came out a couple of years ago. Uh, and that kind of followed Erin when she was still really fresh and to her career as a professional, um, you know, as she went out on her own, she had worked for some really big trends.

Uh, for a while before going out on our own, but this documentary was coming out around the time that she was first starting to like, have her own horses and her own clients. And, and, um, you kind of saw her struggling and, you know, as we all do, especially. You know, the cattle horse is really insane because you, you have to try 100% or else things are not going to go well, it's not, you know, you can only have so much control when there's another animal in the arena dictating what you're doing.

And yeah. And so it was really, it was it's cool to look back and see, you know, where she was when that documentary came out and where she is now, where she's winning everything. Yeah, it was fun watching it right before we talked to her. Cause I got to see like how she started and everything. And then talking to her was where now, where she

is now, it was just really cool to see how quickly she grew her career and how well she's doing now.

So speaking of horror shows Jillian, you're actually at a horse show right now, as we record this, which is why we might be picking up some background noise of horses, walking back and forth. And, um, I'm looking at, we, we record these by doing, um, teams call so we can see each other while we're talking. And I she's sitting at it in a barn, you know, with the stalls horses walking to and from the show arena.

Um, so Julian, tell us what you're doing. Uh, tell us where you're going, what what's going on at the horses. Yeah. Yeah. I'm at the Pinto world champion ship in Tulsa, Oklahoma at the Tulsa expo center. And today's the first day of showing. Um, so everyone's super excited and kind of getting, getting the start of the horse show under their belts.

And so many kids are so nervous and everything, but, um, it's, it's been a good horse show so far I got here on Friday. So we'll be here for about two weeks. It's always world show seasons, always exciting. There's just something different about getting ready for some of the world shows. Um, I've been to the Pinto world show once.

Um, and it was, you know, they have so many classes. Oh my gosh, it's crazy. I've never seen so many different events at one horse show. Um, so that was really cool to kind of. Get to be around some new stuff. Um, you know, like you said, you guys just got started, but you already had a girl win. So you guys are off to a really great start.

Yeah, we did. We, um, one of our, our youth girls won the 14 through 18 showmanship this morning. So at seven 30. Good way to start the horse show. Yeah. Well, and, um, it's Jillian, it's your sister, right? That's the horse. That is your, uh, the trainer and you just come along for moral support and to help your sister out how you can, and yeah.

Do work from a stall, uh, do the best job ever though I can work for more. So you literally can't get better than that. It's really normal for, you know, our job to be we're posted up in arenas at stalls, in, you know, living quarters, RVs, hotels. It's kind of the perks of working for an equine magazine is that, you know, going to a horse show is part of the job.

Even though we have to sit at a computer for 10 hours or whatever, we're still here in a part of it. So it's great. So anyway, um, yeah, Jillian's going to be doing some reporting, I guess, from the Pinto world, she's gonna, you know, write some articles and, you know, talk with. Some exhibitors that have some really cool stories to tell.

Maybe she'll even get a couple of people to do some Instagram takeovers, so we can kind of see what's going on at the Pinto world. Uh, but yeah, so, so be sure to keep an eye out for, for all of Jillian's coverage while she's out. Anyway, let's jump into the interview. So today we are here with Aaron Tor amino, who is an NRCA professional, and I am super excited for this episode.

I was actually fan girling a little bit when I first started talking to Aaron about doing this because. I recently got into the cow horse after 15 years in the all around pen and

seeing down the fence, which is documentary that Aaron was in, kind of is what inspired me to get out of the, all around and try something new.

So I'm super excited that you decided to come on the podcast and talk with us. Thank you very much for having. Yeah. So I guess, um, when we usually start a podcast, we, we try to kind of dive into what your horse life was growing up. I know that you had a documentary that talked about all this, but for the listeners who maybe haven't seen it yet, can you kind of talk a little bit about your horse background and how you originally got involved in the horses?

Yeah, so I grew up in a, in a small town in Saskatchewan, Canada, and I grew up just. I don't know for me, it seemed normal. You know, we just, I rode horses for fun and I had a pony and I had, I didn't have, you know, specialty brand type horses. I just, I loved horses and I rode and I did everything you can think of on them.

And, um, I just did it just, I mean, just for purely because I loved horses and I loved riding and I, I got into, um, four H they have a light horse program in our area. And I started doing that. And that led to doing some open shows and basically doing same thing, kind of every event you can. And that led to a quarter horse shows.

And I showed the all around for a few years in my youth. Um, and then one thing led to another. I ended up in Texas to show the all around. That led me on the path of the cow horse. And I'd never had anything to do with, and here we are today, that's, that's a really short summary of it. I mean, I totally feel you on going from the, all around to the cow horse because it is so different.

Um, and that was like, you know, I did the all around for like 15 years. And, and when I sold my last horse at the 2011 world show, I was like, I like, I don't know what I want to do. And. Um, then I got involved with horse and rider and I got to meet all these cow horse people and see the documentary and kind of getting into the sport.

And I was just like, yeah, I want to do this. Yeah. You know, I, I love the all around and it taught me so much. And, and I learned so much from it and met some incredible people and, and I don't even really know why I fell into the cow horse. It's just one of those things that I. Happens, you know, it's your path and, but I'm thankful it did because once I got into it, I absolutely loved it and I haven't looked back and I wouldn't change it for anything.

Julian, you're welcome to pop in. This is Jillian's first podcast interview. She just started like three weeks ago. So I'm trying to encourage her to speak up because I'll just ramble for an hour. No, I'm I'm from the all around background. That's all I've ever known. So I'm, I'm definitely gonna start kind of like branching out and trying some other stuff. Cause I feel like it's a really good place to get started. And then it's cool to see the people that, that go in different directions from there, but the foundation that they have and everything, um, Yeah, I, I love the foundation, um, that I got in and just the places that it took me because where, you know, growing up where I grew up, um, cow horse at the time, I think it's more, there's more of it now, but it wasn't a prominent thing.

It actually, I don't even really feel like it existed, you know, or I didn't know about it at all. And so, you know, I'm incredibly thankful for how things developed and happened and the experience I got. Without the all around it wouldn't have led me at all to where I am today. Um, so no, I think, and then the horsemanship skills and just, just doing all of it. I, I feel like it, it, it holds a huge part of, of, of where I'm at a hundred percent. It's, you know, I am really thankful for that background. I think for the first time in my life, the first time I did a lesson, a cow horse lesson who was for horse and rider on demand, which was our video series. And Brad Barker, Myra was helping me and he's like, you need to stop sitting so pretty.

And I was like, this might be the first time in my life. I'm told that I'm sitting tempered. Yeah, like you got hunker down a little, just like I'm not used to that. That feels so wrong. Bad posture, you know, it's true. I learned that the hard way when I went down the fence for the first time and I popped right out of the saddle and he's like, I gotta sit down.

No. So true. I've heard that a million times. So you made your way to Texas. I'm assuming, were you still a youth rider where you, you, you went to the, all around, you went to go learn the all around for a youth or were you wanting to get into it in an open level? So I sold my youth horse at the Congress, um, my last year, 14 to 18, and then I went to ride with some people as an amateur or non-pro, uh, in Aubrey, Texas.

And that's, uh, So I was still, I, you know, and I had a horse and stuff, so I sold my good youth horse, and then I had bought another prospect. Um, and I had went to go ride with some people in Aubrey and that's kind of, um, how I got, got to Texas. Uh, and that didn't last very long. It just was one of those things that yeah.

Just didn't work out. So, yeah, but I wasn't ready to go. I love Texas. Well, that's a little warmer than Canada. I would imagine. Um, you know, you're not, you're not the only Canadian I know that has ended up in Texas and it was like, I love it here, Florida. I can't even imagine how cold it is in Canada. I don't think. Will Texas have some of Canadian weather here this past February at the inner CJ world show. If anybody was wondering, um, we got it, we got really close to Canada weather. Whether you were prepared, you knew what to do. I was prepared, but not, not willing to accept it.

Yeah. That was a mess. Um, where you, wait, was it you, that was looking for the chains on the tires? I feel like somebody was searching on Facebook for chains, for their golf cart or something. I think that was me. I think I posted a video on where to get, or to get James for golf carts, just laughing so hard that came across my Facebook somehow. I don't know who shared it, but I was laughing so hard. I'm like, oh my gosh. I don't think I've ever heard of needing chains for a golf cart at a horse show in Texas. Oh, are those same? So it was for everything at Texas. Like people like, oh my gosh, the trailer's freezing. And, uh, I couldn't even imagine, but, um, I, I give you so much credit for doing it though.

Cause I think I would have just been like, you know what, I'm going to sit this one out. Well, we were trying to weigh our options and our power out was that our power was out at our house in Weatherford. And we were actually the RV we were staying in was my cousins. Who's also from Canada. So it's a Canadian RV.

It's an all seasons. And so we actually did an early freeze up at all that RV was a trooper. So I was much more content in Fort worth with power. And some form of water, then I would have been in Weatherford with nothing. See that that Canadian background comes in handy. Yeah.

No clue what to have done. Like I would have had to Google everything. I actually moved back to Florida from Texas, like a month before those storms came in and I was really glad that I wasn't there just cause I. I have no idea. I don't know how to drive in snow. I've never had to. That's funny. Meanwhile, I'm in Colorado, like it's no two weeks ago.

I saw that I have, uh, some of my friends from there sent me videos. It was insane. Yeah. It's super fun. Okay. So you end up in Texas and you clearly loved it because you are still there. Um, how did you, did you go somewhere else as a, as an amateur, or did you decide, how did you decide I'm going to become an open rider?

This is what I'm gonna do well. So through a friend, I ended up getting a job. At a ranch at Babcock ranch we're run roles I was training out of. And so I kinda, one thing led to another and I kind of just started helping run. And then obviously when Ron left Babcock, I left with him and, and, um, you know, I, I don't ever vividly remember. Thinking, um, I want to be an open rider. I just knew that I really liked working for Ron and I really loved what he had to offer and what he was teaching me. And the CalWORKs was so different than what I had known in the past. I just, I just wanted to learn and as much as I could, and I was kind of addicted to it and I, I, I always remember when I was riding the all around.

I always said I never wanted to make. My hobby my career, because I didn't, I didn't think that I would enjoy it as much, but I couldn't really imagine myself doing anything else. And so I just stayed with it. And, and one thing led to another. And, um, from Rollins, we, uh, had a brief stay at, uh, BlackRock ranch in Idaho.

We were there for about a year. And, um, from there we went to Todd Bergen's and we were at Todd's for five years. I just, I loved it so much. And I, you know, after, after Ron's I knew that that's what I wanted to do. I loved the cow horse and, and I couldn't imagine myself doing anything else. And when we went to work for Todd's, I mean, he taught us so much and it was just, it was just such a great experience that, I mean, we were, I was committed that far and I was that far into it and I couldn't, I just, I feel like I'm on kind of on repeat, but I couldn't imagine doing anything else.

That's that's where we stay at or that's where I stayed. And I knew that that's what I, what I really wanted to do. I knew I had a long road ahead of me because I started later

in life. You know, I didn't, I hadn't done it from, I hadn't done the cow horse, um, from a child from my childhood, like I had the all around.

So I knew, I knew I had a long road ahead of me and I knew it. Wasn't going to be easy. Um, I just, I just, you know, it's become my passion and I eat, sleep and breathe it. And it's, it's, it's just, I couldn't imagine doing anything else. And it's what, it's what I want to do. So I kind of try to tell myself, everybody's, timeline's a little different and, you know, I started a little later in life, but it doesn't mean that it's not possible to do and be successful.

Well, and if, if you're going to learn the cow horse, I mean, Ron roles in Bergen are, aren't a bad way to get into the sport that is for sure. Like you learn from the best. Yeah. You know, and, and I tried to keep my eyes and ears open and listen to what people said. And, you know, people always told us that, that if you want to do it and you want to do it right.

Yeah. Pick people that you want to learn from that you respect their programs and that, you know, you have to commit to them. You can't, you know, I was told all along, you can't learn somebody's program in one or two years, you know, it's, it's three or four years in of a lot of hard work. And you know, a lot of you have to be dedicated and good, bad or indifferent.

You have to stick it out because I think the key key to everything is. Consistency and, and a foundation. And I feel like, you know, you can always tweak your programs when you leave somewhere to fit you, but you have to have a foundation and you have to have consistency. And if you keep, if you jump from place to place to place, I wholeheartedly don't feel like you can get the consistency within yourself that you need. If you go to six different guys in two years or five years, even if you stick with a couple of programs that you respect and you dedicate yourself. It'll come through in your work, the consistency, because I mean, that's all you're going to know. Yeah, I think that's so true. And you know, like what you said earlier, just really made me think, like, you know, you really don't learn enough in those first couple of years.

It really does take that 5, 6, 7 years of being with, you know, a professional who has proven themselves and has the horses and the business. I mean, cause learning the business is a whole other thing, you know, you think horse training is the hard part. I think I would say owning and running a business is the harder part.

I didn't. I had no idea. You know, Todd always told us that, you know, horse training is one thing, running a business is another thing. And you don't really grasp, um, the concept of that. You, you you're like, oh, you know, you can smile and nod and be like, oh yeah, yeah, yeah. And then you go out on your own. Wow.

I wasn't kidding. Yeah. I, when I graduated college, there was a period where I was not really sure what I was going to do with my life. Um, and I worked for somebody who I would consider a father figure. And after like five years, he was like, you know, he's like, you can do this and you do well at it. He's like, but it's, it's a hard living.

And he's like, and I was like, okay. And I thought about it. And I was like, you know, I think I'm going to go and I'm going to use my degree and. Stay in the horse industry, but, you know, approach it at a different way. Cause it is, it's a very tough, you know, lifestyle and industry and you have to work really hard.

Yeah. Yeah. I feel, I wholeheartedly believe, you know, they don't joke around when I say you get out of it, what you put into it. I think it's, it's impressive for you that, you know, you came into. The discipline, not really, you know, as knowing as many people as you did in the, all around and being able to become such a well-respected trainer in the industry.

Um, that's, you know, that's kind of hard to do just because, you know, getting people to trust you and things like that, it really shows a lot about your, your training and work ethic. And I think that's, that's really cool. Yeah, I think, I think if you, um, just to stay true to who you are and you, you commit yourself to your program and, and you're just, I mean, you're just a, if you're just a good, honest, hardworking person, um, it'll take a little bit, but people will believe in you and you know, you're everything you have your ups and downs, but, but, um, You just have to keep your head down and keep working and, and it will, it will, it'll come around and pay off.

So, so, you know, you've talked a little bit about the, you know, people who kind of helped mentor you, or just get you involved in the industry. Were there any horses that you really credit to, you know, either just boosting your confidence or just like making you really realize that this is the sport that you want to be involved in, you know, early on.

I didn't show. I don't really think I showed much when I worked for Ron. So, I mean, I wrote a lot of horses there. Um, and just, just the horsepower that Ron had when I worked for him, I, it kept me, you know, it's those horses that really let you feel, you know, what a good cow horse was, um, that obviously helped the drive.

And then when I went to work for Todd, he gave me. He gave me a couple of fraternity horses and, and I showed a couple older horses and, you know, had it made, uh, when I was working for him, made a couple of lower level finals or, you know, what have you, in those, not any horse in particular, but just the horse quality that, that I was able to ride there.

I mean that in itself, you know, drove me that I wanted to be able to make. Or have a horse, like have the horsepower that he had, the Todd hat or that Ron had at the time have that horsepower. I wanted that in my barn for her. I wanted to have that for me, for myself one day. Um, and some of the, obviously some of the stuff that when you're an assistant that you get to show, maybe isn't like every what, when everybody craves to show, but I feel like maybe those lesser.

I did well with them and they teach you as much or better than what, you know, if I would have gotten to ride a great horse when I worked for him. Um, I think I learned more from maybe a little bit lesser animal. Um, cause it teaches you, it just teaches you

so much about showing and training and, and just, it just, it grows you as a trainer and a competitor.

So, you know, not early on, I don't have a specific horse. Um, but the ones, the, the ones that I did get to show, especially when Todd would let me show an age demand, horse or something. I mean, obviously they're not going to be something that he wants to go show her. He would have done it. Right. I mean, it's just.

The way it is as an assistant and what I'm so thankful for those horses that I was able to get to show and walk in that show pen on because every time, you know, I learned, I learned something new or, you know, even in preparing a horse, those, those horses teach you so much about what you need to do, right.

You know, unless you stay relevant in the show pen. And when I, when I say relevant, I don't mean winning necessarily, but unless you keep yourself walking in the show, pen, it, you don't know how to stay relevant in training because there's just, it's just so deep. If that makes sense. Oh my God. Yeah, no, that makes total sense.

You know, uh, things are always changing and I think as we evolve as a sport, not just the cow horse, but just the Western industry in general, like, you know, we're the breeding we're doing, you know, the training it's so specialized now things have really, really changed from 20 years ago when we were even showing.

And so, yeah, it is really important to stay relevant in the show pen. And like you said, it's not always, who's winning it's, who's actually going to those shows and who is, you know, constantly out there. But, um, no, I, I totally, I think having horsepower really does help teach somebody how to do it. It is a lot easier when you have somebody or a talented horse that can.

Guide you into this board. I got really lucky. I have a, I have a bridal horse. That's one about 50,000 in the non-pro and, you know, he saves my butt all the time because I still don't know what I'm doing. But, um, I, you know, I have to say that really helped me gain confidence, especially working at Cal because it is so different from anything that I ever done.

Jillian or whatever. And, um, but yeah, you know, those horses are fantastic and I'm so thankful that I have that horse because I, you know, he's really helped me, but uh, those lesser horses, those are the ones that really teach you how to be a trainer and how to ride. And, and, and you learn not to, you know, you can't create a program around what you like.

You have to learn to read those horses and understand what their strengths and weaknesses are. And I do. I think it makes you a better. I couldn't agree more. And that's, I don't know if I answered your question, like completely how you wanted, but you know, when that's what I, you know, when I worked for him, I don't have a, I don't early on, I don't have a specific horse because I think I learned so much from each one of those horses that I was just thankful.

And when, you know, when you're an assistant, you're thankful for every time you get to walk in that show pen, and every time you walk out, you know, you better yourself and you better the horse and you better, the person you work for. It just helps you. It just helps you understand what the process is and what you're trying to learn and what, what they're trying to get you to do.

It just, it just grows you, if this is what you want to do, situations like that just grows you more than what you realize. I think I realize it more now than I did even in the time now. I think it, you know, it makes more sense. Then it did, you know, at the moment. So yeah, that's so true. It's, it's funny how, when you're in the moment with the horse and learning and things, you don't really realize how much you're learning until you apply it to a different horse or something else.

And then you're like, oh, I'm really glad that I had to work that hard with that horse. So yeah. Yeah. You have those aha moments. God, I love those aha moments. Those are the things that keep me doing this after what, 20 some years. And I'm still going, oh, that's why he did that.

Um, so how long after working for Ron and then, um, Todd and, uh, how long after that, did you decide that like, I'm going to go out on my own, this is what I'm going to do. So when we were at Todd's, um, we got the opportunity to go work, um, for Gardner quarter horses. And so, you know, um, I honestly, I did, I mean, we were at toss for five years and I still didn't feel like I was ready.

Um, I hadn't shown as much, you know, as a lot of people in my situation head. And obviously starting later, I, I felt, I just felt really green, really green, still to the sport, but at the same time, I knew that the only way I was going to get better. And the only way I was going to grow is if I basically took that step or took that leap and, and went and worked for somebody where I was going to get to show as much as I wanted or more than I even wanted.

You know? And I mean, I felt like in a sense too, I was maybe throwing myself to the wolves a little bit. Not necessarily knowing everything I needed to know. Um, so after five years at Todd's and my husband and I went and worked for Gardner quarter horses and national in Kansas, they're not, not that long.

I mean, a year and a half, almost two years, I guess. Um, but it was, yeah, it was an incredible stepping stone for us. And I mean, I got to walk in that show pen so many times. Um, fortunately I was eligible for every level. You can imagine in the cow horse, which was a huge blast. Um, cause that, you know, every little check you get and every, every situation you get to make a finals or something, it doesn't matter what level it is. It, it boosts your confidence and that also helps your program. Um, so five years at Todd's and then a year and a half at gardeners. And then from there, um, I guess was almost two years at gardeners. Um, we went to Stewart ranch. It would have been the end of 2015, I guess 26, beginning of 2016. We started our own program, um, and had the amazing opportunity to ride out a Stuart ranch in Waurika Oklahoma.

And we were there for three years and that place is just amazing. And Terry forest is just an incredible human. They opened up their home in their family and their ranch to us. And that's where we started terming off performance horses. Oh, I love that. I didn't realize you had, uh, bounced from Kansas to Oklahoma before making your way back to Texas.

Um, but, uh, you know, I think what you said, just, you know, the people, they opened up the ranch to you and, you know, treated you like family. I think that's what I really love about this industry. Um, people do that kind of thing. And, and you, you meet people who are not necessarily family, but become family and you know, those kinds of situations.

And, you know, I'm sure that's huge when you go out on your own. And I can't even imagine trying to find a facility and you know, all the things that come with owning a facility, a training facility, you know, trucks, trailers, electricity, people, cleaning stalls. If you can even afford that, the shavings, the hay, you know, the whatever tractors, I mean, it's just.

Never ending. So that's huge to, to have had a ranch that you could come in and kind of, you know, figure it out and get going. Yeah, it was, it was really, uh, I mean, it was really an ideal. We couldn't have asked and been more lucky basically to have, I mean, we walked into a turn key operation. Um, Terry S you know, and Robert, they, they set us up.

They, they, without them, we wouldn't have what we have. We walked into a ready to go facility. We were, you know, customer horses. Um, we had, uh, we just had an incredible situation and we were there for three years and, you know, we got to know them through when we were at gardeners. We got to know, um, Terry and Robert.

And, uh, we became really good friends and they basically became our family and they let us into their family. And I mean, we, that's where our son was born. I, well, you know, when we were there and it was just, yeah, they were incredible. They opened up their whole place to us and we were able to run our business.

And I mean, shoot, you couldn't, we couldn't ask for a better situation. I mean, we were really actually very lucky, so it, yeah. It was a blessing in disguise. We had no idea what we were going to do and Terry offered the place and we got there and I mean, we were up in ruling in a day. I mean, it, it was, it was an incredible situation.

So by the time you went out on your own, were you still feeling like you were green? Did you feel like finally comfortable? Like I belong here, this is, you know, I'm, I'm part of this. Like, what was that like when you decided to go out on. Well, so I'd had a little bit of success at gardeners. I ended up reserving the snaffle bit fraternity in 2015 on a horse that Garth and Amanda owned.

Um, and so that gave me some confidence that, that, you know, I could possibly do this, you know? And then after that, after that champion, that reserved championship at the snaffle bit, I struggled for a little while, um, because I had it a lot of early success. And

so. I noticed that maybe didn't necessarily when I left and went out on my own, I had some really nice horses, but I maybe didn't have the horsepower that I needed to compete with all the open guys and being reserved at the snaffle bit.

I knocked myself out of basically every level. So I wasn't an open rider, you know, in a very short time. And so I, I knew I could do it, but I struck, I had some moments where I struggled. I mean, honestly, I. Had nice horses, you know, did I have horses that could always compete with a lot of those open guys that are just incredible and have great horsepower?

You know? No, I, and, and was my program completely finished and solid? Absolutely not. I was still trying to figure out, you know, pieces of it that worked for me and, you know, to combine all three events and get that consistency. Uh, it was, I struggled for a little while. I really did. And, um, but it was, it wasn't a bad struggle.

It was a good struggle I had, and I had amazing clients that stood behind me. Um, they just, they, they were, I mean, I have nothing but good things to say about them because they stuck with me through, through a lot of stuff, trying to figure, you know, trying to find my way and start our business and still figure out your program.

I mean, they were just incredible. And I mean, it took, I think it took two or three years after that, before I, you know, really got a consistency of where I was confident in training and, and I could put all three events together consistently. And I mean, I feel like in what we do, if you, if you ever stop learning, then that's where you kind of, you know, you, you can't stop learning.

You have to stay relevant and you have to keep. You have to keep growing. But, um, after that 2015, when I, I had a moment where it kind of, I struggled for a little while trying to try to really still find my feet and, and figure out what worked for me. But I think it all, I think it all worked out and it's, it's working out.

I, everything happened for a reason. So I'm, I'm very thankful. I mean, it's clearly working out. You just won what the stallion state. Yeah. Yeah. I mean, that's pretty cool. Um, yeah. So, so obviously things are working out for you. You've won. I mean, I don't even know what all you've won this year. I feel like I see your name every time I'm on social media.

Um, and, uh, are you also doing the run for a million cow horse invitation? Yes. When did you, when did you find that out? Um, so we. Uh, I guess we were at the SRC show in Fort worth here a couple of weeks ago now. Um, I heard a rumor about it and somebody asked if I had gotten an email and I was like, no, I didn't get no email, but I'm terrible at checking my emails clearly.

Um, so I finally decided to scroll through my email and there it was. Yeah. I found out, yeah. When you checked your email note to self check the email. Good things come from emails. Um, so are like, do you know anything about, I mean, I don't know what all you can share. I, you know, obviously it's, it's a pretty high produced event with paramount and Taylor Sheridan, but do you know anything about it outside of that?

It's an invitational and, um, you know, they chose, what is it like 15 riders to come. Yeah, they took the top 15 in the NRC. Ha um, and honestly, I don't know that much about it. I know we had to accept the invitation by June 1st, which I made sure I did do that. So you're like, yes, yes, yes, yes, yes. Check. But as far as much else, I did ask a couple of questions, but, but I haven't really, I don't know.

I don't really know. I know it's in August and, um, it's bridal horse deal, so yeah, I'm excited. I think it's going to be so much fun to see the top 15 with finished bridle horses that know what they're doing. I think I might even go just for fun. Like, I don't even want to cover it for the magazine. I just want to go and be expectator and watch it with my friends.

And cause I, I, I was the managing editor of the Rainer for a little bit too. So I have, you know, a background in the raining a little bit. I've never shown the Rainer, but, um, so I enjoy watching the raining and all that. Yeah. Super excited. When I saw that the cow horse was going to do an invitational and I don't know, it could just be because I've like immersed myself in the cow horse in the last two years.

And I'm just like ready to just go to anything and talk to anybody and do anything. Um, cause there's just so much fun, but I I'm super excited for it. I saw that your name was on it. Um, and yeah, it looks like a really good lineup of people. It's going to be a really cool event. It's a great lineup. I mean, to be amongst those top 15 that you get invited, I mean, to be in the top 15 period, I mean, obviously our goals are all to be, you know, in that top spot, but to be able to be invited to something like this, it's just.

Uh, yeah, I'm so excited. I don't, I have no idea what I'm riding at a, I don't know. I don't know what I'm at. Yeah, we're cool. August is still a little ways away. I think you have some time of time. Thank goodness. Yeah, we still got to figure that one out, but, but no, I mean, it's, it's, it's gonna be so fun in that amongst any of those guys, um, in the top 20, you would feel honored, you know, so.

Um, it's a shame. They can't take more. Um, but you're thankful to be in the group that you're in and yeah, I'm so excited. Well, and I just think that what they're doing, um, for raining for cow horse, um, you know, I've heard through the grapevine that maybe even cutting down in the future. And I think it's so cool what we're doing to kind of get the public involved with the sport that maybe don't actually watch horses.

Like my, my boyfriend is not a horse person. I mean, he watches me and he videos me and he says, good, good job all the time. I appreciate it. I'll like lose the couch and he's like, you did so good. I'm like, thank you. Um, but he's even like he watches TV shows, you know, he loves Yellowstone, the Alaska boy.

And even he is like, I want to go to that. Like, I want to go watch these guys. And, you know, he loves the horses because I love the horses. But outside of that, he wouldn't have no reason to go to a horse show. So I think it's cool that they're, they're kind of trying to make it exciting for the public.

Yeah. I, I think it's going to be, I think it's going to be a lot of fun. I think people are excited about it. You know, things are starting to open up and it's just an event that people can look forward to. And it's going to be an event with, you know, some amazing, you know, some of the best Rainers and reining horses in, in their industry. And with the top 15 of the cow horse, it's just going to be, it's going to be very spectator friendly and it should be a lot of fun. It's in, it's going to be such great camaraderie between everybody in both events. I just it's, I'm very excited for it. I'm looking forward. The \$150,000 purse also doesn't hurt, but that's yeah, no, that sounds nice.

Um, speaking of sidebar, uh, I was very excited when I got money at the horse show that I went to. Cause I was like, for all around, I was like, oh, I was like point I was doing points for so long and I was like, wait, people actually like get money. Yep. Patient thing. I was like, wait, I can actually pay for my entry fee.

What am I doing? I'm just giving my money to them. I know, maybe that's another reason why I left. Couloir so much. I went from getting points in the, all around to all of this and I'm being paid to do this. I mean, I'm by no means making the same kind of money you are. And I was excited. I was like, man, I got 500 bucks at this last or show like, Stoked.

Yeah, you didn't go home in the hole. And of course, so, um, my dear friends who are clients of yours, Janie Dale, and bill are the people that I ride with. They are very close friends of mine and they took me to the horse show. And they're the ones that have been. Taking me under their wing to show me everything.

And, and they were just like, oh yeah, like, you know, like, cause \$300 is like nothing for like what they're used to competing. And I'm like, yeah, like I blend, like I won the 5k and I got like \$300 and I was so excited. You could have thought that I wonder. That's awesome. I love it. I was very excited when I found out that you could actually win some money and maybe not go home completely, you know, broke have a little bit of money back for your hotel or something.

I was like, man. Yeah. I was like, I covered, I was like, I covered 75% of my entry fee. This is great. I still had to pay the cattle fee and the salt stall and the shavings, but Hey, I got like part of my entry fee paid. So true. Um, okay. So you were reserve at the fraternity, um, was that the year that you got the arena record as well for the fence work?

Yeah. Real close to the arena record. Yeah. Really close. Yeah. I just remember like, literally I had chills when I watched that documentary and they showed you the next year and you, I mean, just the announcer and that ride. It was just so cool. And I was just like, oh my God. Through that sold, sold all my saddles, like all my clothing.

I was like, I'm, I'm, I'm, I'm all in now. It's so much more intense than anything that I'm used to watching. Like, it's, it's actually fun to watch the, you know, like you're not knowing what's going to happen and everything, you can sit there and watch the same

horsemanship pattern for all day. And it's like watching paint dry, but with the cows and everything, it's just so, so exciting.

So. Yeah, it is. I think that's what keeps you hooked. I mean, you have some incredible highs and you can have some incredible lows. Um, but it's those, it's those highs that keep, keep you hooked and keep you going. You just crave that moment again. And you crave that, that feeling of, I mean, cause, um, especially in the fence work, I mean in any event, but especially in the fence where you can.

Go from hero to zero or zero to hero. And I mean, a matter of seconds and it's, it's those highs that keep you craving and keeping you wanting more. And it's what gets you through the times that are maybe a little less than desirable. Um, another thing that I just love about it too, is like, you can, you can have the horsepower and you can have the best horse in that arena, but back how can humble you really.

It doesn't matter. You can rerun that finals. You know, we were rerun that finals in Vegas, any given day. Um, and there will be a different winner. I guarantee it, it's not, I mean, there's really nice horses and, and, and you have an idea of who may make a finals or, you know what I mean, those horses that are just so consistent, but at the end of the day, too, it's, it's a luck of the draw and you can rerun any of the, any of those finals any day.

And. The outcome can be completely flipped around. I think that's another thing that really did. Attracted me to the sport is just, you know, like I don't have the money to spend what I would have had to spend to be competitive in the, all around. Like I was when I was a youth and, and, you know, just starting out as an amateur, but I feel like in the cow horse, there is that ability to you don't have to spend that much money and still be good at it because it doesn't, you can spend \$300,000 a year on a horse and still not be able to cut.

Right. I mean, it takes a little bit of skill and horsemanship. You can't, you know, and not saying, I'm not saying that the all around you don't because that is a totally different animal. And like I said, I'm so thankful for that background, but I just, you know, it's, it's very different when you have another animal in that arena and you don't know how to control it.

You know, like if it, if you don't know how to read that cow, like you're, you're done. Yeah, and definitely nerve, you know, the nerves of it is, is you just don't know when you walk through that gateway, you're going to get on the other end. It definitely shows a lot about like who you are as a writer, being able to do that.

You know, there's so many variables that's that kind of freaks me out. I don't know. I think I'm too much of a control freak to not know it. What am I'm going to get? I am very much of a control freak, and it's sometimes a hard pill to swallow. Oh, yeah. The perfectionist thing. I, I understand. I, I blame the all around.

I really do there. Yeah. You have to be a perfectionist to do well in it. Um, but yeah, you really have to learn to trust your horse when you're going down the fence. Cause you, if

you see, if you try to turn too soon or like, I mean, a lot of things can go wrong. It does. It takes a lot of ability to trust your horse and do it.

You gotta, you gotta trust your training. I like that. So is there any like philosophies that you kind of took away from your time working for the people that you worked for, that you still apply to your current training program? You know, I, I honestly the, probably the biggest thing that I took away from both of them and I mean, Todd and Ron are two completely different trainers and both incredibly successful in both incredibly great people.

Yeah. Um, but the biggest thing, I think that I took away from both of them and, you know, the luxury of working for both of them. And we worked for Ron for four and a half years and taught for five, um, is, is the consistency of a program, the consistency of, you know, good, bad or indifferent. They both good, bad or indifferent.

They both preach consistency. Ron was all about going back to that foundation. You know, if you step them up and something, something. The wheels kind of fall off when you try to step them up, you know, you always have that foundation to go back to you. And when I worked for Todd, Todd was Todd was the same way.

I mean, obviously his program is a lot different than Ron's, but it's, his program is so consistent in, in, so, you know, yeah. Everybody learns and grows and you tweak things here and there in your program. But, but the consistency that I learned from both of them, Completely different programs, but stay consistent.

I mean, that, that is probably the biggest thing that I took away from working, working for both of them. And like I said, they're, they're two completely different human beings and their process is very different. Um, and there's, there's incredible things about both of them, both programs are great programs, but I think the biggest thing is just to be consistent, good, bad, or indifferent.

You have to be consistent. Yeah. If you're all over the map, your horses all over the map. And I don't know how, you know, they always said, you know, how can you, how can you expect them to bail you out or be there for you? Or, you know, when you never know what you're going to have, if you yourself are not good.

I think that's huge because you know, it is very much a two way street. You need to trust your horse, but your horse needs to know that you're going to be there and support him. And you're going to, you know, do what's right for him. Uh, and, and same can go for even your clients, like being consistent with them.

And you know, the whole thing, I think consistency is huge just throughout the whole horse training business. Yeah. I think that definitely transfers over throughout probably every discipline. Yeah. Um, just the consistency with everything and, you know, the horses learn through repetition, repetition. So, um, it's so important.

And like I said, you know, you can alter and tweak that consistency. You know, you, you're gonna grow as a person and grow as a trainer in your horses are going to grow.

But when you change, you know, and obviously to stay, to stay relevant and stay fresh, I mean, you have to change and you have to learn and you have to grow, but it's tough. Consistent with the foundation and consistent with how you, you know, you can alter things slightly, but don't alter things every day. You know, don't change daily. You know, if you, if you tweak a little bit here and there, I think that's fine. But the biggest thing is at the end of the day, you know, stay, stay very consistent in your horses will come through for you too, not to get totally off topic, but that could totally be applied.

A person in general, you know, you can, you can tweak things and if you want to change a habit or a lifestyle, like don't decide, you're going to wake up all day, like the next morning and be like, I'm going to eat healthy. I'm going to run a marathon. I'm going to do this. I'm going to do that. Like it, you can't change everything that you have to have some consistency in your life, or you're going to drop.

You're going to go crazy. Your horse is going to go great. Yep. Yeah, absolutely. So. Oh, sorry, go ahead. No, I was just saying, and there'll be lost. And so will you that's definitely. So you obviously got started in the, in your passion, I guess for riding, um, later in life. Um, yeah. You're I think you were still a little earlier than I am.

So I'm over here. Like, man, you got started early. I'm like in my thirties and I'm like, I'm going to do something new. Um, but what would be your advice to somebody who is maybe thinking about getting out of what they're doing or maybe have, have never shown and want to show a horse, whether it's the all around or, or, you know, ranch riding or cow horse, what, what would your advice be to them for getting involved in the sport?

You just, you just have to do it in. And if it's, if it's, if you love it, it doesn't matter when it doesn't matter when you start, like I said, everybody's timeline is different and nobody knows nobody's nobody's um, what's the word I'm looking for? I guess, I guess timeline is the best way to put it.

Nobody's timeline is the same. Some people start when they're five years old, two years old, some people start when they're 25 years old or 30 years old. It doesn't matter if it's what you love and what you want to. It doesn't matter how old you are. I mean, it absolutely doesn't. I mean, I didn't start it until I was, you know, in my early twenties.

I mean, and I was against a lot of people that have done it since that's all they know. So it, it, it absolutely doesn't matter if it's what you feel is right. And you, you love it and you crave it and, and you're happy doing it, do it. It doesn't matter. It doesn't matter.

The person next to you. It doesn't matter when they started it.

If it's what makes you happy and that's what you want to do, then, then absolutely do it. And the harder you work, the more successful you'll be. I love it. So true. So before we wrap this up, you're obviously getting ready for Scottsdale. What else is on the lineup for this year? What horses are you bringing to Scouts?

So I have, um, three Derby horses and a two rain horse, and, um, a bridal spec horse that I'm taking a Scottsdale and I'm going to haul some three-year-olds out there. Um, after

Scottsdale, I think there's a little Derby in Tennessee that I'm going to take some horses to, and then we are full swing into fraternity season.

Well, I'm excited and I'm very excited to see you at the run for a million. So we'll be cheering you on.

So, oh man. Well, it sounds like you're going to be busy and Scottsdale. We so appreciate you taking time to come talk with us. I know it's been a little hectic trying to get our schedules to line up. So I'm so happy. We finally got to work it out, but we will be cheering you on this year and hopefully get to report back on the run for a million and how well it went.

Yeah. I'm so excited about that. Awesome. Well, thank you so much for joining us.

Absolutely. Thank you. Yes,

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