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ALPHABET SOUP: FROM INFR TO PBR

From the winner's circle at Indian National Finals Rodeo to the Professional Bull Riders Touring Pro Division, it's been a wild ride for three INFR cowboys.

The Touring Pro Division is the developmental tour of the PBR where both established veterans and newcomers to the professional ranks compete against some of the most famous bucking bulls. The touring events give riders an opportunity to compete in PBR-sanctioned events while earning money to qualify for the Built Ford Tough Series.

Navajo Guytin Tsosie, a 22-year-old Four Corners native, got his PBR experience at one of the 27 stops on the Built Ford Tough series (Albuquerque) after winning INFR honors last fall in Las Vegas. PBR official Jay Daugherty told the *Albuquerque Journal*: "Each year we look for the best Native American bull rider who can represent not only the Professional Bull Riders, but also the many Native American bull riders and we found that in Guytin."

Although a 5-year-old, 1,500-pound bull managed to get the best of this 5-foot-8-inch rider at the Ty Murray Invitational, Tsosie was philosophical after his 7:18 second ride: "I fall off, I get back on. It's all a learning experience."

Two other prominent INFR cowboys, Dakota Louis of Browning, Montana, and Justin Granger of Tuba City, Arizona, also got a chance to showcase their talents. Louis, the reigning INFR World Championship Bull Rider, took top honors at the PBR event in Washington State while Granger had an 88.5 point ride in the Salt Lake PBR event.

The 21-year-old Louis is a 3-year pro who brought his 6' tall, 165-pound frame to the Lynden, Washington competition. His 90-point ride during the long round--- the only one earned in that event --- landed him first place and brought in nearly \$6,000 in earnings. He entered the short go in first place and when no other bull rider made the eight second mark, he became the outright winner.

Navajo cowboy Justin Granger (Burnham, New Mexico) earned a second place finish with 88.5 points in the short go. The 22-year-old comes from a rodeo family that includes teenage brother, Lane, and the two frequently travel together to compete. Quite a compliment then when older brother Justin once told Navajo Times, "I think he rides better than I do."

The older brother has participated in other PBR events like the by-invitation-only Built Ford tough Series where he's had some tough experiences. At one Ty Murray Invitational where he got sent home early, he called the bulls "rank" and promised to "go home, work out some more, and try to get to a higher level."

The experience, patience, and persistence shown by all three are keys to their growing success.