

NEWS RELEASE

Guymon Pioneer Days Rodeo

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It's more than a name for Etbauer, already a champ

GUYMON, Okla. – As he stands, Trell Etbauer is just your average man.

He stands 6-foot-1 and weighs 185 pounds. By those dimensions alone, there's nothing that stands out about the Goodwell man. But there's so much packed into that shape – a whale of athletic ability, a tremendous work ethic and a name so recognized in his business that pressure just naturally follows him wherever he goes.

Welcome to the world of Trell Etbauer, an Oklahoma Panhandle State graduate who travels the world because of rodeo. He's also a second-generation member of one of the most famous families in the sport.

In his lifetime, Trell has watched his father, Robert, win two saddle bronc-riding world championships, then watched Uncle Billy overcome injury and age to win five gold buckles – and may win a sixth before he hangs up his spurs. Uncle Dan has been to the NFR about a dozen times, mostly as a bronc buster but this past year as a pickup man, an honor bestowed upon him by the top cowboys who now compete.

"I don't feel any more pressure to compete than I put on myself," said Trell Etbauer, who plans to compete in three events at the Guymon Pioneer Days Rodeo, which has performances scheduled for May 1-3 at Henry C. Hitch Pioneer Arena.

"I'm looking forward to winning it, hopefully. I'd like to win the calf roping and the steer wrestling, and then split the bronc riding with Billy. It's one of my favorite rodeos."

But the younger Etbauer is more than a bronc rider – while it may be a surprise to many in the business, Robert, Billy and Dan are quite handy in many aspects of the sport, but only Trell has taken to multiple events. Now 24, he's a three-time all-around champ in the Prairie Circuit, made up of contestants and events in Oklahoma, Kansas and Nebraska.

"I like being able to compete well close to home," he said. "I want to do well, and, for the most part, I've done pretty well in the circuit."

But the biggest piece of his all-around pie came in 2008, when he won the coveted Linderman award, an honor given to the ProRodeo cowboy who earns the most money in a given year in three events, separated by timed events and roughstock events.

"I'll be honest," Etbauer said. "Last year, that was one of my main goals. I wanted to win that more than I wanted to win the rookie deal. It was pretty exciting that I ended up winning it."

Etbauer carries on the family legacy as a strong bronc rider, but he's also a tie-down roper and a steer wrestler. Last year, he finished 22nd in the all-around, 44th in bronc riding and 65th in tie-down roping in the final world standings. His \$43,000 in overall earnings also helped him become the all-around rookie of the year – he finished second in the bronc-riding rookie standings.

"I would've liked to have gotten the bronc-riding title," he said. "I hadn't won much money in bronc riding, but then I got on a roll."

But there were still plenty of positives, and even the humble Etbauer had to agree. “I can’t complain one bit about last year,” he said. “This year, it’s going OK. It could be better, but it could be a lot worse. I’ve just kind of been picking at them.”

That’s cowboy talk for placing enough to make a decent living while traveling the rugged rodeo trail. This year, though, is a tad different. For the first full year in a career that started in his youth, Etbauer has no studies to tend to, no homework to handle on the road. He’s a college graduate, something he earned last spring.

“It makes it a lot easier without college,” Etbauer said. “When you’re on the road, you don’t have to make as many trips back and forth just to go to class. I enrolled in a couple of classes last semester just to give me something to do, but I’m too busy this semester. I’m just rodeoing.”

That is, when he’s not shoeing horses, welding things, making furniture or doing a plethora of other things in his breadbasket.

“There’s really nothing he can’t do and do well,” Uncle Billy said. “He’s just a good kid.”

Even if he towers over you by eight inches, which is what happens when Billy and Trell get together. Heck, it’s what happens at most family reunions. How else can an Etbauer actually bulldog for a third of a living?

“I really like being in three events, and I’m kind of lost at rodeos when I’m not in three events,” said Etbauer, who won the college championship as a freshman in Goodwell. “It’s just what I love.”

It’s the Guymon Pioneer Days Rodeo, where cowboys become legends.