Podcast: Dino Dome

Episode Title: Minmi vs Euoplocephalus

Duration: 11’ 35’’

[ABC Kids podcast sting – this is an ABC podcast]

*Dinosaur roars and exciting music*

Amanda: From flying faxinalipterus to swimming sarcosuchus, we’re here to pit two of your favourite prehistoric pals head-to-head in the greatest race of all time!

*Music build-up*

Amanda: Welcome to the Dino Dome!

*Crowd cheers*

Amanda: Every week, the dome is the scene of a nail-biting clash between two dinosaurs as they race for the coveted Dino Dome Cup.

Whether it’s a stadium sprint or an ultramarathon, it’s never easy the terrain is always changing. From swamps to ski slopes and mountains to metropolises - anything goes in the Dino Dome!

I’m your host, Amanda Shalala, joined by our resident fact-o-saurus, Tim Richards!

*Big applause*

Tim: Hello Jurassic addicts!

Amanda and Tim: Let’s get ready to roar!

*Musical build-up and applause*

Megaphone voice: Weighing in at 300 kilograms – as heavy as a grizzly bear - it’s an ankylosaur. Give it up for the thunder from Down Under. It’s the Minmi!

*Dinosaur roars… Crowd cheers*

Megaphone voice: And it’s another bony beast from the ankylosaur family. As heavy as a rhino, all the way from North America. Let’s hear it for Euoplocephalus!

*Dinosaur roars… Crowd cheers*

Amanda: Mega match-up, Tim. They look like they’re twinning

Tim: Indeed! We’ve got two ankylosaurs here, they’ve got round bodies, longish tails, and short necks. And they’re covered in bumpy armour and spikes

Amanda: They both look tough! Euplocephalus is a mouthful though – let’s go with Euphie instead. Who’s your tip for the winner?

Tim: Well, Euphie is bigger and has that famous clubbed tail, but anything goes in the Dino Dome, and it could all come down to the landscape so let’s see who the terrain favours…

*Dino Dome theme sting plays: Anything goes in the Dino Dome.*

*The dome rumbles and we hear mechanical movement and rocks cracking*

Amanda: Interesting – we’ve got a flat expanse of rock at the start of the course

Tim: Similar to what you might see on some rocky beaches at low tide

*Mountains burst out of the Dome*

Amanda: Whoa! Here come the mountains!

Tim: With a dense pine forest – look at the peaks covered in snow!

*Erupting, sizzling sounds*

Amanda: Except for that one, Tim!

Tim: Wowzers - an active volcano! See it smouldering!?

Amanda: And I thought dinos were scary… but the landscape today is even scarier!

Tim: I don’t think either dino has an advantage in this terrain… they’ll both be doing well just to finish!

Amanda: It’s a cross country race: a sprint across the rocks, up and over the snow-capped mountains, a steep climb up a smoking volcano, and a balancing act around the lava-filled crater!

On your marks, get set…

Amanda and Tim: Dinos go!

*Race music starts*

Amanda: And they’re off! It’s a straight shot across the rock sheet and then they’ll be into the snowy forest. They’re stout and surprisingly speedy!

Tim: Euphie is usually a plodder but when she’s fired up, she can charge like an angry hippo….

*More rock crunching*

Amanda: This isn’t the most exciting bit of landscape though, Tim…

Tim: Well, it’s nice to give our dinos a flat start so they can work up to *–*

*The ground cracks open*

Amanda: Earthquake!

Tim: Run for your lives, dinos! The ground is opening up!

Amanda: Minmi is taking the shaking in her stride! She’s side-stepping those crevices as quickly as they crack open

Tim: This is where Minmi’s nimbleness is an advantage. She’s much lighter than Euphie and her legs are longer

Amanda: Look at Euphie! She’s running straight for a huge hole that’s just opened up. Watch out!

Amanda: She pulled up just in time

Tim: Phew!

Amanda: I don’t know how she would’ve climbed out of that crevice…

Tim: Impossible, Amanda… Euphie doesn’t have claws like some of the dinos we’ve seen in the dome

Amanda: Wow! And with one last leap, Minmi’s past the shaking shale! She’s in the lead and coming up to the base of the alpine range

Tim: You might think this is unfamiliar territory for the little Aussie. After all, Minmi’s fossils were discovered in dusty outback Queensland, but remember, millions of years ago the environment in Australia was completely different. Minmi’s habitat was a lot like this frosty forest we’re seeing here in the Dome

*Loud rumbling noise*

Amanda: Was it noisy too?

Tim: What *is* that sound?

Amanda: Oh no. It’s an…

Amanda and Tim: Avalanche!

Tim: Euphie’s caught up and now both dinos are in the path of all those tumbling rocks and snow

Amanda: Minmi looks frozen!

Tim: Even the strongest armour isn’t going to protect these two from –

Amanda: *(Cuts off Tim)* Boulders!

*Heavy thwacking sound*

Amanda: I can’t believe it! Euphie is using her clubbed tail to whack those rocks away like golf balls!

Tim: Remarkable!

Amanda: Fore!

*Thwack*

Amanda: Shot!

*Thwack*

Amanda: Minmi’s hiding behind Euphie as she sends those rocks rolling! That mighty tail is in full swing!

Tim: Well, the theory is that Euoplocephalus tails were used to drive away threats

Amanda: What’s more threatening than falling rocks? And here comes the snow! It’s like a huge white wave! Run dinos!

*Crash and moment of silence*

Amanda: Are they okay? All I see is a blanket of white

Tim: Look! There’s Euphie behind that log! She made it out of the avalanche’s path! But where’s the little Aussie?

Amanda: Hang on, Euphie’s turning around. She’s plodding back across the snow. I think she’s looking for Minmi!? Over there, Euphie! Near that boulder!

*Minmi sound*

Tim: I can hear Minmi, but I can’t see her

Amanda: Euphie’s nudging the snow with her nose. Is she… digging?

Tim: Yes! This is not unheard of in the ankylosaur family! It’s believed some species dug for food – like the roots of plants

Amanda: She looks like a dog burying a bone in the garden

Tim: Instead, she’s digging *up* a bony beast!

Amanda: And she’s done it! What great mates they must be…

Tim: Not just buddies, Amanda – they’re family, remember?

Amanda: Well, these ankylo-cuzzies are neck-and-neck as they make their way toward the volcano. Now, they’re actually going to have to get to the top – which is a pretty steep climb. Then balance around the crater’s edge to make it to the finish line on the other side.

Tim: Of course, we would never *normally* recommend heading towards the smouldering crater of an active volcano but…

Amanda: Anything goes in the Dino Dome! Minmi’s out in front. Euphie’s stubby legs aren’t cut out for a steep hill

*Minmi cries out*

Amanda: Minmi! I think that ash might be causing some problems for the Aussie! She’s squinting and blinking. Oh no, she’s turning in circles! She can’t see where to go

Tim: Euphie, on the other hand, is A-OK!

Amanda: How is that possible?

Tim: See Minmi’s head? It doesn’t have any armour. Whereas Euphie’s noggin is completely protected – even her eyelids are armoured!

Amanda: It looks like Euphie’s realised Minmi’s in trouble again. She’s turned around and coming back towards the Aussie

Tim: Minmi – Euphie’s right there!

Amanda: Euphie’s stretched out her club tail. And Minmi’s latched onto the club with her beak! Euphie’s guiding Minmi along with her tail!

Tim: Amazing! I’ve never heard of anything like this!

Amanda: And now, Euphie is carefully leading Minmi around the edge of the crater

Tim: Slowly now! Easy does it. Just a few more steps

*Euphie cries out*

Amanda: That was Euphie! She’s stopped and it looks like she’s hurt

Tim: There’s splitting lava and lots of hot embers piled up. I think it’s burnt her tummy - the only spot on her body unprotected!

Amanda: Minmi’s checking on Euphie. She’s giving her a nudge

Tim: I think she OK!

Amanda: Yes, she’s up and walking! With Minmi by her side! Aw! And just a few metres to go

Tim: Who will win?

Amanda: Neither seems interested in taking the glory…

Tim: The terrain didn’t favour either dino today. It’s like they’ve been pitted against the landscape instead of each other!

Amanda: They’re stumbling towards the finish line

Tim: Step by step

Amanda: Side by side

Tim: It’s too close to call!

Amanda: And here comes the finish line

*The finishing siren sounds and the crowd cheers*

Megaphone voice:Winner!

Amanda and Tim: It’s a tie!

Tim: Do we have two Dino Dino cups, Amanda?

Amanda: I think we can manage that. You run our Domers through a replay while I head down for the presentation

Tim: Both dinos were off to a speedy start until an earthquake cracked the ground open. Minmi took a slight lead until they reached the base of the alpine range when an avalanche sent boulders tumbling towards them. Euphie used her club tail to whack the boulders away but then snow buried Minmi. Euphie came to the rescue, digging Minmi free, just in time to scale the smouldering volcano. Hot ash stung Minmi’s eyes, so Euphie helped her carefully round the smoking crater. Then embers burnt Euphie’s tummy, so Minmi helped her down towards the finish, where both ankylosaurs crossed the line together!

How are they holding up, Amanda?

Amanda: They’ve both seen the Dino Dome doctor whose given them the all clear. What a couple of troopers!

*Helicopter flies into the Dome*

And the Dino Dome chopper is lowering down not one but two trophies…

*Two splashes and the sizzle of melting trophies*

Uh oh…

Tim: Did the helicopter drop the trophies in the volcano?

Amanda: Lost to lava I’m afraid

Tim: We might need to hire a new helicopter pilot…

Amanda: And that’s it for today’s Dino Dome – join us next week to see who will battle it out in the greatest race of all time!

*Dino Dome theme music ends as crowd cheers*

Disclaimer: No dinosaurs were harmed in the making of Dino Dome, as they’re all extinct. Therefore, all sounds in Dino Dome were made by humans and animals, including vultures, emus, camels and goats. *[Goat bleats]* Yes, goats.

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