

# Bulldoggers Rodeo Team



## ABOUT

Collegiate rodeo is Fresno State's longest running club sport; a rodeo has been held every year since 1949. The team's 45 student-athletes are successful in the rodeo arena and in the classroom. Several are recognized every year as Scholar Americans by the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association for having a 3.5 GPA or higher. These student-athletes are highly sought after by industry for their leadership, teamwork and problem solving skills.



## WINNING RESULTS

The Fresno State Bulldoggers Rodeo Team saddled up for success this year! Although the rodeo season was cut short due to COVID-19, both the men's and women's teams were on track to rank in the top three for the West Coast Region. Similarly, both teams were preparing to compete in the College National Finals Rodeo, looking to make their second collective appearance in the University's 70-year rodeo history.

Despite the challenges of this season, the team standings and individual placings of student-athletes continue to rise. Team members consistently placed in the top positions in their competitions, and both the men's and women's teams had stand-out performances.

Rylee George, an agricultural business student who competes in team roping and breakaway roping, had just won women's all-around and was taking a commanding lead for the women's team. Reed Neely, an agricultural education and agricultural communication student who competes in saddle bronc riding, finished all except one competition in first or second place, leading the way for the men's team.

It's been an unprecedented year for these student-athletes but with the dedication of Head Coach Uhuru Adem, the team has continued to reach new heights and remain focused throughout the uncertainty.

Coach Adem is "Bulldog born and Bulldog bred" himself. He competed as a Bulldogger in 2013-14 and received his agricultural business degree from Fresno State in 2015.



***"Being a part of the Bulldoggers Rodeo Team has given me so much confidence in every aspect of my life. The team has had such a positive impact on my self confidence, my work ethic, and my general attitude about situations. I am so thankful for all the experiences and opportunities that have risen through this program."***

– Maren Powers  
agricultural education student and rodeo club president

## IMPACT

Located in the heart of California, Fresno State is the institution best equipped to prepare students to meet the demands of a dynamic agricultural industry. Ninety percent of Fresno State students come from the Central Valley and 80% remain in the Valley after graduation.

A thriving Bulldoggers Rodeo Team helps recruit bright and driven students to Fresno State to pursue their higher education goals. It also builds students' skills in teamwork, leadership and problem solving – not to mention a drive to compete and win.

Your partnership will help shape our students' future by ensuring Fresno State has dedicated support towards the rodeo program. No other university is better positioned to empower talented leaders to meet the needs of the multi-faceted agricultural industry.

## PARTNER WITH US

A generous family foundation with local ties made a lead gift of \$250,000, which established the Ag One – Rodeo Team endowment fund. This permanent fund will support the Fresno State Bulldoggers Rodeo Team for generations to come. All gifts to this fund are invested by the Fresno State Foundation and the yearly payout provides an ongoing stream of financial support to the program. Now, your gift will have double the impact, thanks to an additional matching grant of up to \$500,000 provided by the family foundation.

Your investment helps sustain the rodeo program and enhance the out-of-the-classroom learning opportunities for students. Our phase one goal is to raise \$1.5 million to ensure there is dedicated funding for a team coach. We look forward to partnering with you to maximize student success and preserve the Western heritage through our collegiate rodeo tradition.



***"Rodeo teams are successful because of the dedication and determination of the athlete, but also because of the support they get from their families and the community. We want to see our families and our community become healthy and thrive so we can all support each other to be successful."***

– Uhuru Adem, rodeo team head coach

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