

Bullrider Colten Fritzlan exudes confidence

Colten Fritzlan, a former Western Texas College star, has sent a clear message that he could be a pro bull rider to be reckoned with for quite a while.

The Rifle, Colorado, cowboy made his debut at a Professional Bull Riders Unleash The Beast (top tier) tour stop on Jan. 30-31 in Okeechobee, Florida. He clinched the title and earned \$23,996.

Fritzlan, 20, said he wasn't intimidated as he competed.

"I was really comfortable," he said. "I've always wanted to be at those UTBs. I didn't expect anything less when I got there but to show up and show out."

Fritzlan turned in scores of 86.5, 86.75, and 87 throughout the two-day show. During the finals round, he turned in the 87 aboard a bull named Zero Time (Paradigm Bull Company).

Fritzlan clinched the title with a three-ride score of 260.25. Cooper Davis, the 2016 world champion, finished second with a 258.25.

Fritzlan exudes confidence. "Confidence right now for me is through the roof," he said. "I just want to keep doing my job and get one bull at a time and let the chips fall where they may each and every time."

Fritzlan also has been a star competitor on the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association circuit. He competed at the 2020 Wrangler National Finals Rodeo on Dec. 3-12 at Globe Life Field in Arlington. During his first Wrangler NFR appearance, Fritzlan stayed on seven of 10 bulls and clinched the average-aggregate title. He earned \$183,038 throughout the NFR and finished third in the PRCA's 2020 bull riding title race.



When he was a freshman at Western Texas College, Fritzlan clinched the 2018-2019 bull riding title in the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association Southwest Region, a college rodeo super conference. He advanced to the College National Finals Rodeo in Casper, Wyoming, and tied for fifth in the NIRA 2019 bull riding title race.

He also clinched the Southwest Region title last year. But he was denied the opportunity to compete in the CNFR because the event was canceled in Casper because of coronavirus concerns.

However, he thrived on the PRCA circuit. In addition to qualifying for the NFR, he snared the 2020 Resistol Bull Riding Rookie of the Year title.

PRCA COMPETITION UPDATE

Roughstock riders were in Rapid City, South Dakota, to compete in a PRCA bull riding show and a PRCA saddle bronc riding event.

The bull riding event was Jan. 29. Former Wrangler National Finals qualifier Josh Frost clinched the title with a 90.5 aboard a bovine named D-Day, which is owned by Dakota Rodeo. He earned \$4,014.

The saddle bronc riding event was Jan. 30. Former Wrangler National Finals Rodeo qualifier Cole Elshire clinched X Broncs title with a 90 aboard Onion Ring, owned by the

Korkow Rodeo Co. He earned \$4,145.

SHARON SHOULDERS PASSES

Sharon Shoulders, wife of the legendary late bronc and bull rider Jim Shoulders (deceased), passed away on January 30. She was 91. She was steadfast in her support of Jim as he won 16 world titles on the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association circuit in the late 1940s and 1950s. According to pbr.com, the Professional Bull Riders created the Sharon Shoulders Award in 2010. The award is given annually to a wife of a bull rider who shows great support for her husband.

Sharon also co-founded the Jim Shoulders Rodeo Co. (stock contracting firm) and ran the J Lazy S Ranch in Henryetta, Oklahoma, while Jim traveled the rodeo circuit. She raised four children. One of them was Marvin Paul, who clinched the bull riding aggregate/average title at the 1973 National Finals Rodeo in Oklahoma City.

A memorial service will be scheduled at First United Methodist Church in Henryetta when there are no COVID-19 concerns. In lieu of flowers, the family requests contributions be made to the First United Methodist Church, 1212 Lake Road, Henryetta, Oklahoma, 74437. Contributions also can be made to the Justin Cowboy Crisis Fund, 101 ProRodeo Drive, Colorado Springs, Colorado, 80919, or justincowboy-crisisfund.org.

Brett Hoffman, a Texas Cowboy Hall of Fame member, has covered rodeos and horse show events for the Fort Worth Star-Telegram for more than 35 years. Email him at bchoffman777@earthlink.net.

Red Raiders down No. 9 Sooners

LUBBOCK -- No. 13 Texas Tech put an end to an impressive streak that had quickly pushed Oklahoma into the Top 10, in an offensive struggle for both teams.

Terrence Shannon Jr. scored all 15 of his points after halftime, with four free throws in the final 39 seconds, and the Red Raiders pulled out a 57-52 victory Monday night. That ended a five-game winning streak by the No. 9 Sooners, who had won three in a row over Top-10 teams but were without two starting guards because of COVID-19 protocols.

"Kind of an ugly game in some ways, but a beautiful game in others," Texas Tech coach Chris Beard said. "Two teams really defending at a high level. To hold to two Big 12 teams to 33 percent shooting on both side, there's a lot of really good defense going down."

Texas Tech (13-5, 5-4 Big 12) had its largest lead at 50-40 when Kevin McCullar made a 3-pointer and then assisted on a 3 by Shannon with 3:21 left.

"A big-time battle. Proud of our guys, defensively fought their tails off, just needed to helped with a little more scoring," Sooners coach Lon Kruger said. "Tech's good defensively too, a kind of the first one to 50 (points)-type mentality."

Oklahoma (11-5, 6-4), which had missed 13 of its previous 15 shots, responded with seven points in a row, including Umoja Gibson stealing a ball from McCullar and making a 3-pointer with 2:18 left. Gibson, who led the Sooners with 14 points, made another 3 with 1:01 left to get within 52-50 before Shannon converted at the line.

The Big 12's marquee game on Saturday will be what should be a bruiser between No. 18 West Virginia and No. 23 Kansas.

The Mountaineers are coming off a five-point loss to No. 22 Florida that dropped them six spots this week.

Kansas reached as high as No. 3 in the AP Top 25, but is trying to find its footing again. The Jayhawks have lost four of five — the latest by 19 to No. 11 Tennessee — and are in danger of having their NCAA-record streak of being ranked end at 231 weeks.



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Players of the Week

BOYS



JORDAN GARCIA
Team-high 12 points against Burkburnett



ADDISON SPENCER
Scored 10 points in a row for Vernon in win over Mineral Wells

GIRLS



JAILA MCBRIDE
Team-high 10 points and 10 rebounds in 38-35 win over Burkburnett on Friday



SHAY WILLIAMS
Game-high 26 points against Mineral Wells

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