

*Dylan Jennings:* Sometimes it gets hard to balance these two worlds. There's different responsibilities that I hold at school. There's different responsibilities that I hold for the Powwow Trail. I'm a junior at UW-Madison. I come from the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Ojibwe.

*Announcer:* All right, don't go away gentlemen.

*Dylan:* A powwow is a social gathering. This is like our way of bringing our whole Native community together.

*Announcer:* Okay, I believe we are ready for our first round entry. So we are gonna ask those of you that are able to please rise, remove the covers off your head, to pay respects not only just to our Stars and Stripes, but to the original flag of this continent, our Eagle Staffs.

*Dylan:* The veterans play a huge role because they went to battle for us. They went to battle for our people, and they always have. Powwows are used as a means to educate people. That's why they're so open to the public and everything. A lot of people classify Native Americans as you know, "Oh, they're all Indians." Well, no, you know. We're all from different nations that are all really, really different. We all have different languages. We all have different ways of life. And we're completely different.

Just from being on the Powwow Trail, you get to learn so much about different Native nations. When I was just a little guy, I'd watch those men's traditional dancers, and they always had a big impression on me. I always saw them as almost like the protectors of the powwow.

It's almost like I'm hunting, especially when you do the sneak up. You're out there looking for you prey or for your Waawaashkeshi, we call it. That's our word for deer. I started singing with Midnite Express a few years ago. Those people on that drum are my family.

Sometimes, like when it's not a contest song, I'll get to look out there and see all those feathers out there, moving and bobbing with the beat, people just jamming out, and that's a great feeling. When you're dancing, you're dancing for the ones that can't dance anymore.

That's what they say. You dance hard so the ones that are watching that can't dance or the ones that aren't able to make it to the powwow can feel those feelings from here. I really try to encourage younger — I call them little brothers on the Powwow Trail. That's another reason I dance and sing, is to help motivate these young ones to carry on our traditions. I really feel that I was put here on this earth to help pass things on. I want to see these traditions, these ways, passed down 'til I'm gone, and on.