

# BULL RIDING

Bull riding is dangerous and predictably exciting, demanding intense physical ability, supreme mental toughness and courage. It is intentionally climbing on the back of a 2,000- pound bull. Serious injury is always a possibility for those fearless enough to sit astride an animal usually equipped with dangerous horns. Regardless, cowboys do it, fans love it, and ranks as one of rodeo's most popular events.

Balance, flexibility, coordination, quick reflexes and perhaps above all, a strong mental attitude are the stuff of which a good bull rider is made. To stay aboard the bull, a rider grasps a flat braided rope through itself wrapped around the chest of the bull. Then the rider wraps the tail end around his hand, sometimes weaving it through his fingers to further secure his grip.

Then he will nod his head, the chute gate will swing open, and the bull and rider will explode from the chutes into the arena for a eight second ride.

While spurring a bull can add to the cowboy's score, riders are commonly judged solely on their ability to stay aboard the twisting, bucking mass of muscle and the willingness to take whatever might come during his ride.

