

Rodeo becomes way of life

By John Adkisson
Staff Reporter

Doug Temple and Ray Wessel have what they call "regular" jobs, but their offices are pretty unique.

And pretty big. Temple and Wessel make their living as professional bull riders, and both were in Lincoln this weekend participating in the World's Toughest Rodeo at Pershing Auditorium.

Although the two men daily ride the whirling beasts that weigh about a ton, Temple and Wessel both said that bull riding has become almost commonplace after years in the arena.

"Sure, a guy has to be a little nervous every time he gets up," said Wessel, 26, from Wichita, Kan. "But as long as my body will take it, I'm going to keep riding. It's something I love to do."

Temple, 27, is a Blair native who Friday won the performance with a score of 81. His ride, on a bull named Wrangler Buster, was the final mount of the night after Wessel already had posted an 80.

Temple said he was drawn into riding bulls by his family.

"My brother was the biggest influence as to getting me to ride," Temple said. "I followed him through his career, and it looked like something I'd want to do."

With 50 other cowboys, Temple and Wessel have ridden on the World's Toughest Rodeo circuit this winter, stopping in Illinois and Minnesota, too.

Wessel said those who travel the rodeo circuit are like a "large family."

"Whenever you need a favor, need a ride, somebody's always there for you," Wessel said. "The closeness of the rodeo makes life easier on the road."

Wessel said he could remember easily his scariest bull riding moment. At a rodeo in Ogden, Utah, he broke his jaw after falling and the bull caught him with a hoof.

"That was the first time I had ever been injured while riding," Wessel said. "It kind of makes you stop and think."

Two years ago, world champion bull rider Lane Frost was killed when a bull gored him to death at Frontier Days in Cheyenne, Wyo. The incident was documented on national television, but Wessel said Frost's death has not scarred bull riding.

"In this business, you pretty much accept that you'll go when your time comes," Wessel said. "Just the other day, a friend of ours was killed in an auto accident. It's something you can't prepare for."

Recent protests arguing that rodeos promote animal cruelty anger both cowboys.

"Those animals are treated better than we are," Wessel said. "And most people that are protesting do it for a living. They might work in a factory that pollutes the air, who knows?"

Temple agreed. "Somebody's always going to get mad," he said. "These bulls and horses are athletes, and people who say they aren't taken care of are wrong."



Michelle Paulman/Daily Nebraskan

Ray Wessel rides a bull Friday at the World's Toughest Rodeo at Pershing Auditorium. Wessel finished second with an 80.

Second

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Nebraska will play Missouri, the last-place team in the Big Eight, at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday at the Bob

Devaney Sports Center in the last home game for the Huskers. Nebraska will end its regular season Sunday at Oklahoma.

Nebraska 32 47 — 79
At Kansas State 32 37 — 69

Nebraska—Jennings 14-17 3-4 31, R. Taylor 2-5 1-1 5, Hesch 5-9 0-0 10, Yedsena 1-7 3-4 5, Dahn 5-9 0-0 10, Halsne 2-4 2-2 6, Offringa 1-3 2-2 5, Hubert 2-4 0-0 4, Yancey 0-2 0-0 0, Russell 0-6 3-4 3, S. Taylor 0-0 0-0 0, Hiestand 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 32-66 14-17 79.

Kansas State—Bahner 1-3 2-2 4, D. Miller 8-20 7-8 25, Grebing 0-1 1-2 1, Hazim 6-17 4-6 17, M. Miller 5-7 7-14 18, Holzman 0-0 0-0 0, Honeycutt 2-5 0-2 4, Moylan 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 22-53 21-34 69.

3-point goals—Nebraska 1-4 (Offringa 1-1, Yedsena 0-2, Hubert 0-1), Kansas State 4-14 (D. Miller 2-7, Hazim 1-4, M. Miller 1-3). Rebounds—Nebraska 41 (Jennings 10), Kansas State 35 (Honeycutt 12). Assists—Nebraska 19 (Hubert 4), Kansas State 11 (D. Miller, M. Miller 4). Turnovers—Nebraska 21 (Jennings 6), Kansas State 24 (M. Miller 10). Total fouls (dq)—Nebraska 24 (R. Taylor, Yedsena), Kansas State 15. A—1,365.

NU tennis team slams Iowa dual

The Nebraska women's tennis team posted consecutive victories at Des Moines, Iowa, this weekend.

The Huskers beat Wichita State 7-2 Sunday after defeating host Drake by an identical score Saturday.

"I thought it went great," Cornhusker coach Bob Hampton said. "We're really getting set for the Big Eight."

Nebraska got two wins apiece from Ildiko Guba, Rachel Collins and Nancy Tyggum, as well as from all three doubles teams.

The Huskers will open their home season Saturday when they play host to Creighton.

— Jeff Singer

SPORTS BRIEFS

Nebraska women cruise past Salukis

The Nebraska women's swimming and diving team won nine of 13 events and won the dual over the Southern Illinois Salukis on Friday, 144.5-93.5, at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

Heidi Buchholz had a personal-best 271, 26 points over the NCAA qualifying standard, on the 1-meter board. On Buchholz's final dive, with a 3.0 degree of difficulty, she scored 7, 7 and 6.5 to win the event.

"Heidi's last dive put her over the edge," diving coach Jim Hocking said. "The last time she did that dive, she got 3s and 3.5s."

Coach Ray Huppert said the dual gave him confidence in his team for the Big Eight championships.

"I know that for another Big Eight school to win, they will have to be at their absolute best," Huppert said.

— Vicki Burge

Huskers slow down for league finals

After the Nebraska men's swimming and diving team defeated Southern Illinois 141-101 Friday night, Cornhusker coach Cal Bentz said the countdown has begun.

Bentz said the team is in the beginning of its resting period leading to the Big Eight championships.

"We don't have set expectations yet," Bentz said, "but we'll

continue to reduce our work and apply ourselves to racing."

Bentz hailed freshman Jan Karlsson for winning the 200 freestyle and taking second in the 100 freestyle, and hailed junior Seddon Keyter's winning finishes in the 50 and 100 freestyle and 400 freestyle relay.

— Vicki Burge

Cornhusker baseball team wins opener

The Nebraska baseball team won its season opener Saturday 11-5 over Washburn. Mike Zajeski won for the Cornhuskers as Nebraska used a different pitcher every in-

ning. Husker newcomer Jeff Rhein went 3-for-4 with two runs, two RBIs and one double. Nebraska will next play Ohio State on Thursday.

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Rec Scoreboard

Results from Thursday's games.

Men's basketball

Fraternity A

Alpha Tau Omega 94, Phi Delta Theta 48; Ag Men 1 by forfeit over Beta Theta Pi; Delta Upsilon by forfeit over Acacia.

Fraternity B

Delta Upsilon 54, Beta Sigma Psi 48.

Independent A

Dribbers 67, Delta Sigma Pi 42; The Hoser's 90, Bombers 67; Boneheads 81, Acacia All Stars 51; TCOB 67, Team 3 59; Heavy C and the Boyz by forfeit over No Way; Buzzard 66, Burnt Toast 61.

Independent B

St. Andrews Slicers 59, Establishment 53; Lil Ed & 't Cruisers 91, Finkler's Boyz 43; Law 1 50, Academic Probation 22; Lobos 56, The Heat 52; Bus Drivers-Sheets 87, Sigma Mu Upsilon Tau 41; Young Guns 60, No Names 38.

Independent C

Primetime 62, The Burns 33; Super Jocks 47, The Syndkate 42; The Ballers 98, The Good Morticians 41; Ice Roc's 58, Gunners 38; Skiv's Sooners 53. Your

Mamma 49; Planes, Trains, & Auto 104, Bus Drivers-Arc 64; GI Express 51, Jager 42; Strange Brew 62, Demolition 60; Untouchables 69, The Flintstones 42; Tailboys 65, 4 Jerks & A Squirt 43; S&D 43, Lucky Draws 41; Thundering Herd 50, C&S Express 47; Slicers 49, The Rag Attack 46; Just Do Me 52, Squid 37; Bork Beards 84, The Quack Attack 45.

Small fry

Alpha Tau Omega 52, Phi Kappa Psi 30; Beta Sigma Psi by forfeit over Kappa Sigma; Triangle 52, Chi Phi 2 30; G.C. Brownstars by forfeit over Delta Tau Delta; Primetime 59, Beta Theta Pi 48.

Co-rec volleyball

AB

Pi Kappa Phi/KAT 2, Triangle 0; SA Spikers II 2, Chi Phi 1; Beta Sigma Psi 2, Alpha Xi Delta/PDT 0.

BC

Sharks & Minnows by forfeit over The Reprise; Phi Siamma Jamma 2, Vitals 0; Redsand 2, Pretzel Logic 1; Joe's Team 2, Pretzel Logic; UNMC-COD 2, AF-ROTC Falcons 1; Law 1 2, Carrot Top 0; Cornerstone 2, Phi Beta Lambda 2 0; Redsand 2, Cornerstone 0; Amused Confused 2, FCA 2 1; Sweethogs 2, ASGSA 0.