

What goes up must come down - Kanin in his pre-helmet days takes a fall.



Tough Enough to Wear A Helmet

*A cowboy battles back from injuries to find success
in the rough & tumble world of bull riding*

By Kelly Serfas Bower

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On July 2, 2008, bull rider Kanin Asay, of Powell, Wyoming, settled himself atop Corey-Hurst Rodeo Company's 301 Cry Baby and began going through his routine mental preparations before nodding for the stock gate to be opened. What happened next was anything but routine.

Five seconds into his ride, 301 Cry Baby had Kanin out of position and in trouble. Kanin's head collided with the bull's, not once but twice, rendering him unconscious before the bull continued to drag and step on him. The resulting life-threatening injuries had the cowboy riding a helicopter to the hospital instead of rid-

ing to the rodeo pay window. "He was a really big bull," Kanin explains. "He got me raised up and out of position leaning away from my hand. The first time we collided, he hit me behind my right ear, ripping it halfway off. He connected with my face three or four times before I came loose."