Podcast: Dino Dome

Episode Title: Giganotosaurus vs Spinosaurus

Duration: 12’ 32”

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

*Dinosaur roars and exciting music*

Amanda: From jaxartosaurus to juravenator, and valdosaurus to vulcanodon. This is the place where the fastest and fiercest creatures from millions of years ago come back for the greatest race of all time!

*Music build-up*

Welcome to the Dino Dome!

*Big applause*

Amanda: Every week, dinos race in the Dome as Triassic fanatics cheer from the grandstands. But it’s never straightforward, the landscape is forever changing. From craters to clifftops and blizzards to bayous, anything goes in the Dino Dome! I’m your host, Amanda Shalala, but I’m never too far from my right-hand man, Dino Dome Fact-o-saurus, the Mesozoic master himself, the one, the only… Tim Richards!

*Big applause*

Tim: I’m raring to go, Amanda!

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

*Musical build-up and applause*

Megaphone Voice: Weighing in at four-thousand kilograms – about as heavy as a hippo, and almost as long as a cricket pitch - it’s the super-sized carnivore with a sail on her back: Spinosaurus!

*Roar… Crowd cheers*

And we have another humungous meat-eater, weighing in at eight-thousand kilos – as heavy as two hippos, and half the length of a tennis court. Give it up for the Giganotosaurus!

*Roar… Crowd cheers*

Amanda: A couple of behemoth beasties*!*

Tim: I’m extra excited for this match-up, Amanda! You see, the T-Rex is world famous, and everyone seems to think she’s the fiercest dino of them all

Amanda: Yep, you don’t want to mess with Rexy

Tim: But both our carnivores here today are even bigger than the T-Rex

Amanda: Wow! Who’s your tip for the winner?

Tim: Well, Spinosaurus is longer than Giganotosaurus --

Amanda: *(interrupting)* Spino and Giggy, please – we’re all mates here!

Tim: -- but Giggy, is heavier. Depending on where they race, it might all come down to their rear ends

Amanda: Their butts?!

Tim: No! Their tails! Spino has a long tail, which might have helped it swim in the water. While a giganotosaurus tail is massive, helping with balance and agility on land

But if I had to pick a winner, I’d say giganotosaurus

Amanda: Let’s check what the landscape will be for today’s event. As we know…

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

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

*The sounds of a dry desert can be heard*

Tim: Phew – it’s getting hot in here!

Amanda: And sandy, very sandy. There’s not a speck of shade anywhere!

Tim: It’s a desert!

Amanda: Is that a lake in the middle of the course or am I just feeling the heat?

Tim: It’s not a mirage, that’s a very real, very shimmery lake!

Amanda: And on the other side of the water?

Tim: A maze of cacti!

Amanda: Giggy and Spino have their work cut out for them today, this does not look easy. We’ve got a racecourse across sloping sand dunes, around a lake and through a maze of cacti to finish. Let’s get our carnivores on the starting line. On your marks, get set….

Amanda, Tim, and Megaphone Voice: Dinos go!

*Starting siren and race music starts*

*Huge stomping sounds as the dinosaurs move off*

Amanda: Giggy is out in front early

Tim: She’s the better sprinter, but we can’t rule Spino out. She’s just a few strides behind!

Amanda: This sand must be hard for them to run on

Tim: Spino’s feet are actually quite similar to some of today’s shorebirds. She’s used to soft and uneven surfaces, like sand. Giggy’s feet are clawed which could help with balance, but she’s twice as heavy as Spino and this sand is hot!

*Hot sizzle and dinosaur yelp*

Amanda: Not used to desert life?

Tim: Neither of them are. Spino lurked near rivers and waterways in Northern Africa, while Giggy lived on the shores of shallow lakes in South America

Amanda: And Giggy’s still out in front as they climb another sand dune!

Tim: Both dinos have powerful hind legs, so this incline shouldn’t be a problem

*Blustery wind and thunder*

Amanda: Wowsers – who ordered a sandstorm?

Tim: I can’t see a thing!

Amanda: Giggy!? Spino!? Are you there?

*Dinos roar*

Tim: Well, we can still hear them…

Amanda: The sand is settling. But… wait… is that Spino out in front now?

Tim: It is!

Amanda: Spinosaurus has taken the lead!

*Dinosaur roars before a big splash*

Amanda: And she’s launched herself into the lake! I didn’t know Spino could swim! She’s even got a sail like a boat

Tim: Spino’s sail is a bit of a mystery. Some think it’s just for show, others think it keeps her body cool, and some even think it’s like a camel’s hump that stores fat

Amanda: So, it’s not for swimming?

Tim: Don’t get me wrong, she can certainly get around in the water. But it’s unlikely she was a full-time swimmer. I think she’s less like a super croc, and more like a reptilian river bird!

Amanda: Oh, that’s way less cool!

Tim: Not at all! She can certainly swim, as we’re seeing now, but she’s no deep-sea diver. I reckon she’s at her deadliest in the shallows

Amanda: Look here she goes! She’s cutting across the lake, while Giggy’s stuck going the long way round. She’s got an enormous advantage here, by going across the lake, she’s cut her course in half. Let’s check in with Giggy

*Panting dino groans*

Amanda: Gee, that looks tough. She’s showing real grit and determination but it’s gonna be hard for her to come back from this

Tim: You’d think so, but as we know…

Amnda: anything goes in the Dino Dome! Hang on! Where did Spino disappear to?

Tim: There! In those reeds!

Amanda: She’s way off-course

Tim: What’s she doing over there?

Amanda: She’s so still. Like a statue. She’s focussed on something in the water

Tim: Uh-oh

*Big splash*

Amanda: Woah! That’s what steered Spino off-course!

*Snapping and gulping*

Tim: A juicy saw fish! Spino’s favourite meal! Spino has a bunch of small openings on the tip of her snout to sense moving fish

Amanda: Spino – there’s no time for fishing! You’ve got a race to win!

Tim: I would’ve expected that behaviour from Giggy

Amanda: What do you mean?

Tim: Well, she’s big, but not so bright

Amanda: But she’s like a super-sized T-Rex! And everyone says Rexy has a big brain

Tim: Not Giggy - she’s big everywhere except the brain. Giggy’s head is enormous - the length of a tall person, but her brain is only the size of a banana

Amanda: Lady finger or cavendish?

Tim: *(laughing)* I’m a Mesozoic master, not a fruit fanatic!

Amanda: Oh… well, I can’t tell Giggy’s brain is tiny! She’s focused and right on track, and with Spino’s snack time, she’s closed the gap! She’s entering the maze and--

*Crash and dino yelps*

Amanda: … slammed into a cactus

*Dino groans*

Tim: Ouch! Those thorns must be sharp to pierce her scaly armour

Amanda: She’s dusting herself off. On ya, Giggy!

Tim: Yes, Giggy has three clawed fingers on each hand and slightly longer arms than a T-Rex, so she can actually use them, but they’re not as long as Spino’s

Amanda: Speaking of the swimmer – she’s out of the water and into the maze! I hope that saw fish was worth it, buddy! You’ve got some ground to make up. Giggy’s getting very close to the finish line

Tim: It’s hard to say who’s in the lead. This maze is confusing and there are sharp prickles at every turn!

Amanda: It’s amazing all the shapes and sizes these cacti come in. That one looks just like a tiny sauropod! See how that part is like the long neck and --

*Big chomp and gulp*

Amanda: Holy hadrosaurus!

Tim: This is completely inexplicable behaviour from the giganotosaurus! She’s… she’s…

Amanda: Eaten the cactus! I thought you said she was a carnivore!

Tim: She is!

Amanda: Tell that to the cacti!

Tim: Oh! I think Giggy thought the cactus actually was a baby sauropod. It’s her favourite snack

Amanda: Yowch, I bet she got a nasty shock swallowing those thorns

Tim: Told ya – big everywhere but the brain!

Amanda: Take a look at Spino! Here she comes!

Tim: She’s unstoppable

Amanda: She’s run straight past the spluttering Giggy

Tim: She’s sailed over a clump of cacti

Amanda: And she’s on her way

Tim: A few more steps

Amanda: And charging home!

*The finishing siren sounds and the crowd cheers*

Megaphone voice:Winner!

Amanda: Spinosaurus is first place in today’s race!

*Ambulance siren*

Tim: And the medic has made it to Giggy

Amanda: Don’t get too close! She thought a cactus was a sauropod, who knows what she’ll take a bite out of

Tim: Just throw her a bottle of water and get out of there!

*Dinosaur gulping water*

Amanda: She’s washed down the prickles, but don’t try this at home, kids! Spiky cacti are not snacks

Tim: Well, technically, dragon fruit is a type of cactus, and then there’s Peruvian apple, and the edible prickly pear!

Amanda: *(teasingly)* I thought you said you weren’t a fruit fanatic?

Tim: *(laughing)* Right!

*Tired footsteps and dino breaths*

Amanda: And Giggy’s over the line. I bet second place is a lot easier to swallow than that cactus!

Tim: That was a strange race

Amanda: Aren’t you used to it by now? That’s how we roll here in the Dome! I’m heading down for the trophy preso, you run our Jurassic addicts through an action replay

*Action replay music begins*

Tim: Giganotosaurus took an early lead then, Spinosaurus emerged in front, getting an enormous lead by taking an aquatic shortcut, but quickly lost it by stalking a sawfish. Giggy took the long way round the lake, before slamming into a prickly cactus. It was anyone’s race, until Giggy choked on a dino-shaped cactus, leaving the way open for Spino to sail across the finish line first!

*Crowd cheers as helicopter flies overhead*

Amanda: Thanks, Tim! The Dino Dome Cup is being lowered down to the Spinosaurus as we speak and --

*Splash*

Amanda: What the!?

Tim: Has the trophy been swiped?

Amanda: Yeah, by the saw fish! It’s probably at the bottom of the lake now

Tim: Makes sense. I mean, as far as our trophy presentations go…

Amanda: See you soon for our next prehistoric pairing in the 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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