Podcast: Dino Dome

Episode Title: Stegosaurus vs Triceratops

Duration: 12’ 39’’

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

*[Dinosaur roars and exciting music]*

**Amanda**: Are you ready to soar through the skies with terrifying pterodactyls… swim through the seas with the savage sarcosuchus… or rumble in the jungle with the mighty megalosaurus?

**Tim:** That’s right folks, we’re winding back the clock for some mesozoic mayhem! Welcome to the…

**Amanda & Tim:** Dino Dome!

*Music and big stadium applause*

**Amanda:** This is the place where we take two of our prehistoric pals and pit them head-to-head in the greatest race of all time to see who will win the coveted Dino Dome Cup.

Our contenders will sprint, fly, swim and hurdle their way to glory but, it’s never that simple here in the Dome. The landscape is ever-changing. Will they race through snow-capped mountains or tropical rainforests?

*[An icy wind blows over the sounds of a jungle and monkey screeching]*

Anything goes in the Dino Dome!

I’m your host, Amanda Shalala, and as always, I have our resident fact-o-saurus by my side – Tim Richards.

**Tim:** Hello, Domers!

**Amanda:** Are you ready to meet today’s contenders, Tim?

**Tim:** As ready as a hungry herrerasaurus, Amanda.

**Amanda, Tim and Megaphone voice:** Let’s get ready to roar!

*Music build under the crowd applause. A boxing ring bell dings three times*

**Megaphone Voice:**  Hailing from the Late Cretaceous; heavier than an elephant and as long as two parked cars! Packing not one, not two, but three famous face horns! Give it up for the grazers, it’s triceratops!!!

*[Triceratops grunts… Crowd cheers]*

And all the way from the Late Jurassic, put your talons together, for another heavy herbivore. What they lack in speed, they make up for in stupidity. Swing those spiky tails – it’s stegosaurus!

*[Stegosaurus chirps… Crowd cheers]*

**Amanda:** Bit harsh there for poor stegosaurus, don’t you think, Tim?

**Tim:** Not really. Stegosaurus might be built like an armoured tank, but their brains are the size of a walnut

**Amanda:** You’re kidding!

**Tim:** When it comes to dinosaurs, I’m as serious as a meteor

**Amanda:** Got it! So, we know Steggy isn’t very bright, but what else do we need to look out for today, Tim?

**Tim:** Maybe triceratops’s three horns will come in handy for something… or stegosaurus’s famous spiky tail.

**Amanda:** Let’s check out the Dome and see which environment our humble herbivores will be racing in today...

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

*The dome rumbles and we hear mechanical movement*

**Tim:** I love watching the dome transform for every race! This one is looking very… flat…

**Amanda:**  Yeah, I can’t see any hills popping up in the landscape… but lots and lots of dry… grass…

*Wind blows through long grass, trees growing, insects chirping*

**Tim:** A few scattered trees and shrubs too

*An elephant trumps in the distance*

**Amanda:**  It’s a savannah! A bit like what you’d see on an African animal safari.

*Zebras bray in the background*

**Tim:**  Both our racers will feel right at home here. Even though they existed millions and millions of years apart – Stegosaurus and Triceratops lived in very similar terrain.

**Amanda:**  It’s a short course too, with the finish line just on the other side of those long grasses. This will be a sprint, not a marathon. Let’s see which one can get over the line first.

*[Both dinosaurs grunt, snort and stamp as they approach the starting line]*

On your marks…. Get set…

**Amanda, Tim & Megaphone voice:** Dinos gooooooooooooooo!

*Starter siren sounds and stegosaurs slowly ambles off*

**Amanda:**  And they’re …. Well… They’re not quite off, are they?

**Tim:**  Er… yeah… stegosaurus has trundled off from the starting Tim but she’s not making much progress, and triceratops…. Well… triceratops hasn’t moved a muscle!

*Tranquil grasslands, some flies, triceratops snorts*

**Amanda:** Is this a strategy, Tim? Can you talk us through what’s happening?

**Tim:** *(realisation)* Of course! Triceratops has special ears good at hearing low tones, but not as good at hearing high tones. We might need to try a different starting siren!

*Sounds of looking around through a junk drawer*

**Amanda:** How about… a rubber ducky?

*Rubber ducky squeaks twice*

**Tim:** Nope

**Amanda:** A bicycle bell?

*Bell trills*

**Tim:** No chance

**Amanda:** This old tuba?

*Metallic tap on tuba*

**Tim:** Bingo! Give it a blow!

*Amanda blows a long, low note on the tuba. Triceratops snorts and trundles off as twangy rock music begins*

**Amanda:**  That seems to have done it, Tim!

**Tim**: The triceratops has gotten off her tricera-bottom!

**Amanda:**  Late off the mark, but at that speed she’s sure to close the gap.

**Tim:**  A triceratops isn’t the speediest of dinos. They can run about as fast as a small dog. But compared to Steggy, they’re like lightning.

**Amanda:**  Yes, despite having a huge head start, stegosaurus is still moving like molasses. What a slow poke!

And here comes triceratops… just a few steady strides and….

They’re neck-and-neck!

Come on Steggy!

*[Stegosaurus groans]*

Can’t she go any faster?

**Tim:**  Top speed for a stegosaur is only about 6km an hour. That’s like the walking speed for an average human

**Amanda:**  But the stegosaurus is so massive! She’s bigger than a caravan! Why is she so slow?

**Tim:**  Well, it’s because their back legs are longer than their front legs. If she moved them any faster, the back legs would catch up to the front ones and she’d tumble right over. So, steggies prefer the slow lane…

**Amanda:**  Well, it seems both dinos are taking their time here…. This is the slowest sprint I’ve ever seen. Hang on…

*[Music slows to a stop as the dinosaurs munch on grass]*

Both the stegosaurus and the triceratops have stopped to eat some shrubs!

**Tim:** Maybe they just need a quick snack, they do need to eat a lot to power their big bodies. Let’s give them a minute?

*Triceratops farts and the crowd laughs*

**Amanda:** *(frustrated)* Ugh come on! The finish line is right there! You’re so close! Move it!

*More munching sounds*

*Exciting music starts as the sound of a large door opening is heard*

**Tim:** What’s that?

**Amanda:**  It looks like the Dome has released... a predator!

*Large dinosaur screech as crowd cheers*

**Amanda:**  Is that a T-rex?

**Tim:**  Nope – look at the arms, they’re longer than Rexy’s… and see the two short horns above the eyes… this is an allosaurus!

**Amanda:**  A vicious carnivore and sworn enemy of the stegosaur!

**Tim:**  That’s right, Amanda – both lived in the late Jurassic, and we know that stegosaur was most certainly on the allosaurus menu.

**Amanda:**  That’s sure to get them moving. And she’s coming in hot, look at her go

**Tim:** Allosaurus is fast as a wolf and just as cunning!

**Amanda:** Why aren’t the herbivores high tailing it out of there? Shouldn’t they be able to at least smell the threat?

*The herbivores continue to much on grass. Stegosaurus burps.*

**Amanda:** *(laughing)* Guess not!

**Tim:** Triceratops’s sense of smell isn’t much chop…

And with Steggy, her brain is so small, who knows what she’s thinking

**Amanda:**  Well, one thing’s for sure – the allosaurus smells the herbivores! She’s heading straight for them! Watch out, Steggy!

*Allosaurus footsteps get closer*

**Tim:** Triceratops - move!

*Allosaurus growls and the crowd gasps.*

*Exciting chase music begins*

**Amanda:**  Finally! The herbivores have spotted the menacing meat-eater

**Tim:**  You can’t miss her! She’s almost as tall as a giraffe…

**Amanda:**  Triceratops better get those horns ready!

**Tim:**  Actually, we’re not sure triceratops used their horns against predators. We think they used them in battles against each other…

**Amanda:** *(Frustrated)* Ugh… well that’s not gonna be much use here, Tim!

What about Steggy? Does she stand a chance? What about those pointy plates along her back? They must be good for something!?

**Tim:**  They’re not used as weapons either. Some scientists think they were used to control their body temperature

**Amanda:** *(Desperate*) No one cares if they’re hot or cold right now!

**Tim:**  Look out!

*Allosaurus growls*

**Amanda:**  The allosaur’s mouth is open – and look at the gape of those jaws!

**Tim:**  I think it’s in attack mode!

*Allosaurus screeches*

**Amanda:**  And heading straight for the…

**Tim:**  Triceratops!

*Triceratops growls and skids out of the way*

**Amanda:**  Oh, that was too close! The triceratops side-stepped the meat eater at the last moment…

But now, she’s completely off course!!!

**Tim:**  She’s saved herself, but surely, she’s out of the race…

**Amanda:**  Triceratops! The finish line is the other way

**Tim:**  I don’t think she cares. She’s just running as far from the allosaurus as she can. Even if it’s right back to the starting line…

**Amanda:** This is a mess, Tim! And look - now the Allosaurus is running straight for the stegosaurus!

Surely, Steggy is done for…

**Tim:**  I’m closing my eyes, Amanda. I can’t bear to look. Goodbye Steggy…

*Allosaurus growls. As the running gets closer, there’s a big swish sound of the stegosaurus tail*

**Amanda:**  And her spiked tail comes out with an enormous swing!

**Tim:**  You mean, thagomizer!

**Amanda:**  Thago – what now?

**Tim** Thagomizer – that’s the name of the four-spiked stegosaurus tail!

**Amanda:**  Catchy.

Allosaurus wasn’t expecting that! She’s stumbled and run straight into a tree trunk!

*Stumbling footsteps and groan of pain as Allosaurus slams into a tree*

**Tim:**  Ouch! That’s gotta hurt!

**Amanda:**  Stegosaurus isn’t stopping there. Here comes the super swing!

*Huge swing and impact of tail. Allosaurus soars through the air and lands hard.*

*The finishing siren sounds and the crowd gasps*

**Megaphone voice:** Winner!

**Amanda:**  Oh no… Steggy what have you done!? Allosaurus has fallen over.

She was jumping out of the way of the swinging thagomizer and – she’s landed on the other side of the Dino Dome finish line…

**Tim:**  Does that mean?

**Amanda:** Yes, it does, Tim - Allosaurus has won the race!

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

*Crowd cheers*

**Amanda:** And look! Triceratops is crossing the line too!

*Triceratops panting and running off*

**Tim:** Pity it’s the starting line…

*Crowd laughs*

**Amanda:**  What a remarkable finish!

**Tim:** And after all that impressive tail work, stegosaurus has gone back to eating the shrubs!

**Amanda:**  I think she’s forgotten she’s in a race. Oh Steggy - the lights are on but no one’s home.

**Tim:**  Well, fair’s fair. Let’s get allosaurus her trophy…

**Amanda:**  I’m on it – you take the Domers through the action replay

*Action replay music starts*

**Tim:** It was an unusual sprint through the grasslands today with one of the slowest starts in Dino Dome history. Triceratops’s ears are excellent at hearing low tones but not so hot at catching high tones like our Dome starting siren -

*[Starting siren sound]*

- Apologies, Triceratops – that was our bad. It didn’t make a difference though, once she got going, triceratops had no trouble closing the gap on the competition. Despite their size, stegosauruses are remarkably slow. And as we saw, nothing slows down an herbivore like a crop of fresh green ferns.

*[Munching sounds and a burp]*

Allosaurus, a predator with a taste for steggy steaks, turned up the heat and that’s when we saw the thagomizer – stegosaur’s spiky tail - in full swing!

*[Whoosh of thagomizer]*

Sending the allosaurus flying across the finish line! What a twist!

*[Action replay music ends, and we hear a helicopter approach]*

Here comes the trophy for our unlikely winner…

**Amanda**: Its being lowered into the Dome and –

*Sound of twisted metal and a huge gulp. Allosaurus growls*

**Tim**: Has she swallowed it?

**Amanda** Yes, yes, she has

**Tim**: I don’t know why I’m surprised at this point

**Amanda:** And that’s the end of today’s race, Domers. Catch us next time as we pit another two dinos tooth to talon. Will they be sauropods, ceratopsians, or pachycephalosaura? Gee that’s a mouthful…

**Tim**: A bit like the Dino Dome trophy!

**Amanda**: There are more than 700 species to choose from. Find out who it will be and where they’ll race on the next Dino Dome!

*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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