

# New kid on the block

*Matt Austin 'dances' to title, \$26,163*

**By Bob Welch, photos by Kirk Steinke**

During the same week that a 500-1 long shot named Ben Curtis stunned the golfing world by winning the British Open, a relative newcomer to the ProRodeo scene seized the national spotlight by nabbing the Xtreme Bulls stop in Salt Lake City.

Matt Austin, 20, of Wills Point, Texas, reeled off a career-best 90-point ride aboard Diamond G Rodeo Company's Wanna Dance in the final round at the Delta Center. The eight-second trip earned the second-year pro a paycheck worth \$26,163.

"My rodeo goal is to make the Wrangler National Finals Rodeo," Austin said. "This will make a huge difference in my season."

Indeed. The mega triumph boosted the third-generation rodeo hand from 47th in the Jack Daniel's World Standings to 12th with \$42,699.

Austin entered the final round tied for fifth place after posting an 86-point ride on Honeycutt Rodeo's Night Train in the semifinal round. Two-time defending world champion Blue Stone, 2000 World Champion Cody Hancock and 1996 World Champion Terry Don West also secured spots in the finals of the ESPN2 televised event with electrifying rides in the semis.

In the 15-man final round, Austin watched bull-riding standouts Corey Navarre and Tyler Fowler deliver 90-point plus rides before hanging out a 90-point trip of his own, lifting his aggregate score to 176.

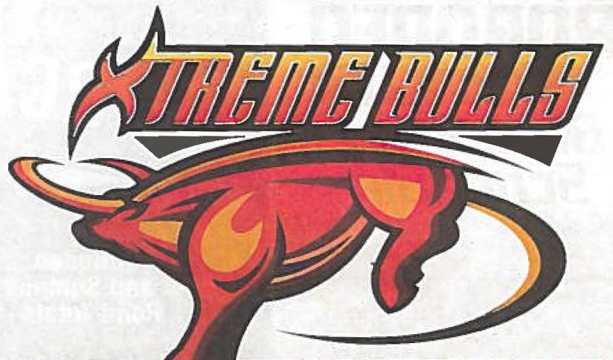
"I've never scored more than 90 points at a PRCA rodeo," Austin said. "This is a real confidence-builder."

Scoring 90 on a bull with the resume of Wanna Dance should breed confidence. The bull has been to five Wrangler NFRs, and Terry Don West recently scored 93 points on him at the Pace Picante Tour Finale at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas.

"I saw Terry Don ride him and my traveling partner Robey



**Let's Dance:** Matt Austin took Salt Lake City by storm, riding Diamond G Rodeo's Wanna Dance to 90 points in the finals to capture the Xtreme Bulls title. The victory earned the Texan \$26,163.



## 2003 PRCA Xtreme

**Feb. 2**  
San Antonio Stock Show and Rodeo  
**Winner: Cory Melton**

**March 6**  
RodeoHouston  
**Winner: Terry Don West**

**March 24-25**  
Star of Texas Fair and Rodeo Austin  
**Winner: B.J. Schumacher**

**June 20**  
Reno (Nev.) Rodeo  
**Winner: Jason McClain**

**July 17**  
Days of '47 Rodeo Salt Lake City  
**Winner: Matt Austin**

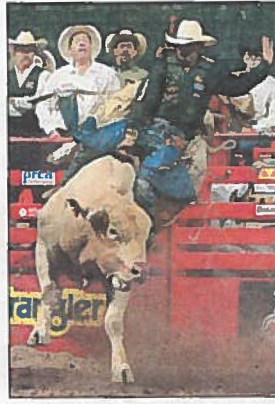
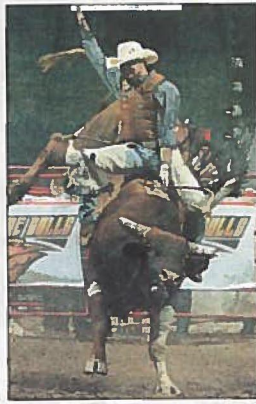
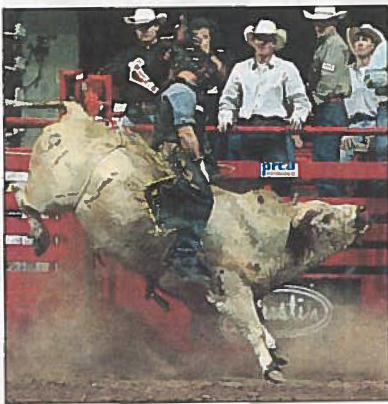
**Aug. 8**  
Caldw Night



## Bulls - Salt Lake City

'I've never scored more than 90 points at a PRCA rodeo. This is a real confidence-builder.'

- Matt Austin



**Money men:** Left to right, Corey Navarre, Terry Don West and Cody Hancock won hefty paychecks at the Xtreme Bulls competition in Salt Lake City. Navarre won \$6,110, while Hancock earned \$16,420. Fowler won \$11,310. West, the world standings leader, added \$3,133 to his season earnings total.

Condra had him at the Finals so I knew he was a real good bull," Austin said. "A little welly, but I just had to stay in the middle and do my best with him."

Steve Gilbert, owner and breeder of the bull, couldn't have been more pleased.

"I knew he had to cowboy up," Gilbert said. "He got a little loose on him, but he damn sure rode him. I try to own bucking bulls that guys can win on. I thought my bulls did well."

In his brief career, Austin has proven his ability to seize the moment. Before July 17, his biggest win occurred at the Mesquite Championship Rodeo where he covered bounty bull Rough Enough to earn a \$10,000 check.

Much like Curtis did on golf's Hooters' Tour, Austin earned his way into the Xtreme Bulls lineup in Salt Lake City by placing in Division II qualifying events in Garden City, Kan., and Coleman, Texas.

"When I called and entered the Salt Lake City Xtreme Bulls, I didn't know right away if I'd get in," said Austin, who's nicknamed Poindexter because he wears glasses while competing. "Then when they called me and told me I made it, I got real excited."

Although Austin stole the spotlight, several other cowboys enjoyed the moment in Salt Lake City.

Hancock of Taylor, Ariz., who started slowly in 2003, walked away from the

Delta Center with \$11,000, his first check on the Xtreme Bulls tour. Fowler covered Hatchet Jack of the Kerby Rodeo string for a semifinal round-best 89 points. Bryan Richardson of Dallas posted the same mark in the semifinals on Diamond G's Whirly Gig. In the final round Richardson was bucked off Salt River Rodeo's Oklahoma Fuel while Hancock scored 86 points on Slash T Rodeo's Snake Eater for a 175-point aggregate.

Fowler continued his quiet ascension up the Xtreme Bulls ranks, scoring 173 points and placing third. Fowler of Theodore, Ala., has made the whistle on more than half the bulls he's ridden and has qualified for the final round in four

of the five Xtreme Bulls events, placing in Reno, Nev., and Salt Lake City.

Navarre, 30th in the 2002 Jack Daniel's World Standings, put together 171 points to claim fourth-place money, his first on the Xtreme Bulls tour.

West, the top-ranked cowboy in Xtreme Bulls and in the world standings, placed fifth in Salt Lake City. West has ridden eight of nine bulls on the Xtreme Bulls tour and has won a tour-best \$37,748.

The other cowboy to post scores on two bulls in Salt Lake was three-time Wrangler NFR qualifier Vince Stanton, who racked up 159.5 points.

## XTREME BULLS

Unofficial standings as of July 30, 2003

1. Terry Don West, Henryetta, Okla.	\$37,748	9. Philip Elkins, Lipan, Texas	12,220
2. B.J. Schumacher, Hillsboro, Wis.	35,015	10. Blue Stone, Ogden, Utah	9,048
3. Jason McClain, Lewis, Colo.	27,495	11. Chad Klein, Clinton, La.	6,580
4. Cory Melton, Keithville, La.	24,088	12. Jesse Bail, Camp Crook, S.D.	6,345
5. Tyler Fowler, Theodore, Ala.	20,180	13. Zack Brown, Yorba Linda, Calif.	6,110
6. Robert Bowers, Brooks, Alberta	19,975	14. Blu Bryant, Robinson, Texas	5,170
7. Jason Legler, Eaton, Colo.	15,245	15. Robey Condra, Dayton, Texas	4,935
8. Colt Munden, Springtown, Texas	13,190		

### XTREME BULLS

#### Salt Lake City

Semifinal results 1. (tie) Bryan Richardson on Diamond G's Whirly Gig and Cody Hancock on Kerby's Hatchet Jack, 89 points, \$3,760 each; 3. B.J. Schumacher, 86 on Salt River's Not a Chance, \$1,880; 4. Ryan Brown, 87.5 on Kerby's Back Draft, \$1,410; 5. (tie) Terry Don West on Kerby's Black Out, Matt Austin on Honeycutt's Night Train and Myron Duarte on Salt River's Cherry Bomb, 86, \$313 each; 8. Chad Klein, 85 on Diamond G's Crush Box; 9. Robey Condra, 83 on Kerby's Bandito; 10. (tie) Tyler Fowler on Diamond G's Simba and Vince Stanton on Honeycutt's Buckeye, 82.5, 12. (tie) Corey Navarre on Slash T's Bad Company and Joe Smith on Slash T's First Full of Dollars, 81; 14. (tie) Blue Stone on Diamond G's Cry Baby; Zack Brown on Salt River's No Communication and Howdy Cloud on Salt River's Revind, 80; 17. Philip Elkins, 78 on Honeycutt's Yellow 5, 18. Jesse Bail, 77 on Salt River's Ho Way Out; 19. Travis Ashlew Jr., 7.02 seconds on Salt River's Magic; 20. Jason Legler, 7.18 on Kerby's Twist and Shout; 21. Colt Munden, 6.99 on Salt River's Sing Shot; 22. Kyle Justin, 6.88 on Diamond G's Dynamo; 23. Fred Boettcher, 6.64 on Slash T's Stone Cold; 24. William Farrell, 6.40 on Kerby's Snoopy; 25. Colby Yates, 5.61 on Kerby's Jay Leno Digs; 26. Johnny Chavez, 5.23 on Salt River's Rooster Foot; 27. Barry Bart, 4.58 on Kerby's Almost; 28. Cory Melton, 4.53 on Kerby's Red Wagon; 29. Blu Bryant, 4.19 on Salt River's Wide Gade; 30. Beau Hill, 3.86 on Kerby's Toy Box; 31. Jerry Shepard, 3.78 on Diamond G's Checkmate; 32. Jason McClain, 3.66 on Diamond G's Captain Crunch; 33. Logan Kribbe, 3.14 on Kerby's Natch; 34. Clint Craig, 3.09 on Honeycutt's Saratoga; 35. Robert Bowers, 2.92 on Slash T's Digger's Dream.

Final round scores 1. Tyler Fowler, 90.5 points on Diamond G's Stevie Wievie, \$4,700; 2. (tie) Corey Navarre on Salt River's Black Hawk and Matt Austin on Diamond G's Wanna Dance, 90, \$2,350 each; 4. Cody Hancock, 86 on Slash T's Snake Eater, \$1,410; 5. Terry Don West, 83.5 on Diamond G's Sakia, \$940; 6. Vince Stanton, 77 on Honeycutt's Mc Blazcuts; 7. Howdy Cloud, 7.27 seconds on Salt River's Diamond's Ghost; 8. Bryan Richardson, 6.52 on Salt River's Oklahoma Fuel; 9. Joe Smith, 6.29 on Diamond G's McCarthy Rose; 10. B.J. Schumacher, 6.02 on Kerby's Wally World; 11. Robey Condra, 5.44 on Salt River's Lying Eyes; 12. Ryan Brown, 4.97 on Slash T's Shake 'Em Down Snuff; 13. Blue Stone, 4.12 seconds on Honeycutt's O-Bait; 14. Chad Klein, 3.04 on Diamond G's Mr. USA; 15. Myron Duarte, 2.52 on Salt River's Geronimo.

Aggregate 1. Matt Austin, 176/2, \$23,500; 2. Cody Hancock, 175/2, \$11,250; 3. Tyler Fowler, 173/2, \$6,610; 4. Corey Navarre, 171/2, \$3,760; 5. Terry Don West, 169.5/2, \$1,880; 6. Vince Stanton, 159.5/2; 7. Bryan Richardson, 89/1, 8. B.J. Schumacher, 88/1, 9. Ryan Brown, 87.5/1; 10. Myron Duarte, 86/1, 11. Chad Klein, 85/1; 12. Robey Condra, 83/1; 13. Joe Smith, 81/1; 14. (tie) Blue Stone, 80/1; 15. Tyler Fowler, 79/1; 16. (tie) Blue Stone, 77/1; 17. Jason Legler, 75/1; 18. Robert Bowers, 73/1; 19. Philip Elkins, 71/1; 20. Jason Legler, 70/1; 21. Jason Legler, 69/1; 22. Jason Legler, 68/1; 23. Jason Legler, 67/1; 24. Jason Legler, 66/1; 25. Jason Legler, 65/1; 26. Jason Legler, 64/1; 27. Jason Legler, 63/1; 28. Jason Legler, 62/1; 29. Jason Legler, 61/1; 30. Jason Legler, 60/1; 31. Jason Legler, 59/1; 32. Jason Legler, 58/1; 33. Jason Legler, 57/1; 34. Jason Legler, 56/1; 35. Jason Legler, 55/1; 36. Jason Legler, 54/1; 37. Jason Legler, 53/1; 38. Jason Legler, 52/1; 39. Jason Legler, 51/1; 40. Jason Legler, 50/1; 41. Jason Legler, 49/1; 42. Jason Legler, 48/1; 43. Jason Legler, 47/1; 44. Jason Legler, 46/1; 45. Jason Legler, 45/1; 46. Jason Legler, 44/1; 47. Jason Legler, 43/1; 48. Jason Legler, 42/1; 49. Jason Legler, 41/1; 50. Jason Legler, 40/1; 51. Jason Legler, 39/1; 52. Jason Legler, 38/1; 53. Jason Legler, 37/1; 54. Jason Legler, 36/1; 55. Jason Legler, 35/1; 56. Jason Legler, 34/1; 57. Jason Legler, 33/1; 58. Jason Legler, 32/1; 59. Jason Legler, 31/1; 60. Jason Legler, 30/1; 61. Jason Legler, 29/1; 62. Jason Legler, 28/1; 63. Jason Legler, 27/1; 64. Jason Legler, 26/1; 65. Jason Legler, 25/1; 66. Jason Legler, 24/1; 67. Jason Legler, 23/1; 68. Jason Legler, 22/1; 69. Jason Legler, 21/1; 70. Jason Legler, 20/1; 71. Jason Legler, 19/1; 72. Jason Legler, 18/1; 73. Jason Legler, 17/1; 74. Jason Legler, 16/1; 75. Jason Legler, 15/1; 76. Jason Legler, 14/1; 77. Jason Legler, 13/1; 78. Jason Legler, 12/1; 79. Jason Legler, 11/1; 80. Jason Legler, 10/1; 81. Jason Legler, 9/1; 82. Jason Legler, 8/1; 83. Jason Legler, 7/1; 84. Jason Legler, 6/1; 85. Jason Legler, 5/1; 86. Jason Legler, 4/1; 87. Jason Legler, 3/1; 88. Jason Legler, 2/1; 89. Jason Legler, 1/1; 90. Jason Legler, 0/1.

## ie Bulls Schedule

**Aug. 30**  
Idaho) Ellensburg (Wash.)  
o Rodeo

**Sept. 24**  
River City Roundup  
Fair & Festival  
Omaha, Neb.

**Oct. 3**  
Heart 'O Texas Rodeo  
Waco, Texas

**Oct. 11**  
Silver Spurs  
Semi-annual Rodeo  
Kissimmee, Fla.

**TBA**  
Xtreme Bulls  
Championship