How Ryan Lochte can win 'Dancing With the Stars'

BY EMILY YAHR THE WASHINGTON POST

Ryan Lochte is really competing this season on "Dancing With the Stars."

The show made the news official Tuesday morning on "Good Morning America" during the cast unveiling and Lochte was the only contestant to sit for a special interview, given that he recently caused an international incident when he fabricated details about an alleged robbery during the Olympics in Rio.

"You initially said that you exaggerated about what happened that evening. Why did you lie?" "GMA" co-anchor Amy Robach asked him.

"It was still hours after the incident. I'm not one to make excuses, but I mean, I was still intoxicated," Lochte plained. "I was still going through the emotions of, you know, having a gun pulled on me. I mean, I just — I'm human. I made a mistake and that's something that I'm going to have to live with."

Lochte said he still isn't sure whether to characterize what happened at that gas station (when security reportedly demanded money from the swimmers) as robbery, extortion, or paying for a poster being ripped — he still says the swimmers never damaged the bathroom, as Brazil police claimed. "The story about me vandalizing the bathroom is absurd. It never happened," Lochte said.

He admitted that he lied when he said there was "a gun pointed at my forehead." Ulti-



Olympic athletes Laurie Hernandez and Ryan Lochte appear on "Good Morning America" with Tom Bergeron on Monday. Both will appear on the new season of "Dancing With the Stars," which starts its new season on Sept. 12.

to move on. "We're just trying to get this over with. It's been dragged out way too long," he said. "And the media's taken this to a whole new level. I just want to put this behind me and move on, move forward."

Although Lochte told Robach he was in talks to star on ABC television's hit reality show before this infamous incident, the timing is suspirecently dropped Lochte, and "Dancing With the Stars" is an ideal tour stop for scandalplagued celebrities: It's a safe, cheesy, family-friendly place to earn some goodwill and display humility as you learn to dance and wear unbelievably sparkly costumes.

There's no telling whether the American public is ready to forgive (or at least stop

mately, Lochte said, he wants ciously perfect. Four sponsors mocking) Lochte. But a win on worldwide punch line, as he's this show — currently seen by about 13 million people per week — could have a huge impact on his image. Here's how he can possibly win, based on the five factors you need to dominate in this competition:

1) Name recognition.

Easy. Lochte's scandal briefly took over the Olympics coverage and he's currently a

been eviscerated by sports columnists and the MTV Video Music Awards. For better or worse, everyone knows him. 2) Have an inspirational

Well, Lochte, 32, has the whole "road to redemption" thing going for him. While not the most sympathetic figure after his drunken behavior in Rio, he needs to work the "redemption" angle as much as possible during the on-camera interviews, emphasizing how grateful he is to have a second chance after embarrassing the entire country.

3) Likability.

OK, this one is tough. While Lochte possesses that indescribable bro-charisma and ab-tastic physique that has earned him plenty of fans over the years (or at least landed him a cameo as a "sex idiot" on NBC's "30 Rock"), it's hard to tell whether America can still be won over by the guy who earnestly tried to coin the phrase "Jeah!" Lochte needs to turn up the charm to 100 to his partner, Cheryl Burke, along with the judges and viewing audience.

4) Nostalgia.

Can't have everything. Maureen McCormick of "The Brady Bunch" has this category pretty well covered. Maybe Lochte can remind viewers of when he was just a gold medalwinning Olympic swimmer with a short-lived E! reality show?

5) Dancing ability.

This one matters more than you might expect, given that the judges' points count toward your total score. The audience, whose votes also count, will only give pity votes to bad dancers for so long. But Lochte's in luck, because professional athletes (naturally agile, easily coached) always do well in the physical part of the show. So if Lochte dedicates the same effort to the fox trot that he devotes to the pool, he's in excellent shape to go far in the competition.

Things to Do

AUGUSTA — Rockhounders Gem and Mineral Show, sponsored by Kennebec Rocks and Mineral Club, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 3; 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 4, National Guard Armory, Western Avenue. Door prizes, demonstrations in cabbing and lapidary, mineral displays, dealers in minerals, jewelry, gems, fossils, geode slicing, mineral mine and other games for children. 873-6270

BANGOR — Bangor Parks and Recreation Department 54th annual Labor Day Road Race, 9 a.m. Monday, Sept. 5, 647 Main St. Race day registration, 7:45-8:45 a.m. \$20. Advance registration, to print registration form or information, BangorParksandRec.com or 992-4490.

BANGOR — September book talk series at Bangor Public Library: Debra Spark, "Unknown Caller, 6 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 6; Douglas Rooks, "Statesman: George Mitchell and the Art of the Possible," 6 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 13; Lyn Mikel Brown, "Powered by Girl: A Field Guide for Supporting Youth Activists," 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 21; Hale Bradt, "Wilber's War, An American Family's Journey through WWII," 6 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 22. Free. bangorpubliclibrary. org or 947-8336.

BANGOR — September workshops at Bangor Public Library: Ann Joles, EASTPORT — Eastport "The Truth About College: Sink or Swim," 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 14; "Understanding the Role Essays, SATs, Interviews, Extracurricular Activities, Sports and Other Factors Play in Admissions Decisions Colleges Make," Wendy Thompson, 6 p.m. Monday, Sept. 19, Cartooning Workshop with George Danby, Friday, Sept. 23, paper and pencils provided, walk away with your very own cartoon. bangorpubliclibrary. org or 947-8336.

BREWER — Bangor Singles Club dances, 8 p.m.-midnight Fridays, Brewer Eagles Club, 22 Atlantic Ave.: Steve and the Good Old Boys, Sept. 2; Wild Horse, Sept. 9; Frye Mountain, Sept. 16; Buffalo Creek, Sept. 23; New Society,

Sept. 30. Marilyn, 827-

CAMDEN — West Bay Rotary Club's annual Chowder Challenge as part of Camden Windjammer Festival, 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 3, Camden Town Landing. Admission \$9 adults, \$5 children. Meal includes nearly a quart of chowder, oyster crackers, a drink and a chance to vote for your favorite chowder. Proceeds to support local civic charitable and nonprofit activities and the Windjammer Festival. Sandy Cox, 691-9204; or Mark Masterson, 236-7997 or 975-1177.

CAMDEN — The Camden Windjammer Festival Nautical Dog Show, 10 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 3, Camden Harbor Park, presented by P.A.W.S. Animal Adoption Center. pawsadoption.org to reg-

DEER ISLE - Studio walkthrough and end-of-season auction, 7 p.m. Friday, Sept. 2, Haystack Mountain School of Crafts, 89 Haystack Drive. Free and open to all. Item preview and silent auctions, 7:30 p.m. Live auction, 8 p.m. Benefit school's scholarship program and studio improvements. Haystackmtn.org.

EASTPORT — The Eastport Moonlight Movies, 8 p.m. Fridays, Sutherland Amphitheater, 80 Water St.: Sept. 3, "All About Eve." 214-0040 or lolly@ sweetiesdowneast.com.

Salmon and Seafood Festival, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 3-4, downtown and other venues. Food, arts, film, tours, children's activities, eastportsalmonfest.com or Jeanne, 214-1855.

ELLSWORTH — Flash in the Pans street dance, 7:30-9 p.m. Monday, Sept. 5, Jordan's Snack Bar, Route 1. Benefits Everybody Eats! Flashinthepans.org.

ELLSWORTH — Tea Time Tours, 3 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 31, Woodlawn Museum. Staff-led tour followed by tea and cookies. \$12 Woodlawn members, \$15 others. Space is limited. Reservations, woodlawnmuseum.org.

GORHAM - Rinde Eck-

ert's "My Fools: A Life in Song," with Rinde Eckert, 8 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 3, Corthell Concert Hall, University of Southern Maine Gorham. Free

HOWLAND — Howland

High School/Penobscot Valley High School reunion for classes 1960-1970, 4 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 4, at the home of Cheryl and Millard Hatch in Seboeis. Potluck appetizer and dinner at 5 p.m. Bring your own beverages. A DJ providing music. Bring a chair, \$5 per person and food to share. The Class of 1966 to hold private gathering, 4:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 3, upstairs at Trapier's in West Enfield. 732-3636 or 794-3290.

LUBEC — Mary Potterton Memorial Concert series finale, 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 31, Congregational Christian Church. Cellist Peter Lewy and pianist Richard McIntyre performing works by Beethoven, Schumann, Bach and Lewy. Free. Piano tuning donations gratefully accepted. 733-2316, sksmail@summerkeys.com or summerkeys.com.

NEWPORT — 17th annual North Country Inter-Tribal PowWow, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday-Monday, Sept. 3-5, 934 Elm St. Adults \$5; children free with paid adult. Animals on leash welcome. **Emcee James Augus**tine. Host drum Grandmother's Tears; other drums Sacred Wolf Singers, Black Hawk Singers, Fish River Singers. Vendors and traders. Ed Littlefield at 368-4944 or Ellie Luce at 443-771-6207; ncountrypowwow1@yahoo.com; North Country Inter-Tribal Pow-Wow.

PORTLAND — Third annual Down East Art of Giving Gala, presented by Northbridge and in celebration of Maine arts community and in support of four charities, 6-9 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 1, The Landing at Pine Point, One Union Wharf. Tickets available at artofgiving2016.brownpapertickets.com.

PORTLAND — Opening reception for "Exhalation," solo show by Dietlind Vander Schaaf, 5-8 p.m. Friday, Sept. 2, Vestibule 594 gallery, 594 Congress St. Runs through Saturday, Oct.

SPRINGFIELD — 166th Springfield Fair, 8 a.m.-10 p.m. Friday-Monday, Sept. 2-5, Springfield Fair grounds, 94 Park St. 4-H exhibits and activities, demolition derby, livestock competitions and agricultural exhibits, horse pulls, children's activities and contests, midway rides, baking contests, mutton bustin' eel racing, power wheel

derby and more. Admis-

sion \$5 ages 3-18; \$10

ages 19 and up. Ride

Night Friday with free admission to active duty and veteran military; Police Recognition Sunday with free admission to law enforcement who show badge.

bracelets \$10. Military

STONINGTON — "Mr. Burns," 7 p.m. through Wednesday, Aug. 31; Thursday through Saturday, Sept. 1-3; 2 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 4. Stonington Opera House. \$20 to \$50. Suitable for ages

13 and up. operahousearts.org or 367-2788.

SURRY — Anatoly Wieck, viola; Riu Mitsuhashi, violin; Liz Downing, flute, performing classical selections 7 p.m. Monday, Sept. 5, Surry Arts at the Barn, 8 Cross Road. \$15. 667-1308 or surryartsatthebarn.com.

For a complete listing of calendar items or to submit vour event, visit www. bangordailynews.com.

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(6:05) ** Sweet Home Ala| *** Thunderball (1965) Sean Connery, Agent 007 | (:15) *** For Your Eyes Only (1981, Ac| bama (2002) (PG-13) | tries to thwart SPECTRE's atomic ransom plot. (PG) | tion) (ESP) Roger Moore, Topol. (PG)