



NEWS RELEASE

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Betony Leading Diné College Rodeo Team

TSAILE, Ariz. — Imagine easing yourself down on the back of 1,500 pounds of irate bovine, wrapping a rope around a gloved hand, giving a nod to a guy or gal standing near a chute gate and heading out for eight breath-taking seconds in a rodeo arena.

The thought gives new meaning to the phrase, "Let 'er rip." Wyatt Betony, a Diné College junior, knows all about the breath-taking bull riding seconds and has the aches and pains to prove it.

The fall collegiate rodeo season ended Oct. 14 and the spring rodeo season begins in March. There are 15 people on the 2017 Diné College Rodeo Team.

"It's a great sport and I like it," Betony, 21. Betony hails from Tonalea, Ariz., and studies health occupation at Diné College. "It's tough sometimes and at this level it's very competitive."

In his everyday dress of jeans, T-shirt, tennis shoes and baseball cap, Betony doesn't really fit the image of a skilled bareback or bull rider. But put him in some chaps, a cowboy shirt, vest and a hat and you get the collegiate superstar cowboy thing going.

A Tuba City High School graduate, the Navajo-born Betony has competed at the College Nationals Finals Rodeo in Casper, Wyo., the past two years.

Betony on a Rampage

As a student-athlete, Betony holds his own, garnering top results at rodeos within the Grand Canyon Region of the National Intercollegiate Rodeo

Association. Betony set the 2017 tone early-on, taking third place in bareback riding on Sept. 15 at the season-opening Diné College Rodeo at the Tsaile Rodeo Grounds.

Betony took third place in the men's all-around at the recent Mesalands Community College Rodeo at Tucumcari, N.M. He was second in bull riding at Tucumcari. And out of nowhere, team member and sophomore transfer student Xavier Hunt took first place in saddle bronc riding at Tucumcari.

"(Wyatt) is a very good competitor," Heather Williams, Diné College rodeo coach, said. "He's without a doubt one of the better rough stock riders in the Grand Canyon Region."

Besides Diné College, the (NIRA) Grand Canyon Region includes New Mexico State University, Central Arizona College, Cochise College, Navajo Technical University, the University of Arizona, Adams State University and Mesalands.

Also, there are individual competitors from San Juan College in Farmington, the University of New Mexico and Arizona State University.

Williams said there will be about six rodeos in the (2018) spring semester, which means the other members of the Diné College rodeo team will have more chances at earning points in their respective events.