

Angola project
Interview of Travis Johnson on _____

Gustave: Your first rodeo was when?

Travis: 2003.

Gustave: So, you've been doing this for a while?

Travis: Yes.

Gustave: How many times have you won the rodeo's

Travis: I won [inaudible] Glory more than 5 times and I won a numerous amount of other rodeos. I really got serious about 2009. When I first started, my first ever rodeo, I got hurt. I got hit in the balls.

Gustave: Was it a bull?

Travis: Yeah, it was a bull. My bull jumped straight up like this and it had both my hands, and didn't really know, and it slammed me straight down and hit me in the balls. Then the next week I got hit again in the same spot. That just really fueled the fire to keep going.

Gustave: What event was it?

Travis: Bust Out. The first time was Bust Out and the second time was Wild Horses.

Gustave: What do you do in the Bust Out? How does Bust Out work? I'm not familiar with it.

Travis: Well it's 8 bulls. Everybody gets onto it and whoever stays on the longest or rolls out the furthest, that's the winner.

Gustave: Wow!

Travis: After that, there's Bareback, Pinball.

Gustave: And you won that?

Travis: Yep. I won Bareback, Pinball, Poker, Bulldog. We have won every Bulldog since [inaudible].

Gustave: You've won the all-around also?

Travis: That's my only problem.

Gustave: So you haven't won the all-around?

Travis: My problem with the all-around is bull riding.

Gustave: Ok.

Travis: I can stick a bull in its face, and if I can stay on it then I can win the all-around. Bull riding is my Achilles.

Gustave: How long do you have to stay on the bull? Do you compete with the others to stay on the longest?

Travis: Bull riding there's one-man inside.

Gustave: So it's a time thing and whoever stays on the longest wins that?

Travis: Yeah, whoever gets the highest score wins.

Gustave: Alright. I'll be looking for you.

Travis: I'm sure going to try. I can't say what's going to happen but I'm going to get it in. That's the only thing you can do.

Gustave: Alright. So what do you do and how do you prepare? How do you practice?

Travis: Right now I got a job breaking horses so I get to live the cowboy life a little bit every day. But before that, I just worked out and exercise.

Gustave: Breaking horses, I guess you have to ride them and make sure they're ok?

Travis: Before this, I haven't been on a saddle horse since 2014. Now it's kind of a passion because I really love training horses. I'm talking about every day, that's what I like to do. I enjoy it.

Gustave: What do you have to do to break a horse?

Travis: Well to train a horse, first of all it's a different process. First, you got to get to hold them. That means you go out in the pasture, catch them and get a rope on them. Then you got to teach them to lead. In the process, you teach them where to lead so you can take them somewhere. Then you got to teach them all these

different things on the ground. Then you teach them everything from the ground and then we get on his back.

Gustave: So you just don't jump on the horse?

Travis: No, we don't do it old school. We got like a mixture of things we do. It's like a [inaudible] technique. We do a lot of general things.

Gustave: Is there a lot of grooming?

Travis: You got to be able to do their feet and you got to be able to touch a horse so they don't start bugging out in order for you to deal with them. The biggest factor I learned is trust.

Gustave: Yeah.

Travis: If you can get a horse to trust you, you can get them to do pretty much, I'm not going to say anything, but most things.