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Out of His League

Written By Paul Reynolds

FADE IN:

EXT. - CHICAGO COUGAR'S DEN - GAME DAY

This is the home of the Chicago Cougars football team. The outside parking lot announces today's game in bright neon

Cars pull into the stadium and vendors promote their wares. Groups of tailgaters have a party like atmosphere. Fans with Cougars logos painted on their bodies are in a buoyant mood

EXT. -FIELD OF PLAY - 1PM

Cougars players run onto the field and the crowd cheers.

A larger player trips, falling into a cheerleader. The crowd laughs as other players run onto the field and try to avoid the entwined bodies

EXT. - FANS IN THE STANDS - DAY

ANONYMOUS FAN

I know it's been a bad season, but  
I've got a good feeling about this  
game

He high fives his buddies and stokes them up

CUT TO:

EXT. - CHICAGO STADIUM - 4 HOURS LATER

CU: SCOREBOARD

NEW YORK - 28

CHICAGO -7

Fans are filing out of the stadium, gazing at the owner's suite

Some fans throw eggs at the windows of the owners private box to show their displeasure with the direction of the team

INT. - EXECUTIVE BOX- SAME TIME

A group of executives are slumped in their chairs

A man in a wheelchair, aged in his 70's, rolls around the box, hitting executives with a cane. This is STAN MICHAELS, owner of the Cougars

STAN

You guys suck. This is the worst team ever

Executives duck for cover

The owner's son, DENNIS MICHAELS, a man in his early 40's and dressed impeccably steps into the suite. Noticing the madness he makes a beeline for his father

DENNIS

Dad, stop it, give me the cane!

STAN

But it's all their fault  
They couldn't field a team of rats  
for a maze.

Dennis grabs the cane Stan is about to hit another executive

STAN

(Calming down)

Where the hell is Charlie Meens,  
this god damn mess is his fault

Charlie, Charlie where are you?

An executive motions Dennis' attention to a closet in the corner of the suite

Dennis opens the closet door

CHARLIE MEENS, a man in his 50's, is visibly shaken and rocking in a seated position, almost catatonic

DENNIS

Charlie, it's me Dennis. What are you doing in there?

CHARLIE

Is it safe?

DENNIS  
What are you talking about?

CHARLIE  
(Nervously)  
Is it safe?

Dennis reaches into the closet, extracting Charlie gingerly

DENNIS  
There, there Charlie. See... it's  
safe, NOBODY wants to hurt you

Stan wheels his way at full speed towards Charlie

CHARLIE  
You said it was safe

DENNIS  
Dad, you know Charlie didn't do  
this on purpose.

EXECUTIVE 1  
That's what happens when you make a  
bean counter your G.M.

DENNIS  
Really, jerk off. I don't see you  
helping out much

EXECUTIVE 1  
But I just sell luxury suites

Charlie tries to slink out of the room

EXECUTIVE 2  
(To another exec)  
I'm sure he'll be more comfortable  
in his new home, what with the  
padded walls and all

Stan starts waving his cane again, chasing the remaining  
executives from the room

STAN  
Everybody out, you people suck

This leaves only Dennis and Stan

They look at each other for a minute or two before speaking

DENNIS  
 Christ Dad, what was that all  
 about?

STAN  
 Son, I just can't stand the losing!

A janitor walks into the suite and starts cleaning before he notices the two men.

Dennis motions that he's OK to continue

STAN  
 I don't want to be taking a dirt  
 nap before this team wins again

DENNIS  
 So the Charlie Meens experiment is  
 over?

STAN  
 I know, you told me, go ahead and  
 gloat  
 An accountant just doesn't make a  
 good GM

DENNIS  
 Dad, I'm sure we'll come up with a  
 plan

The janitor moves to the 2 men, raising his hand to interrupt

STAN  
 What, what is it?  
 I don't carry any money on me

The janitor seems puzzled and turns his attention to Dennis

JANITOR  
 Mr Michaels, may I say something

STAN  
 I didn't think you people spoke  
 English

DENNIS  
 (Quickly interjecting)  
 What is it uh,...uh

JANITOR  
 Nathaniel, sir. Nathaniel Jones

DENNIS

OK what is it Nathaniel?

NATHANIEL

Well, I just couldn't help but overhear you two talking ...

STAN

What is it man, if it's about bringing your family over that's not our decision. Immigration has strict rules about that kind of thing

Nathaniel gives his head a shake

NATHANIEL

No its what you were talking about. My son knows this guy who plays what they call Fantasy Football with him

STAN

Fantasy? The girl always says I have to pay extra for that

DENNIS

I don't think that's what he means

NATHANIEL

Anyway, he says this guy wins his league every year

DENNIS

He must be smart enough to stay away from Cougars players

NATHANIEL

I don't know sir, my son says this guy's a big Cougars fan

Stan rolls towards Nathaniel, placing \$100 bill in his hand

STAN

Here's a little something to help bring that family of yours over

Nathaniel is confused but he pockets the money

NATHANIEL

Thank you sir, but just think about what I said

Stan rolls out of the room

DENNIS

Hey Nathaniel, can you hold on

NATHANIEL

Yes sir?

DENNIS

First, let me apologize for my father. Sometimes the meds wear off too quickly.

More importantly though, can I ask you to find out more about this guy

NATHANIEL

No problem, I'm a Cougars fan too, you know

INT- BATHROOM OF AN URBAN APARTMENT-DAYS LATER

Many soiled linens are strewn about. A naked man is showering. This is HANK BRISCOE.

He's in his late 30's to early 40's, slender, tall and singing to himself in the shower. He cleans up and then picks out a sports jersey, shoes and a new Cougars cap

EXT-CHICAGO CITY STREET-EARLY EVENING

Hank ogles a couple of pretty girls walking by. He turns and whistles at them, almost running into a light post

He gets into a cab which drops him off at a house in the Burb's

INT: REC ROOM OF A SUBURBAN HOUSE-NIGHT

There is a group of eclectic chairs in the basement, some of which belong, some don't. There are 6-7 men in the basement, each one drinking a beverage of some sort

Hank is engaged in a conversation with a man approximately 20 years his junior

HANK

Listen, little fella, before this thing gets started I think you should know how it works.

HANK(cont'd)

You sit down, have a few beer after we check your I.D, listen to what the grown ups are saying, open your wallet and put your hundred dollars out for me, I mean, one of us to win.

JACK TAYMOR, the house owner overhears

JACK

And the first rule of fight club is that you never speak of fight club...

Come on Hank, quit the theatrics and get the hat out

Hank finds a Cougars hat from the top of a TV showing ESPN highlights from the Cougar's previous season

NEW GUY

Hey fantasy guru, who's your team?

HANK

Cougars

NEW GUY

So you're a loser

BILL HINSON, a good friend of Hank's and a fantasy regular walks over with slips of paper for Hank to put in the hat

BILL

Ooh!! sharp wit new guy but let me ask YOU. Who's your team?

NEW GUY

I'm a Dallas fan, that a problem?

HANK

Other than the fact you're a bandwagon fan?  
Let me tell you what being a true football fan means young man, it means sticking with your team through thick and thin, it's like a marriage that lasts 15 years, and right now Bill still loves his wife, he truly does,  
(getting agitated now)  
but if she cooks tuna casserole even... one.. more... time...

CUT TO:

Hank's best friend JEFF, a man in his late 30's, dressed in oversized track pants and a Cougars jersey. He's picking his nose while seemingly studying stats in a newspaper, but he turns the paper vertically, revealing a Playboy magazine

BACK TO:

HANK

Where are you from Dallas?

NEW GUY

I grew up in Bloomington, why do you care?

Hank puts the papers into the hat and shakes it

HANK

So you grew up 60 miles from Chicago and you're a Dallas fan.

What's your major malfunction son?

BILL

Damn Hank, cut him some slack.  
Hey Dallas, help me draw a name

The kid reaches into the hat

NEW GUY

My name's Chip by the way

BILL

All right Chippy, and the 1.1 goes to...

Bill looks at the paper

BILL (CONT'D)

Well I'll be damned, the first selection goes to Chipster

CHIP

Heh, heh, what was that about rookies never winning this thing. I'm gonna' ride Jackson all the way to the ship

HANK

Pretty confident kid, but we've still got 14 more rounds to go, one player doesn't win a championship and it's a snake draft.

HANK(cont'd)

Why don't you go get your Binky,  
curl up in the corner over there  
and take a nap while waiting for  
your next pick, it should only be  
an hour or so

CHIP

You're just pissed I got this pick

Chip does a little jig, waving the paper in Hank's face

HANK

More thankful I didn't Chiperoo

And I especially wouldn't take an  
untested QB with only 1 year of  
watching from the sidelines with  
that pick.

Do you really think he's got 50 TD  
passes in him like he did in  
college?

Now let's get this moving, who's up  
at #2 Bill?

Bill lets out a sigh as he draws another name

BILL

No more new guys. Ever again!!

INT.- CHICAGO STADIUM-EXECUTIVE OFFICES-DAY

Dennis is at his office desk. Decorating the office are  
pictures of different eras.

There is also a large blown up picture of the last Cougar's  
championship in 1971. The picture shows a young Stan lofting  
Dennis above his shoulders while giving players high fives

There is a knock at the door

DENNIS

Yes, come on in

SECRETARY

Mr Michaels, there's a man here to  
see you, he says he's a janitor. I  
tried to tell him you don't deal  
with the hired help but he wouldn't  
list..

Nathaniel gently pushes his way past the secretary into  
Dennis' sightline

NATHANIEL  
Hello Mr Michaels, it's me,  
Nathaniel from the other night. I  
have what you asked for

DENNIS  
Fine, come on in Nathaniel  
  
It's fine Betty, I'll take care of  
this

Betty leaves the room

DENNIS  
Drink Nathaniel?

NATHANIEL  
No sir I'm fine. I just brought you  
that name from my son

CUT TO:

BETTY  
(On the phone)  
Susan, have I got some dirt for you  
girlfriend. I think Dennis Michaels  
is doing drugs... yeah, he's in  
there right now with his dealer.  
He's probably in there buying some  
of that smack, crack or dope. And  
it must be quite a habit if he has  
to have the drugs brought here

BACK TO:

DENNIS  
Thanks Nathaniel

He takes the paper, there is a name written on it

CUT TO:

CU: NOTE WITH THE NAME "HANK BRISCOE"

There's also a phone number on it

The two men shake hands and Dennis escorts Nathaniel out of  
the office. As the door opens Betty gets off the phone and  
guards the possessions on her desk nervously

DENNIS  
Everything all right Betty?

BETTY

Yes sir, fine

Do you need some privacy sir?

Maybe need to take  
(in air quotes)  
a little me time?

DENNIS

No thanks, I'm fine

Dennis shakes his head and closes the door

INT - HANK'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Hank and his live in girlfriend, BRANDY, a beautiful young woman 5-10 years younger, are embroiled in the middle of an argument. Brandy is a long haired blond girl with an athletic body. She's dressed in track pants and skimpy t-shirt. She's also extremely angry

BRANDY

Christ Hank, I think even after two years you see me as just an ornament around here!!

Hank is oblivious to what Brandy is saying, looking around the apartment and noticing how clean it is

HANK

Damn, baby if you clean like this when you're mad I'm gonna' make sure we fight more often

BRANDY

Moron!! Look around. It looks cleaner because most of my stuff isn't here

Hank looks closer and realizes there's a packed bag placed by the door, the stereo is missing, the CD collection looks like it's been picked through with about half the discs missing

HANK

Baby how the hell did you get your stuff out?

BRANDY

I had Justin help me with it. We did it while you were out at one of your football thingy's

HANK

Did it with Justin? Right here in my apartment. How long have you and this Justin guy been fooling around behind my back?

BRANDY

Hank, you asshole, Justin happens to be my brother

HANK

Isn't that frowned on in the bible?

Brandy rolls her eyes and her anger builds as she makes her way to the other side of the room

BRANDY

And by the way Hank, you wouldn't notice if I was blowing someone right in front of you if football was on T.V.

Hank notes the seriousness in her voice and goes to intercept

HANK

Baby there's no other woman for me I don't even check out other women when you're around

BRANDY

Hank you're such a loser. It's not other women I'm jealous of, it's football

That's why I'm leaving you!

Brandy works her way around Hank and he desperately tries to plead his case, grabbing her by the arm

HANK

Leaving me? Baby I love you even more than I love my own mother

BRANDY

You haven't called your mom in over a year

HANK

See

BRANDY

Hank, the only thing you ever say to me anymore is "Can't it wait til after Sportsdesk.

Or Touchdown! Touchdown!" after you finish with me in the bedroom

Brandy pulls Hank's arm off in an effort to leave and grabs her bags

HANK

Baby I can change, I can cut down on football, I can concentrate more on you.  
Hell, I'll even focus more on my job

BRANDY

You'll never change Hank, sure you'll concentrate on me more now in the off season. And don't think I don't know about your bullshit job, you write about football

HANK

So you know I'm not a movie critic for the Sun-Times?

BRANDY

Idiot!! The only movies you stay awake for are sports flicks and the only review I ever hear you give any other movie is "IT SUCKED!"

HANK

That's not true, sometimes I even get really excited about a movie I'm watching

BRANDY

Porn doesn't count, jackass!

HANK

OH

Brandy opens the door and starts to leave the apartment

BRANDY  
GOODBYE HANK!!

She starts to cry as she slams the door

EXT -HANK'S BUILDING- MINUTES LATER

Brandy leaves the building and hails a cab.

INT- LOBBY OF HANK'S BUILDING

Hank runs out the stairway doors to the lobby, out of breath and his eyes searching frantically for Brandy. The doorman indicates she went outside and he runs after her

EXT- HANK'S BUILDING

Hank grabs Brandy by the shoulders with both hands

HANK  
Brandy, honey, baby, I can change,  
I really can. I love you

BRANDY  
Hank, you love having someone  
around so you don't have to hook up  
for sex and you love having a maid.  
Other than that you don't really  
love anything but football

HANK  
That's just not true. What about  
all our good times together?

CUT TO:

A montage of flashbacks showing Hank not there for her,  
including

1. A doctor's appointment where she thought she might be pregnant with no Hank there.
2. A relative's wedding showing the empty chair beside her
3. A shot of her with her car in the shop, waiting for him to give her a ride to work
4. Her waiting at a restaurant for him to celebrate her birthday

BRANDY  
Thanks for those cementing my  
decision. Now just leave me alone

A cab pulls up, Brandy breaks away and gets in. Hank is left staring at the cab as it pulls away. Brandy turns in the seat of the cab to look back at Hank. She smiles slightly and starts to cry as the cab pulls into the traffic

INT - O'SHAUGHNESSYS BAR - NIGHT

The bar has Cougars paraphanelia on the walls and above the bar. It is fairly full of patrons. There is the unmistakable sound of a jukebox playing an old 70s era song

Hank's at a booth and putting his spin on Brandy's exit to his friend Bill. Jeff is playing pool within earshot

HANK

So then I told her that if she  
feels the need for me to get into a  
3-way with her and her lingerie  
model friend, well then she needs  
to find another guy cause I'm a one  
woman kind of man

Jeff overhears and his cue rips the felt off the pool table

BILL

Christ Hank if you were any more  
full of shit I'd pull on your left  
ear to give you a flush

One of Hank's friends, CHUCK, comes up to the table, fumbling around. Hank takes a second but eventually notices the man

HANK

Hey, what's up with you Chuck, got  
another dose?

CHUCK

I heard about you and Brandy...  
uhm, do you..

Chuck is still fumbling

HANK

Do I .. what? Do I mind if you  
sleep with Brandy?

Chuck leaves as Hank gives him an angry look, Hank then turns his attention back to Bill

HANK

Well maybe that's not entirely the  
way it went down, but it's close

BILL

I love you man, maybe not in the way Brandy did, and certainly not in the way Jeff does...

Jeff hears his name and his head spikes up from the pool table, giving Hank a big thumbs up and a wink

BILL(CONT'D)

Which, honestly, is a little creepy, but I have to tell ya' Brandy had a couple points

HANK

Damn, don't hold back Bill, tell me how the hell you really feel. Hey do you want your pound of flesh in a box by the way

BILL

I'm just sayin' that sometimes you get more wrapped up in fantasy football than the reality of your life

Hank starts to get agitated

HANK

Fantasy, me? This from the man with such an extensive collection of porn that Hefner is jealous

BILL

Fine, don't face facts dumb ass

Out of the crowd a drunk man comes right up to the booth

GUY IN BAR 2

Hank, what do think it's gonna take for me to get into Brandy's pants?

Jeff comes over after seeing the man confront Hank to stare him down. Hank pushes Jeff away and stands up on the table

He addresses the crowd

HANK

Damn it! That's enough!!

The crowd in the bar suddenly comes to a stand still and turns it's full attention to where Hank is standing

HANK

Quick show of hands. How many people in this bar want to do my ex girlfriend!

Every guy in the place puts up his hand, starting with Jeff, then even a few girls and finally, very slowly, an effeminate man at the bar

HANK

Hey Clay Aiken, you don't count, put your hand down. Christ, what I'm saying is that Brandy and I just broke up, the least you could do is show a little god damn consideration for the situation and just back this shit up and give me some space

Hank gets down and the crowd goes back about it's business

HANK

(addressing Jeff)

Good to know you got my back Bro

Jeff shrugs and smiles sheepishly

INT- COUGARS OFFICES-DAY

Executives are gathered around the board room table as Dennis wheels his father in

Dennis takes the time to move his own chair to the head of the table, wheeling his dad into his old seat at the table

The executives notice this, stopping separate conversations

DENNIS

Morning everyone, we've got some announcements to make. First off, Charlie Meens is no longer our GM

EXEC #1 TO EXEC #2

Quick, somebody call CNN

DENNIS

I'd like to announce as well that I'll be taking over team operations

This is a mutual decision between my father and I

EXECUTIVE 1

What about the rest of us?

DENNIS

Right now it means nothing. I promised my dad I'll keep all of you on but I will be responsible for choosing our new G.M.

The executives stir, one of them gets up in a huff to leave

EXECUTIVE 1

I don't have to stand for this. Doesn't loyalty mean anything to you Stan? After all the years I gave this is the way you treat me?

STAN

Frank, we haven't won anything in the 8 years you've been here

DENNIS

As I said it's a mutual decision to give me control and I will keep all of you on as a favour to my father but I won't stop you from leaving

A few other executives get up at this point, exiting the room as well. Stan trips one of them with his cane as he passes

The tripped executive gets up and gives Stan the finger

STAN

(making an obscene gesture)

Get out of here you ungrateful sons of bitches!

INT. - PRESS ROOM IN COUGARS COMPLEX - DAY

There are about 40 chairs set up in the press room but only about 5-10 are filled as Dennis walks into the room

He approaches the podium to start the press conference

DENNIS

Firstly I'd like to thank everyone for attending. With our recent record I was afraid I'd be able to hold this thing in a shower stall

The joke is met with nervous, uneasy laughter

DENNIS

OK then, let's get down to it. I'd like to announce that I'm now in control of the team

The rebuilding process...

This remark is met with chuckling and skepticism

REPORTER #1

You mean this version of rebuilding, is this yet another 5 year plan, Mr. Michaels

DENNIS

(becoming indignant)

No! Let me be clear. This is MY rebuilding process  
Now I'd like to take some quest..

Before Dennis can finish. The new reporter for Channel 27, jumps out of her chair, this is KATE DALY. She's a woman in her late 20's to early 30's, dressed in a business skirt and her hair done up but it's obvious she has a gorgeous body

KATE

Mr. Michaels what is your plan for the GM position

DENNIS

Oh you must be the new reporter, I don't believe I've seen you before.

Kate apologizes

KATE

Mr. Michaels I should have introduced myself, Kate Daly, channel 27 sports.  
But you didn't answer my question

DENNIS

So now I know you're name. It must be hard to be the new kid on the block.  
Welcome to Chicago and I'll let you slide on this one seeing as you're new.  
To answer your question, Charlie Meens is our GM

Kate takes this as an admonishing but another reporter picks up on this line of questioning

REPORTER

So where IS Charlie? I mean shouldn't the GM of the team be present for a press conference?

DENNIS

This is not about Charlie, if it were he'd be here today. Let me make this clear, we are happy to have him as our G.M

REPORTER

Right, and Jesus was happy to have Judas as a disciple

DENNIS

Now I implore you not to create chaos where this is none

There is a pause as the reporters deliberate

REPORTER #1

Alright Mr Michaels. We'll take you at your word but you better not be lying to us or we'll crucify you and we'll let Miss Daly here hammer in the first nail.

Now, how do you feel about next year's schedule, with your team playing 4 consecutive road games while they renovate the Den?

DENNIS

Thank you for the vote of confidence

Now that is a more relevant question and one that I have a very good plan for

INT-HANK'S APARTMENT- NIGHT

Hank's playing online football on a big screen television. He has a headset on and has tape around his thumbs to prevent blistering. He's very animated, taunting other players through his headset. The T.V shows a scene of his team scoring a touchdown and one of the defence blitzing and sacking the quarterback

CU: The phone rings and Hank picks up, he takes his headset off but continues playing

HANK

Talk to me but this better be damn important 'cause I'm about to score another Cougar's touchdown

CUT TO:

Shot of Dennis on the other line in his office

DENNIS

Hello, is this Hank Briscoe?

BACK TO:

HANK

(STILL PLAYING)

Yep, but if you're calling to sell me something I ain't buyin' and if your calling because I owe you money I don't have it.

AND if you're calling cause she's your daughter I'm telling you she swore to me she was 18 and I was too drunk to ask twice

CUT TO:

Dennis, who is obviously taken aback

DENNIS

Excuse me, but I assure you Mr. Briscoe I'm calling to talk to you about something very important. My name is Dennis Michaels and I represent the Chicago Cougars

BACK TO:

HANK

Okay, listen if you're calling me about the season tickets I know the cheque might have bounced but it was simply a matter of my local bank not understanding my Swiss account couldn't get the funds out of the country in a timely manner

CUT TO:

DENNIS

No, Mr Briscoe, not season tickets,  
but how does General Manager sound  
to you

BACK TO:

HANK

It sounds like you're one of my  
friends busting my balls.

Bill is that you?

CUT TO:

DENNIS

I assure you Mr. Briscoe this is  
not some prank. I'm told by a  
janitor that you win your fantasy  
football league every year and  
we're looking for a GM who can  
assemble a winning team

CUT TO:

HANK

Oh sure you are. Christ boys, you  
had me there for a minute but when  
you went off on the janitor part I  
kind of drifted off to my happy  
place. I think I'm hanging up now  
Bill

BACK TO:

DENNIS

I told you my name is Dennis  
Mich...

CUT TO:

Hank hanging up the phone in disgust

He turns his T.V from the game and switches it to channel 27

KATE

... and then the new principal  
owner Dennis Michaels announced  
that Charlie Meens was still the GM  
but he didn't sound too convincing

Bill and Jeff walk in Hank's apartment carrying a supply of  
beer and pizza

BILL

What's up jackass, you're not  
playing Madden, either your thumbs  
are broken or you just got done  
spanking your monkey.

Bill notices the ashen color of Hank's face

BILL

Shit, what's wrong with you man?  
You look like you've just seen a  
ghost

Hank sinks back on the couch and puts his hands on his head,  
running his hands wildly through his hair

HANK

I think I just made a big fucking  
mistake!!

INT - O'SHAUGHNESSY'S - NIGHT

Hank, Bill, Jeff and another friend are watching television

HANK

Would you look at that new  
reporter. I'd be the conductor on  
her love train

BILL

Nice to see it's taking you so long  
to get over Sarah

HANK

Hey, she broke my heart. I'm in  
recovery, so screw you man.

JEFF

(pointing at T.V.)  
I thought that's what you wanted to  
do to her

BILL

MORON!!

Jeff grunts and gives Bill the finger

HANK

Whatever, now shut up. She's talking about the Cougars

Hank waves the waitress over for another round of beers

CUT TO:

KATE

... so with the recent moves by Dennis Michaels and a report from an inside source about the need for the GM position, speculation is rampant.

This reporter wonders whether other changes may include trading away the chance to draft Javaris James, the consensus number 1 player available in this year's draft

BACK TO:

HANK

I don't get all the damn hype over this James kid, sure he's got all the tools, but he plays with no passion. And without talent around him he'll be a bust. We'd be best to trade down and get a couple of extra picks while we go after what should be our true target, Kendrick Justice, the RB from Florida.

BILL

Hank, you're my friend, but you don't know jack. Everything I hear about James says he's the saviour of any franchise, there's no way the Cougars could pass on him

Hank reaches over and gives Bill a "noogie" when the waitress arrives with their drinks

HANK

Excuse me miss, can we get my friend here a coloring book while the adults have a conversation

The waitress simply gives a smirk to the group

JEFF

I'd go with James as well

HANK

No wonder I beat your asses so easily every year. I hate giving you my secrets. It's like a magician giving away the secrets to his illusions, but I'm in a giving mood tonight so sit down and listen closely.

Remember in scouting a player you have to trust your instincts. Sure James has all the stats, plus he's got the prototype physical make-up and the big arm but unless he gets drafted and sits for a year he won't be successful. You have to believe me, if I was running the team I'd stay away from him like the other kids stay away from the kids who ride the short bus

Hank sits back, looking like a cat who swallowed the canary

He looks at the other 3, raises his glass and takes a swig

FRIEND

(pointing across the room)

Wow, would you look at that, isn't that Dennis Michaels. His limo must have broken down

The group stands and looks over to the other side of the bar

BILL

Maybe he's just looking for a place to get drunk quick. I would if I owned the Cougars

CUT TO:

Dennis asking the bartender a question

DENNIS

Hi. I'm looking for Hank Briscoe. Would he be here tonight?

BARTENDER

Does a bear shit in the woods?

Searching the room the bartender points at Hank's table

Dennis is met with some boos but also some patrons cheer him and want to shake his hand. He wades his way to Hank's table

DENNIS

I'm looking for Hank Briscoe. The bartender pointed out this table. Is one of you Hank?

HANK

I'm Hank, how are you Mr. Michaels

DENNIS

Dennis please, listen can we talk for a minute privately?

JEFF

You forgot the magic word

Dennis looks at Jeff in a puzzled fashion

HANK

Yeah definitely, take a seat.

DENNIS

I was hoping we'd be able to speak in private

HANK

Dennis, if you want to say anything to me you can sit down, have a beer with my friends and we'll talk

DENNIS

I'd really prefer to do this in private if we co..

JEFF

The man said sit down

Dennis is afraid and takes a seat at the table

He fidgets a minute while the men stare at him, waiting for his words

JEFF

Do we need the cone of silence?

DENNIS

This guy scares me

HANK

Oh don't worry Dennis. His bite's way worse than his bark.

HANK(cont'd)

But trust me he's a good guy to  
have on your side

Hank pats Jeff on the head, pulling a treat out of his pocket  
and feeding it to his friend

DENNIS

Now Hank, the other night when you  
hung up on me I got to thin...

BILL

You got a call from Dennis Michaels  
and didn't tell us?

HANK

Yeah, the other night. I thought it  
was one of you assholes jerking me  
off so I hung up on him.

Sorry about that, Dennis

DENNIS

That's OK Hank, I should have done  
this in person anyhow

By now more people in the bar have recognized Dennis

DENNIS

Hank I want you to know that I'm  
serious. I'd like to invite you to  
come down to the Cougar's Den to  
discuss this thing further

JEFF

The Cougar's Den, that's awesome

HANK

OK Dennis. But for now why don't  
you stay and have a drink with some  
true football fans

The patrons at the bar are getting unruly and we can see the  
fear in Dennis' eyes

DENNIS

Maybe another time. I think I'd  
like to leave now

Hank monitors the situation and sees the crowd has become a  
mob. He motions Jeff to escort Dennis out of the bar. Jeff  
grabs Dennis and growls as he leads Dennis out

Hank and Bill sit back down at the booth

BILL

Do you know what this could mean  
for you my friend?

HANK

I guess. But I just can't shake the  
feeling that I'm being punk'd

BILL

We REALLY have to get you laid

HANK

At least drunk

Jeff has rejoined the group and the men order more drinks

EXT- COUGAR'S GATE HOUSE -DAY

Hank pulls up to the gate house in an old beater car. There  
are two guards inside talking to each other, one is slight  
and the other is chubby.

Hank honks his horn

GUARD 1

Maaco is just down the road sir

In the back ground the other guard sings

GUARD 2

"OH OH Better get Maaco"

HANK

Yeah, yeah. I'm here for an  
appointment

GUARD

Sir I must ask you to move along

HANK

But I have an appointment to see  
Mr. Michaels

GUARD 1

That old man gets more senile each  
and every day. I swear he's getting  
closer to wearing white and putting  
baggies on his feet. Jim can you  
call up to Stan Michael's office  
and see if he has an appointment  
booked with a Mr ..

HANK  
Briscoe. But I'm here to see Dennis

GUARD  
And what business would you have  
with Dennis Michaels. Is he looking  
for a new janitor?

The second guard leans over with a clipboard

GUARD 2  
Did you say your name was Briscoe?

HANK  
Yup

GUARD 2  
Hank Briscoe?

HANK  
Uh huh

Guard 1 grabs the clipboard and peruses it, the second guard  
points out Hank's name.

Guard 1 gains his composure, addressing Hank in a decidedly  
more humble manner

GUARD 1  
Mr Briscoe I apologize, it seems I  
may have been a little rude. But  
you can't park that thing anywhere  
it can be seen. Make sure you park  
it in the back by the dumpsters.

HANK  
It was a pleasure doing business  
with you, you sadistic punk. You  
probably wake up every day wishing  
you born in the 18th century where  
you could have lived in Salem and  
worn some of those kooky costumes  
while you roasted weenies at the  
feet of the weird girls.  
Or you're probably the kind of guy  
who went through quite a few pets  
at home and always told your  
parents that you don't know where  
Fluffy or Tippy went, that they  
must have just run away.

HANK(cont'd)

Kimosabee, if I had your job where  
I realized that all my hopes and  
dreams are dying in this 2x3 box  
I'd look for the nearest kitchen  
knife and stab myself in the heart  
Oh and have a nice Fucking Day

The gate opens and Hank flashes the finger as he drives by

INT- HALLS OF THE COUGARS OFFICES- 10 MINUTES LATER

Hank's strolling along, checking out the pictures on the wall, being very cordial to the staff. He's dressed in a pair of old khakis, a Cougars jersey and a ball cap. He sticks out like a sore thumb in this crowd

As people walk by they smirk or giggle

Hank talks to a couple of secretaries

HANK

Hi, how ya doin? Do you know where  
Dennis Michael's office is?

SECRETARY

I DO. But why would I tell you?

HANK

Dyke

Dennis catches Hank from behind, out of breath

DENNIS

Hank, Hank slow down

HANK

Oh, hey Dennis. I was just looking  
for you

DENNIS

So I heard. A little different  
being out of your element isn't it.  
Kind of like I felt in the bar

HANK

What? Oh yeah

DENNIS

Hank, can we talk in my office

Dennis leads Hank down the hallway

INT-- DENNIS MICHAELS' OFFICE-DAY

DENNIS

Drink?

HANK

(Looking at his watch)

It's 11 in the morning

DENNIS

When you've been around this team as long as I have Any Time is a good time for a drink. Besides, as the song says... it's 5 o'clock somewhere

Dennis pours himself a drink

DENNIS

Hank I want you to take this seriously. We feel that you just may be the shot in the arm this team needs

HANK

How do you even know about me?

DENNIS

I told you on the phone a janitor's son gave us your name.

HANK

You weren't kidding about that?

DENNIS

We think you can help and want to offer you a position

HANK

Position, are we talking about some sort of player personnel consultant or assistant coach

DENNIS

Like I mentioned on the phone I was thinking something a little splashier. How does Hank Briscoe, GM, sound to you?

HANK

It sounds like maybe I should have a drink, and make it a double

Stan Michaels rolls into the office

STAN

Dennis I was thinking about the GM position.

Dennis points Hank out to Stan

STAN

Oh I'm sorry I didn't know you were with someone. Betty's telling everyone you're doing drugs. Is this one of your dealers?

DENNIS

No, What, I mean what are you talking about

Dad I'd like you to meet Hank Briscoe. He's going to be joining our team

STAN

Hello Mr Driscoll

HANK

It's a pleasure to be working with your team sir

STAN

Dennis I'm glad to see you started with the hire of someone like a new peanut vendor or janitor before moving on to bigger decisions like GM

DENNIS

Dad, Hank IS going to be the new GM... if he'll have us

STAN

GM!!... GM... you mean I wasn't even consulted

DENNIS

You've got to let go sometime

Stan rolls around the office, muttering to himself. Finally he composes himself and wheels back to the two men

STAN

I guess you're right Dennis, as long as you didn't look up that guy the janitor told us about

Now Mr Bristol...

HANK

It's Briscoe and I think I might be that gu..

DENNIS

(Interjecting)

Uh, Dad, Hank here comes from Canadian football, Saskatchewan actually

STAN

Canada? I forgot they play football up there. You'll have to tell me later how those cheerleaders keep the players warm

DENNIS

I'd really like to get on with our conversation so unless there's something else you needed...

STAN

Alright so, I'm sure I'll see you again Mr Frisco

Hank doesn't even try to correct him this time

DENNIS

Sorry to interrupt Hank, but some things he needs to be told after many, many drinks...

HANK

That's OK.

I just wanna' make sure I heard you right. You did say GM of your team?

DENNIS

Well, technically it would be your team too

Hank ponders the possibilities

He takes a deep breath

HANK

Listen Dennis, if you're not screwing with me... how can I say no. You have yourself a GM

DENNIS

I'm happy you said yes, I didn't really have a back up plan.

But first don't you want to talk about money or contract?

HANK

If I can tell my friends about this, we can work all that out later.

DENNIS

You can tell them Hank, but please keep it low key

HANK

Low key?

DENNIS

Yeah it's the media, I'm afraid they'd skewer us if they find out before we have a press conference

HANK

Fine, but can I ask you for a huge favour?

DENNIS

Already, huh.

Maybe I should write up that contract, what is it Hank?

HANK

Well I just wondered if maybe I could bring someone along to help me feel grounded?

DENNIS

As long as it's not the neanderthal I met at the bar. What was his name again, Jack?

HANK

Jeff. Actually it is but I promise  
I'll keep him on a short leash

DENNIS

You better. Please remember, lousy  
record aside, this is a  
professional football team.

And Hank you've got to come up with  
a job for him, something believable

Dennis shakes Hank's hand as he escorts him out of the office

DENNIS

Oh, by the way Hank, the dress code  
around here's a little more formal

INT- COUGAR'S OFFICES- DAY

Executives are in a boardroom. Hank is there, dressed much  
nicer. He's brought Jeff along but Jeff's dressed in a suit  
about 2 sizes too small

EXECUTIVE 1

Excuse me Dennis should we be  
talking with strangers in the room

JEFF

What if I belong?

The room erupts in laughter as executives start mocking Jeff

He turns red, embarrassment then anger appear on his face

EXECUTIVE 1

And I'm the Queen of England, here  
visiting a last place football  
franchise to see how the commoners  
live

HANK

Well screw you your highness!

DENNIS

Keep it down gentlemen and I'll  
entertain any questions

EXECUTIVE 1

I have a question. When did the  
circus pull into town?

HANK

If you guys could run a god damn team I'm sure I wouldn't be here  
What do you do around here genius?

The executive gets up and stares down Hank

EXECUTIVE 1

I'm in charge of corporate activities

HANK

Oh... so you have one of the important jobs. I bet you thought taking this job would bring you closer to the players and if you did just a super duper job then the heavens would open up and you'd be offered the GM job.

Am I close to what is making you so bitter Skippy?

EXECUTIVE 2

(To executive 1)

Man this guy has you down, Nick

NICK

Shut up moron

DENNIS

Gentlemen, take your seats and remember this. Hank here IS our new GM and no one says anything negative to the press about it

NICK

So only the company line Mr. Pavlov

HANK

I've had just about enough out of you jackass

NICK

What are you gonna' do, hit me?

Hank stands to challenge the executive but in a flash Jeff leaps out of his chair and decks the executive.

NICK  
(getting up)  
Michaels, I'm gonna' sue your ass  
for everything this company is  
worth, judging by the losers you're  
bringing in I better be fast.

Nick storms out of the office, glaring at Dennis

Dennis tries to gain control of the room

DENNIS  
Now, unless someone else wants to  
question my decision we're  
adjourned, but I remind you it  
better be easier for the media to  
find Jimmy Hoffa's body than to  
find anyone to say a disparaging  
word about Hank

Are we clear on this?

Executives nod grudgingly as they file out of the room

A couple of the offer Hank congratulations

DENNIS  
(Pointing at Jeff)  
I thought you said you could  
control him

HANK  
I will, it's only the first day. I  
know I mishandled things

DENNIS  
Mishandled is what Clinton did with  
Monica, you fucked up  
Listen you've got a few days before  
the press conference so be better  
prepared will you

HANK  
(bowing)  
You can count on me

DENNIS  
Oh and Hank, if you're bringing  
Fang here to the press conference  
...be sure to bring a cage

HANK  
Right. Come on boy

Jeff gets out of his chair and starts crawling on all fours out of the room, all the while growling at Dennis

INT -COUGARS PRESS ROOM- DAY

There are a few more reporters here than the previous one

DENNIS

Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen. I'm sure you know why we're here today so I'm not going to bore you

Applause from the room and Dennis chuckles

DENNIS

I'm proud to introduce you to the Chicago Cougar's newest G.M. Hank Briscoe

KATE

I thought you said you were happy with Charlie Meens

The other reporters all laugh, two reporters in the back hold up a large cross

DENNIS

Alright, you've had your fun. I will be more forthcoming in the future

Hank stands, approaching the podium with trepidation. He stumbles over a cord, illiciting laughter from the audience

He adjusts the microphone

HANK

Now I know how Custer felt

A small smattering of chuckles but uneasy laughter at best

HANK

(tapping microphone)

Hmm tough crowd, is this thing on

Tenseness comes over the room

HANK

Listen, I'm not good at making speeches in public yet so maybe just ask some questions or something

A large contingent of hands goes up, overwhelming Hank

HANK

Wow! Who first, who first? Why don't we start with the pretty little thing in the front row

KATE

(Standing up)

I think the first thing you may want to learn is how to address the press Mr Briscoe.

My question is the same as everybody else's. What are your qualifications to run a football team?

HANK

Boy that was quick, right for the jugular. I feel like the cobra who noticed the mongoose cage is open

KATE

Mr. Briscoe just answer my question

HANK

Fine, next question from someone, anyone else, really.

(Surveys the room)

Yes, you Mr. I want to seem cooler than everyone else in the room by not wearing a tie to the press conference

REPORTER BEING ACKNOWLEDGED

Mr. Briscoe, can you tell us about the direction you are hoping to move the team

HANK

West, I believe that the commissioner is still looking for another team in L.A.

Silence blankets the room

Sorry, seriously I think we have to concentrate on the draft. You can expect our top 2 to 3 picks will be given every opportunity to make the starting line up

KATE  
 (Jumping up, raising her  
 hand)  
 Mr Briscoe!!

Hank looks past Kate

HANK  
 You in the back, do you have a  
 question?

A startled young reporter sitting in the back has to be woken  
 up by the person sitting next to him. He comes to attention

REPORTER  
 (flipping through his  
 notes)  
 Mr, uhh, Mr ??? Are you sure you're  
 calling on me?

HANK  
 Yeah I'm sure, take your time, take  
 all the time you need. You must  
 have a question or you wouldn't be  
 here today

REPORTER  
 Actually I'm just here for the  
 food.

Laughter erupts from the assembled media

HANK  
 Are you even with the sports  
 department?

REPORTER  
 Obituaries, actually

An anonymous voice comes from somewhere in the crowd

ANONYMOUS 1 (V.O.)  
 With this team you're paper's  
 smarter than mine

Another voice is then heard

ANONYMOUS 2 (V.O.)  
 Yeah I'd say you actually have a  
 finger on the pulse of the team, if  
 it had one

The crowd breaks into hysteria

HANK

Ouch, I guess that wasn't such a good idea. I told you I was new

KATE

Mr Briscoe!! I've had enough. Rumors say you have no experience running any team, anywhere. I've looked through every college and pro team's personnel files for the past 10 years and nothing!

HANK

You really don't want to let this thing go do you lady?

I bet the guys you date really like it when you latch on and won't rest until the job is finished

KATE

Mr. Briscoe I have TRIED to be professional but that is easily the third blatantly sexist remark you've made and I demand to be treated like one of the boys

HANK

Oh now I get it, you play for the other team... and I don't mean New York. Shame for a dame like you

KATE

I give up!!

Dennis quickly comes over, Hank places his hand over the microphone while Dennis talks to him

HANK

Firstly Miss Daly I apologize for the subterfuge. After talking to Dennis he has given me the OK to talk about my past. I guess Dennis is right, we may as well get this over with quick.

HANK(cont'd)

It's like a prisoner on death row,  
you know, how do you want to go  
out, quick with old sparky or the 3  
inch necktie, or slow with the  
sharp end of a needle piercing your  
body and then you get to watch all  
those Disney colors of liquid  
entering you're body until you feel  
like the Beatles when they wrote  
Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds  
before you go softly into that good  
night

KATE

We're waiting

HANK

All right, if you must know I don't  
have much experience with  
professional football teams.

KATE

How much is not much

HANK

Well none, really

The assembled crowd erupts, some cameras flash, almost all  
the reporters put their hands up at the same time

DENNIS

(Approaching the  
microphone)

Now folks if I can just ask you to  
sit down we can answer all your  
questions in a calm fashion

A man who had been seated in a chair and wearing a trench  
coat stands up, unveiling his birthday suit in Cougars color  
body paint and nothing else. He starts running around the  
room. This is SUPERFAN

SUPERFAN

The sky is falling, the sky is  
falling

REPORTER

How does he keep getting in?

During the commotion Jeff runs after and tackles Superfan  
Security then escorts him out of the room

DENNIS

Hopefully that's it for the excitement. Now if I can just ask for one question at a time please

REPORTER

Dennis, where exactly did you find Mr. Briscoe

DENNIS

All right, when you tell this story, and you will, please be kind and know that my heart was in the right place. I only did this because I truly felt that Hank Briscoe was the one man right for the job

KATE

Now YOU'RE stalling

Dennis pushes on, reaching for a bottle of water

DENNIS

Hank came to us highly recommended as someone who knows how to read talent and understands what it takes to position people for peak performance

REPORTER

So he comes from the scouting ranks?

DENNIS

Not exactly

REPORTER

Then he's from player development?

DENNIS

Sort of

KATE

For Christ's sake, can we cut the dog and pony show once and for all. Where the hell is this guy from?

DENNIS

Fantasy Football

The reporters all laugh violently

KATE  
Quit screwing with us Dennis

DENNIS  
I am telling you the truth, so help  
me God

The reporters realize after a minute that he's serious

REPORTER  
So you're telling us that this  
franchise, with it's lousy record  
and terrible image, has decided to  
risk it's future on a guy you found  
playing fantasy football?

JEFF  
(standing up)  
He doesn't just play, he wins every  
year

DENNIS  
(glaring at Hank)  
That's not helping

Dennis takes another long drink of water and a deep breath

DENNIS  
I must say I did expect this  
reaction and that's why we were  
going to wait

REPORTER  
I think I would have lied

DENNIS  
Oh we thought about that, but we  
figured with our league rules..  
well we figured getting caught in a  
lie would be worse

The reporters are clamoring for Hank

REPORTER  
Mr. Briscoe are'nt you afraid you  
might be in way over your head

HANK  
Actually I'm scared shitless

KATE  
And yet you're here

HANK

Well like my mama always told me if you're gonna' jump in the ocean you must realize there are sharks in the water

DENNIS

Now listen folks, I'm sure there'll be time later to get into this issue deeper if need be. But for now I just ask you to give us a chance and let our progress be measured by our upcoming moves

The reporters all look at each other for a consensus

REPORTER

(Standing up)

Alright then, Mr. Briscoe what about the draft, will you be holding on to the number 1 pick?

HANK

That's an excellent question and one that you'll have to find out the answer to at the draft

INT. - T.V. STUDIO - NIGHT

Kate is doing her broadcast

KATE

And in the most unusual story of the day the Cougar's organization has announced that their next saviour GM has been found in the most unlikely of arenas. That he was, wait for it, plucked from the ranks of all you lonely, bad with women, lucky to remember what day it is... Fantasy Football Players

CUT TO:

1. A group of people watching in a bar groaning

CUT TO:

2. Superfan watching intently from his room in his parents basement. This room is completely decorated with every piece of Cougar's merchandise possible.

Superfan is dressed in Cougar's pyjamas and has a large foam finger on his hand, he start chewing on the extended finger

INT. -HANK'S FAVOURITE BAR - NEXT NIGHT

Kate is moving across the bar to where Hank, Bill and Jeff are seated. She's dressed in a short skirt and blouse, very sexy, getting looks from most men in the bar

KATE

Hey Hank, coincidence or what?

Hank notices how hot Kate looks

HANK

(surprised but thinking on his feet)

Miss Daly as I live and breathe, come down to tell me again what a disappointment I will be to the city

KATE

Not tonight, besides you seem very hard to get caught with your pants down

JEFF

That's not what his mom said when he was 15 and forgot to lock the bathroom door

HANK

Thanks for that trip down memory lane jackass. Hey, don't you have something better to do

JEFF

(picking his nose)

No, not really

Hank quickly turns his attention back to Kate

HANK

So what does bring you down to our neck of the woods Miss Daly?

KATE

Kate, please call me Kate. I actually came down here to apologize but that was quite the bombshell you dropped today

Jeff tries cozying up to Kate, rubbing against her. He's pawing at her, grabbing clumps of her hair and drinking in long breaths of it

JEFF

You've got a pretty mouth

KATE

Wasn't this guy running around at the press conference. Is he associated with you .. or the team?

HANK

Kind of both. Allow me to introduce you to Jeff. He's my .. my, uh, that reminds me we still need to come up with a position for you

Hank scratches Jeff under the chin, Jeff breaks into a smile

KATE

Good luck with him if he's going to the Arizona meetings with you. Those guys will put him in the pound with the other guard dogs

EXT- A POSH RESORT IN ARIZONA-DAY

A limo pulls up to the resort. Emerging from the limo are Dennis, Hank and Jeff. They're dressed for the weather, with Dennis and Hank looking sharp in designer clothes however Jeff is dressed more like a beach bum, he's acting like a little kid, taking pictures of the resort, also asking anybody that passes by to take pictures of him

HANK

So this is how the other half lives

DENNIS

Yeah, I guess so. Please Hank, this is your first time here so just follow my lead

HANK

Sounds good

Jeff is getting antsy looking at the pretty girls

He interrupts

JEFF

I just have one question

DENNIS  
 What is it Jeff, and don't ask  
 again if we're there yet...

JEFF  
 No, no that's not it.

DENNIS  
 Then what is it?

JEFF  
 Where are the whores?

DENNIS  
 What?

JEFF  
 You know, hookers, bungee girls,  
 "tramp"o'lines.

DENNIS  
 YOU'VE been on an episode of Cops,  
 haven't you Jeff?

Hank grabs Jeff and stands him straight up

HANK  
 Sorry Dennis, Jeff's just a little  
 pumped after the plane ride

DENNIS  
 Remind me why we had to bring him

HANK  
 Strength in numbers?

DENNIS  
 Whatever, just keep him out of  
 trouble

And by the way Jeff, around here  
 they're called nieces or personal  
 assistants. Simply ask your  
 concierge

JEFF  
 What's a concee, concert.. A ..

HANK  
 I'll take care of him Dennis

CUT TO:

Shots of:

1. The three men checking into their expansive rooms
2. Getting a massage
3. Jeff ordering up enough room service to feed an army
4. The men playing a round of golf with Jeff throwing his clubs in a pond after a bad shot

INT-BOARD ROOM OF HOTEL-DAY

It's a very professional room with leather office chairs and a fully stocked bar.

Assembled are approximately 30 - 40 executives, all dressed in business casual wear

DENNIS

I appreciate your understanding in not being able to bring Jeff to certain functions

HANK

No problem, besides, he would just be bored by this kind of thing

CUT TO:

Shot of Jeff watching cartoons on a large screen Plasma TV in his room with lots of junk food surrounding him

BACK TO:

The boardroom, where a man in a 3 piece suit stands to address the executives. This is Commissioner CHRIS REVSON, an established gentleman with a student's face

COMMISSIONER

I'd like to bring this meeting to order please

HANK

(whispering to Dennis)  
So that's Revson, he's shorter in person

Dennis shusses Hank, who turns red in embarrassment

COMMISSIONER

For the first order of business I'd  
like to welcome the newest members  
of our fraternity, GM Paul  
Singleworth of the Arizona Rattlers

Some light applause is offered up

COMMISSIONER

And GM Hank Briscoe of the Chicago  
Cougars

At that announcement some muffled laughter is heard

ANONYMOUS EXECUTIVE

(Loud enough for all to  
hear)

Can I bid 2 dollars on my backup  
quarterback

COMMISSIONER

Now I know some of you are put off  
on how Mr. Briscoe came to be a  
part of our league but I am TELLING  
you that HE IS NOW and I expect he  
will get your respect just like  
everyone else

ANONYMOUS EXECUTIVE

At least he's not running a real  
team

COMMISSIONER

Now moving on, a short time ago I  
appointed John Stansfield from  
Dallas to head up a committee on  
bringing in new rules to keep star  
players safer

JOHN STANSFIELD, dressed impeccably casual, stands and takes  
the lead at the end of the table. He's a man of between 45-55  
years old. He has all the executive's respect

JOHN

Thanks Chris, Nice to see you got  
the dress code memo

(Executives all chuckle)

I too, want to take a minute to  
personally congratulate the new GMs  
at the table.

(MORE)

JOHN(cont'd)

I also offer you my heartfelt apologies in advance if any of us grizzled veterans take advantage of you on your first trade.

John goes on to start talking about his committee's findings

DENNIS

Hank, I'd like you to watch every thing this man does at the meetings. If you can even pick up one thing from him you'll be ahead of half of these wannabes

INT- RESORT BAR- NIGHT

Hank tries to speak to John but spills his drink on him as he approaches him

INT - RESORT LOBBY - NIGHT

Hank catches a glimpse of John getting into an elevator alone and runs after him before it closes. Hank just makes it, however, and as he's in bad shape Hank can't catch his breath to speak

INT- INSIDE HANK'S HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

Hank's in his boxers and a plain white T shirt watching Sports Centre on television.

Hearing a knock Hank goes to the door

HANK

Hello, who's there  
(silence)

I said who's there? And Jeff if it's you with a couple of nieces I told you I'm here to concentrate on busin...

Hank doesn't check the peep hole and opens the door, surprised to see John Stansfield standing in the hall

JOHN

I'm sorry if I startled you Mr. Briscoe. Obviously I caught you at a bad time, sorry to bother you

HANK

(at a loss for words  
again)

(MORE)

HANK(cont'd)

No, no please come on in. This is just such a huge shock

John enters the room, flashing a curious look at the slovenly surroundings

HANK (V.O.)

I don't know if you noticed but I've been trying to talk to you alone

JOHN

I'd think even a 7 year old would have picked up on that Mr Briscoe

HANK

Please call me Hank, ...what the hell am I saying. You could call me Betty and I wouldn't care

JOHN

OK.. Hank. I wanted to take a second and properly introduce myself.

I just wanted a little one on one time with you to see what I'm up against

HANK

What you're up against? I don't imagine you'd have much to fear from a rookie like me

JOHN

Well, normally you're right, I don't really worry too much about the greenhorns but there's something different about you.

HANK

Seriously?

John sizes up Hank one more time

JOHN

You pay more attention than anyone does at these meetings. You're also sizing up the competition at every turn. You're either quite intelligent or you're out of your pay grade. As they say where I come from you can't tell the color of a steer by the color of its dung

HANK

I have absolutely no idea what that even means. But I don't care. Do you think it's too forward to ask you to pinch me?

JOHN

I assure you Hank, you ain't dreaming. By the way, I also gotta' tell you I was wonderin' what you're going to do about that little old draft pick of yours?

Hank now realizes the reason for John's visit and smiles

HANK

Well from what I've seen of the Cougar's since I've had access to the team's depth charts it looks like we've got more holes than swiss cheese, this kid James could be our answer

JOHN

So you're saying you're keeping him huh, well if that's true I hope you're gonna' let that Prima Donna QB of yours know in person.

I know I would. Anyhow, sleep well  
Hank

HANK

Thanks, but I'm sure I won't be getting any sleep at all

EXT. - STREET OUTSIDE A LARGE MANSION IN L.A.-DAY

A cab pulls up and Hank exits. He waves the driver off and pulls out a piece of paper with an address written on it

He goes to the appropriate address, notices and intercom system and speaks

HANK

(Pushing button)  
Hello, Hello?

VOICE

Yeah, what the fuck you want?

HANK  
I'm looking for Isiah Washington,  
is he in?

VOICE  
Who wants to know?

HANK  
Please tell him it's Hank Briscoe

VOICE  
Wait a minute

Hank hangs around the gate, playing a tune on the bars with his fingers. He takes out his Blackberry and reviews some email

Another couple of minutes go by before the voice emanates

VOICE  
He says he don't know you

HANK  
I know, that's why I'm here. Can  
you please tell him I'm his new GM.  
I just want to talk with him for a  
minute or two

VOICE  
Damn, just a minute

Once again an inordinate amount of time goes by

VOICE  
He says he don't talk football  
except during the season but I'll  
be damned if I'm making that bitch  
of a walk again to ask him you're  
next stupid question.

Come on in

Hank passes through the gates as they open

INT. - FOYER OF HOUSE - MINUTES LATER

A man is shown opening the door for Hank. He walks Hank through a great many rooms before taking him to a large outdoor pool area. The man points to an area at the far end of the pool. As Hank approaches his destination he passes many exotic animals, some in cages and some just lying there

He notices an alligator swimming in the pool.

HANK

Excuse me, are you Isiah Washington

The man, a black man in his late 30's but still obviously in great condition, looks up from his sunglasses. This is ISIAH WASHINGTON, the Cougar's best player

ISIAH

Fuck man, I told him to tell you  
ISIAH WASHINGTON wasn't here

HANK

This will just take a minute Isiah

ISIAH

That's Mr. Washington to you

HANK

Fine, Mr. Washington, it'll just take a minute of your time. I wanted to tell you personally that I'm thinking about taking Javaris James with our number one pick and I was wondering how you would feel about being his mentor

Isiah pulls a gun from under a pillow of his lounge

ISIAH

ISIAH WASHINGTON don't take a backseat to no punk ass newbie. That's what ISIAH WASHINGTON thinks. If you draft that kid you better hope he can damn well play cause ISIAH WASHINGTON won't be showin' up to camp

ENTOURAGE MEMBER

Cap his ass Isiah

Hank realizes this quickly ends the conversation

HANK

Well thank you for your time Mr Washington and I look forward to spending more time with you when camp opens

Hank starts to walk away fast and then turns his gait into a run. The alligator snaps at Hank as he passes by

## INT-COUGAR'S OFFICES-DAY

Dennis and Hank are seated at a desk with a few assistant coaches, watching some tape of potential draft choices

Hank is noticeably excited by the task

HANK

Here's Newman from Oregon. I like the way he plays off the man, giving him a false sense of security. Couple that with the height advantage he has over most receivers and Newman is going to make his share of picks

The screen changes to the next player for evaluation

DENNIS

This is Thompson from Illinois, our scouts are very high on him, how do you feel about him Hank?

HANK

I know enough about our scouts to know he's probably too big, too slow and too stupid to play corner

DENNIS

Hank, it sure seems like you've done your homework, you must be looking forward to the combine?

HANK

Yup, I'm sure you can see things on tape all you want but in the combine you can tell who has a couple of the intangibles.

I know in my league if someone makes a pick based on highlight reel clips they sometimes blow their whole load on what seems like a can't miss receiver who needs glasses or on a perennial all star whose wife just left him because she couldn't bear to hear one more story about all those women on the road meaning nothing to him

DENNIS

In your league? Hank, need I remind you that THIS is your league now

EXT- CINCINNATI STADIUM-DAY

The college combine is held here. Players are running through drills, coaches witness with stop watches, GMs and others in the stands watch the activities and media members conduct interviews.

Jeff is having a field day, trying to run a couple of the drills the players do ie. running through the tires, skipping rope or trying to push a tackling skid down field

CUT TO:

CU: Kate interviewing a potential draft choice

KATE

We're here today with Keenan-Jamaal Smith, the wide out from Clemson with blazing speed. Keenan tell me about your combine so far?

KEENAN

Well it's a lot of hard work but like everyone else here I'm going to give it 110 percent

KATE

Thanks Keenan, is there anyone here who you're surprised at, anyone who might be better than you thought?

KEENAN

Every player seems just as fast as I am and most seem a lot stronger. I'm just hoping to make an impact on a team so they want to choose me

KATE

Thanks Keenan, just one more thing. Have you given any thought at all as to which team you might like to go to?

KEENAN

No Ma'am. I'm just happy to maybe play in the league, no matter who it's with

KATE

Thanks Keenan, good luck

Keenan walks away with Kate returning to her segment

KATE

And that was Keen..

From out of nowhere, Keenan grabs the mic from Kate

KEENAN

Any team but Chicago that is, I  
don't want to be picked by Chicago

Snippets of other interviews follow and without fail they all  
say they don't want to be chosen by Chicago

INT- DENNIS' HOTEL ROOM- NIGHT

Dennis is watching ESPN, it's showing clips of the interviews

TV ANCHOR

(to other anchor)

Brick I think I lost count of the  
players who would refuse Chicago

BRICK

I don't know Steve, I don't think  
they asked a couple of bowlegged  
grade 8's in the playground

STEVE

Funny Brick Man, but seriously, I  
don't envy the job the new GM of  
the Cougars has in front of him.

Dennis turns off the television and finishes his drink

DENNIS

I don't need a GM, I need a miracle  
worker

INT- O'SHAUGHNESSY'S - NIGHT

Hank's at a booth going over scouting reports

His friend Andy, a slight man with a shock of white hair  
mixed in with the dark, approaches him

ANDY

Hey Hank checking out who to pick  
in the upcoming draft, huh. Want  
some help?

HANK

Thanks Andy but isn't baseball your  
sport?

ANDY

Yeah, but how hard can it be. You look for some big son of a bitch you can stick on the field and watch him try to rip another guy's head off

HANK

Thanks for that insight, better stick to baseball. Although personally I don't really see how you can stand it. I can't get over the mundane repetitive nature of the game and the fact that a single game can last longer than some people's vacations

ANDY

Screw you, Hank. What makes football so great

HANK

Ahh, Football, oh mighty goddess Football. She's like a bicycle, if all the spokes are tight the bicycle rides smoothly and never misses a beat while gaining speed. The poetry of the game, the rythm, the strategy, the...Oh my god what happens if I pick the wrong guy, what happens to the team, what about Dennis!

Andy slaps Hank across the face

ANDY

Hank, I know this is a big job for you but do you think that maybe you're a little too intense?

Hank takes a deep breath

HANK

Thanks Andy, maybe you're right, I guess I'm just a little stressed

ANDY

Ya' think?

HANK

And I don't mind baseball that much either at all. Thanks Andy

Hank goes back to sifting through the reports for a minute when a female friend of his, JILL, comes over to his table

She is a woman in her late 20's and is wearing a short tight skirt and a blouse that is open enough to almost see her breasts

She is quite drunk and sits down right next to Hank

JILL  
(slurring)  
Hey Hank, Andy tells me you're feeling a little stressed. How about I help you with that?

Jill puts her hand on Hank's crotch, snuggling up to him

HANK  
Jill, you know on almost any other night I'd be as tempted as a priest at a boy's summer camp but tonight I HAVE TO stay focused on the job

JILL  
I could give you a job to stay focussed on

Jill takes a straw out of a container on the table and puts the whole thing slowly, seductively in her mouth

HANK  
(breathing heavier)  
Well maybe I coooould take a little break

Hank gets up to leave with Jill but gives his head a shake

HANK  
But then I'd never catch up on all this work so I'll have to take a pass

JILL  
(WOBBLING)  
Fine. But the old Hank wouldn't let an opportunity like this pass  
  
Don't forget all work and no play makes Hank a stupid dick

She gets up and suggestively shows Hank what he's missing as she leaves

JILL  
(in a loud voice)  
Hey Andy you wanna' get LAID!!?

INT-CHICAGO STREET-NIGHT

Hank is walking the city streets, thinking

INT- JOHN LIVELY'S BASEMENT -A FEW HOURS LATER

Hank walks unannounced into the basement where assembled are a group of men who play in Hank's fantasy league

They're gathered around a large white board with many names on it when John notices Hank standing there

JOHN  
My God look what the cat dragged in

HANK  
Hey John, what are you and the fugitives up to tonight?

JOHN  
The boys and I thought we could work out some picks for you by doing a mock draft

HANK  
Thanks for the thought John but taking notes from you sloths would be like Kennedy taking the tip that it was a nice day to ride with the top down. Besides I have the first pick, remember. This isn't rocket science and any fool, even you guys couldn't possibly get it wrong

JOHN  
First pick, right. But what if you traded it. That could land you 3 or 4 draft picks and maybe even a player or two

HANK  
That's good John but did you guys also figure out the god damn grief I'd catch for trading away the chance at this city's next messiah?

JOHN

Damn it Hank, this is a side of you I never thought I'd see, you being a pussy, afraid to take a chance

HANK

Fantasy leagues different John, if I lost a fantasy pool it would cost me what, a hundred bucks and some pride, but if I make the wrong decision with this it costs the city for years

JOHN

Hank, every guy in this room would give his left nut to have the chance to be where you are right now

HANK

Thanks for the pep talk John, now I'm more confused than ever

Hank shakes John's hand and leaves.

EXT- MIAMI HOTEL- DAY

Miami is the site of the draft. All kinds of media get set up

Jeff tries his best to get interviewed by ESPN or FOX sports with absolutely no luck.

CU: CHICAGO DRAFT TABLE- DAY

HANK

Well Dennis the big moment is almost here. As the song says... you ready for this?

DENNIS

Hank, I've been to quite a few of these but always with my dad in charge. Now that it's my turn I must admit being the first one to the podium i..

CUT TO:

CU: A phone on the table ringing. Hank picks it up

HANK

Hold that thought Dennis

Right, yeah that's what I said,  
right, the receiver too, goodbye

DENNIS

Hank, I'm ready now, I think I have  
enough nerve

HANK

Dennis, I think you better take a  
deep breath

Dennis leans in and Hank whispers to him

Dennis' expression changes as he listens then sits back in  
disbelief

Hank makes another phone call

CUT TO:

CU: Commissioner Revson takes to the stage to announce the  
first pick

COMMISSIONER

With the first choice of this  
year's draft the Chicago Cougars  
have...

traded the pick to the Washington  
Monuments for the number 5 and  
number 16 picks. Washington also  
gives up their 2nd and 3rd round  
picks and receiver Nate Trumbold

A murmur runs through the crowd

INT -STAGE - 30 MINS LATER

COMMISSIONER

With the 5th pick the Chicago  
Cougars choose from the University  
of Georgia, running back Kendrick  
Justice

There is a smattering of applause as Kendrick Justice comes  
out of the audience to approach the stage

CUT TO:

CU: Draft board with the names of picks 6-15

INT - STAGE

COMMISSIONER

With the 16th choice in the draft  
the Chicago Cougars select from  
Tennessee State College,  
Quarterback Christian Jenks

There is no sound from the crowd for this pick

INT - T.V. STUDIO - NIGHT

Kate is giving her sports report to the city

KATE

And keeping up with the surprising  
moves that keep coming recently  
from the Cougar's organization the  
Cougars today they botched the  
draft, passing on what everyone  
knew was the best college player to  
come around in 20 years by trading  
the right to choose him for a boat  
load of picks and a never was  
player

INT- HANK'S OFFICE-DAY

Hank is alone at his desk. He's watching Jeff out in the  
hallway trying to look up a couple of female employees skirts  
with a mirror he has placed on his shoes

The phone rings, on the line is John Stansfield

HANK

Hello?

JOHN(V.O)

Hey Hank, It's John Stansfield from  
the Dallas Thundering Herd, how are  
you Hoss?

HANK

John, this is a pleasant surprise.  
But I don't remember giving you my  
number?

JOHN(V.O.)

You didn't

HANK

Oh

JOHN(V.O.)

Listen Hank I've heard good things  
about what you're doing there in  
the Windy City

HANK

You have?

JOHN

Things like the fact that your  
coach has been whipping the  
player's into better shape in June  
than most teams do in training camp

Hank starts checking the room for bugs

HANK

I'm sure if that were the case all  
the players would have a complaint  
line outside my office a mile long

JOHN(V.O.)

I guess. But quite honestly I am  
hearing you're doing things that  
just seem aside from the norm

HANK

Do you mind if I ask you how you  
got your information?

JOHN(V.O.)

Hank I'm sure you don't think I got  
to be where I am today by being an  
ostrich with its head in the sand

HANK

I still can't see why you feel we'd  
be any competition to you. There  
hasn't even been a sniff of a  
winning season around here in  
years. Losing to this franchise has  
been like a dog with a chew toy  
that's gotten too old and soft.

JOHN(V.O.)

Might I remind you we play your  
team last game of the year.  
Obviously that means you might have  
a part to do with the playoffs

HANK

No I didn't forget, but let's face it, if recent history is any example you'll be home and cooled off by then. Meanwhile my players will probably be looking forward to golf in Florida

JOHN(V.O.)

I really just called to wish you good luck Hank and we'll be talking at ya'

HANK

Good bye John and thank you

As Hank hangs up Jeff rushes into the room out of breath and with two girls beating at the door with his shoes, the mirror on the shoes cracked

HANK

What's all that about bud?

JEFF

The usual, what's up with you?

HANK

Doesn't matter. We've got to get a job title for you. What do think you could do that wouldn't cause trouble

JEFF

(Making a humping motion)  
Cheerleader auditions

HANK

You really are a jackass

JEFF

That's why I'm you're bestest buddy

Hank thinks for a second. He looks Jeff up and down, shaking his head

Then an idea comes to find and he snaps his fingers

HANK

I've got it

JEFF

You do?

HANK

Obviously no one has any belief in you at all

JEFF

Thanks for the vote of confidence prick

HANK

Don't mention it. How about special projects manager?

JEFF

Is that even a job. I mean what would I do?

HANK

Pretty much what you do now. The beauty of it is no one else knows what that job is either. You could just work on whatever you'd like as long as it doesn't interfere with anyone

JEFF

(Once again with the humping motion)  
Can I have an assistant

HANK

Just be thankful you can stay

JEFF

It's just so crazy it might work

INT- COUGARS TRAINING FACILITY-AUGUST

The training facility is located at a local university. The players file in and renewing acquaintances, chatting about the past couple of months.

Hank is addressing the assembled players, getting ready to turn it over to his head coach, ROGER PULLMAN, a young man in his 30's who Hank sees as the only good thing he inherited

HANK

I'd like to thank everyone for being on time to your first training camp with the new management team. It's important everyone be on the same page from day one.

(MORE)

HANK(cont'd)

We worked very hard to ensure there would be no holdouts due to renegotiating contracts

CUT TO:

CU: A large defensive lineman tying up his cleats. Most of the team look to him and there is some good natured ribbing

BACK TO:

HANK

With the work Coach Pullman has planned for you it's extremely important that you pay attention to everything he says

Hank notices Isiah Washington not paying attention, talking to a couple of other veterans. He addresses the QB

HANK

Isn't that right Mr Washington?

Washington, hearing his name, looks up

WASHINGTON

(in an old school slave voice)

Oh that's right Boss, me and the other farmhands is gonna doos whatever the new Massa says we should cause he so smart and we not

Some laughter erupts, mostly the black players on the team

HANK

(Annoyed)

Is that supposed to be funny, Mr. Washington?

WASHINGTON

I'd say about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the team thought so.

Again a little laughter in the background

HANK

Hey I get it, it's training camp and lets have some fun before the season. I like fun just as much as the next guy, Hell, probably more than most. But I'd like to start things off right.

(MORE)

HANK(cont'd)

I'm gonna' turn it over to Coach Pullman to give you the first assignments

COACH

Thanks Hank. Now, I'd like to appoint training camp captains at this time

WASHINGTON

(just loud enough to be heard)

Loser

COACH

Who was that? Washington did you have something to say?

WASHINGTON

No Coach, just clearing my throat

COACH

Fine then, the following players will be captains for the duration of camp: Greenfield, Tobias, Washington and Jumonski

WASHINGTON

(starts singing)

Ol' man River, that Ol' Man River he just keeps rollin' along

COACH

Washington just check your list

WASHINGTON

Coach, I know you're excited as a junkie about to get his first fix after 2 weeks in rehab but let me tell you something, ISIAH WASHINGTON don't like all the changes around here.

COACH

Washington, we'll talk about this offline?

WASHINGTON

(Building up steam)

Everything all fancy dancy and nobody sayin' nothin' bad. Next thing you know we'll be sitting around a campfire singing Kumbaya.

(MORE)

WASHINGTON(cont'd)

Hell, the only good players you got  
is me and maybe 3 or 4 others  
stupid enough to have signed long  
term

Washington gets up, pointing at the Coach

WASHINGTON

ISIAH WASHINGTON thinks if you just  
leave him alone, don't try to get  
him to buy garbage, you and ISIAH  
WASHINGTON will get along just fine

COACH

I'm sorry you feel that way Mr.  
Washington. I'll work hard over the  
next few weeks to make you into a  
believer

WASHINGTON

(Disgustingly)  
Whatever!

Washington moves to the board where the names are posted

WASHINGTON

Better not be whole bunch of  
newbies on ISIAH WASHINGTON'S list

EXT-COUGARS PRACTICE FIELD-DAY

Players run through drills, coaches approve or disapprove.  
Jeff, dressed in a stained Cougar's track suit, is serving  
drinks out of the Gatorade jug to players, looking to high  
five or chest bump them

INT- TV STUDIO- NIGHT

Kate does her sports report, with highlights of the Cougars  
being shown behind her

KATE

And so with that win, the Cougars  
have evened their training camp  
record at 1-1. The team has shown  
more energy and cohesiveness under  
Coach Pullman than they did last  
year, his first.

(MORE)

KATE(cont'd)

But there is this rumbling that  
won't go away from anonymous  
sources that the Coach is taking  
great lengths to get star  
quarterback Isiah "All Pro"  
Washington up to speed with the new  
playbook and its intricacies

EXT- DENVER STADIUM-DAY

The team is on the road for a pre season game

CUT TO:

Montage of highlights of the game

Focus on one play in particular where Washington overthrows a  
receiver on a short sideline out route. Coming off the field  
he is confronted by the coach

COACH

What the hell was that Washington?  
The receiver was open so long he  
could have pitched a tent

WASHINGTON

(Cockily)  
Sorry Coach, must have been the  
high altitude

EXT- COUGARS DEN OFFICES-DAY

A sign on a door quoting MASCOT AUDITIONS TODAY. A young  
woman opens the door and a few different characters in a  
waiting room are assemble, some have Cougar's costumes, face  
paint, etc.

YOUNG WOMAN

Next

A young man in a cheerleader outfit does handstands across  
the room to greet her. She escorts him into the next room  
where Jeff's seated at a table next to a young man with a  
video camera

JEFF

Next

CUT TO:

Montage of want to be Mascots auditioning

First up is a man dressed in a cougar costume accompanied by  
his two little girls, also dressed as cougars

MAN

We're the Cougars and his cubs

JEFF

Next

Following them is a couple of extremely sexy girls dressed in short little skirts with Fur gloves and chokers around their neck. One girl pulls the other to her by a chain attached to her choker and they start to make out

JEFF

Sorry girls, it's actually for a family oriented mascot, but if you want to go on for a few more minutes I'll just keep taping and watch a little closer when I'm alone before coming to a final decision

Next to enter the room is Superfan dressed up in a great cougar costume but not wanting to take off his head gear

JEFF

Awesome costume

Superfan gives Jeff a big thumbs up

JEFF

Can you tell me about yourself?

Superfan shakes his head

JEFF

Ahh, staying in character are you, I like that but I do need to see what you look like under the mask before I let you do your routine

Superfan slowly takes off the headgear

JEFF

SECURITY

The next group to come into the room are 3 ladies in their mid to late 40's. They are heavily made up, with big hair and wearing spandex pants

JEFF

Ladies, can I help you

LADY 1

Is this the Cougars Den? I believe  
the paper said Cougars would be  
welcome here today

JEFF

This is where the Chicago Cougars  
men's football team plays

The ladies form a circle and talk amongst themselves

LADY 1

How old are they?

JEFF

NEXT

Finally, just about to give up hope, another man comes into  
the room. As per the others he is in a Cougars costume, he  
has his headgear in his hands as Jeff asks him a question

JEFF

Hello there, what can you do for us  
today

The man puts on his headgear and does a quick routine of  
backflips and other moves, impressing Jeff

JEFF

Very nice, can I ask you a couple  
of things

MAN

(Taking off Cougar's head)

Sure

JEFF

What's your name please?

MAN

My name's Steven James and I really  
want to do this job. I'm great with  
people, I just LOVE kids, I'm used  
to being part of a large  
institution and I think I'd be a  
great addition to the Cougars

JEFF

Ok, where do you come to us from?

STEVEN

I've been in the Joliet area for  
the past few years

JEFF

So you're a Cougar's fan?

STEVEN

Oh, yes sir

JEFF

You're hired

EXT - COUGARS FIELD - GAME DAY

This is the last pre season game. Hank, Jeff and other executives in the owner's box preparing to watch the game

ANONYMOUS EXECUTIVE

So Hank, how are the players responding to Coach Pullman, I'm hearing some resentment brewing among the veterans, especially Washington.

Might I remind you the entire marketing campaign is built around our only star player

He shows Hank the cover of the team's program with an action shot of Washington gracing it

HANK

I'm telling you Coach Pullman is being very cautious in his dealings with Washington so as not to have him pull any of the hissy fits like he's done in previous years

The marketing executive looks incredulously at Hank

HANK

Yeah I know the stories, like when he left the game in Tennessee at half time saying he was cramping up but then on Youtube the next day he was shown dancing up a storm at one of the local nightclubs.

EXECUTIVE

No need to get upset Hank, I was just asking

Jeff makes his hand into a fist and points at the executive, also giving him the "I'll be watching you" motion with his fingers to his eyes

HANK

Sorry, I just know this game's important to the franchise and I feel we're going to see a real spark from the team today as we get set to go into the regular season

INT-TV STUDIO-SAME NIGHT

Kate is broadcasting with highlights of the day's game being shown on the screen to her right

KATE

For the first time in the past eight years the Cougars enter the regular season with a respectable preseason 2-2 record, quite an achievement for this team. But let's hold out judgement until the regular season starts

EXT- COUGAR STADIUM-OPENING DAY

Cars pull into the parking lot, Tailgate parties go on. Fans kibitz in the stands

Hank and Dennis are pacing about nervously in the executive box

CUT TO:

Montage of Jeff roaming around different parts of the stadium including eating concession stands where he eats a hot dog and drinks beer with fans and also him roaming the halls of the stadium looking at a map

INT. - CHICAGO STADIUM - DAY

The mascot plays up to the crowd a bit in the halls

He then talks to a little girl at the hot dog concession

MASCOT

Hi little girl, what's your name

LITTLE GIRL

My parent's say I'm not allowed to talk to strangers

MASCOT

I'm not a stranger, I'm Curtis the Cougar

LITTLE GIRL

I didn't think Mascot's were supposed to talk. Aren't you just supposed to wave and make gestures with your hands?

MASCOT

Oh you are a smart little girl, why don't you just run along now

INT- COUGARS LOCKER ROOM-GAME TIME

The players are charged up, huddled around the coach

CU: The Coach starting his pre game speech

COACH

All right guys this is what it's all about. There are 82,000 screaming loyal fans out there, excited to see you win this game. I'm reminded of the great ancient Ilieus who said any man can be an island unto himself but it takes a group of men to row a boat. And of course there is the philosopher Socrates who summised that the whole of all equals is exactly the same as the parts of all ..

Jeff comes up to the coach and whispers in his ear

COACH

(in an extremely loud voice)

Let's go Cougars!!!

The players jump up, screaming as they leave the locker room

EXT- COUGARS STADIUM - DAY

Montage of plays featuring the Cougars and their opponents, the Minnesota Lake

EXT. - SCOREBOARD - DAY

A few second flash of porn appears on the screen

CUT TO:

INT-CONTROL ROOM- DAY

CU: Jeff has a fiendish grin on his face

EXT- SCOREBOARD - DAY

Lakers 24- Cougars 20

Clock shows only 7 seconds left in the 4th quarter

Cougars Possession, 4th DOWN, Ball on Opponent's 23 yd line

EXT- SIDELINES - SAME TIME

Coach Pullman talks over a play with his offensive coordinator. The referee signals time out and the players mingle on the field

WASHINGTON

(approaching Coach from  
the field)

What's up man, ISIAH WASHINGTON had these guys ready to go and you call timeout?

COACH

I just wanted to make sure that we're on the same page for this last play Washington, that's all

WASHINGTON

More like you wanted to look like a big shot, calling the winning play

COACH

Washington I promise you I couldn't give a damn about who gets credit

WASHINGTON

(disbelieving )

Bullshit, whatever. So what's the play, our Saviour of the Cougars?

COACH

Red dog 59, split right. Got It?

WASHINGTON

(confidently)

Red dog 59, split right. Can I go win this game now?

COACH

All right, go get em!!

Washington runs back on to the field, huddling the team

EXT-FIELD OF PLAY

The Cougars break huddle and get lined up for their last play. The players are on the line of scrimmage and as they break the broadcasters call the play

BROADCASTER 1(V.O.)

Washington's had a great game thus far with a 68% completion rate. Let's see what he can do now with the chips down.

Here's the snap. Washington drops back to look for a receiver, no wait, he hands the ball off to Justice, who starts up field. The defense regroup quickly, they're chasing him down and they tackle him after an 11 yard gain, That's it, game over

The collective groans of fans in the stadium come as a singular sound

BROADCASTER 2(V.O.)

I must say that was one of the worst plays I could imagine for the situation. What was Coach Pullman possibly thinking about, Tim, maybe the pressure of things just got to him?

TIM(V.O.)

Could be. Remember the Cougars didn't get their first win of the season last year until 2 games after he replaced Coach Pendergrass

Maybe we can find out in the locker room after the game

INT-CHICAGO LOCKER ROOM-POST GAME

The players grumble as they get undressed, some with blank looks on their faces. Pullman walks in, going over to speak with some of the players in hushed tones, patting them on the butt, etc

COACH

Nice try Johnson, we'll get 'em  
next time Rodriguez, nice job of  
blocking Warnes

Washington jumps up and stares accusingly at Coach

WASHINGTON

Bullshit, man. You come in here all  
like oh, it's ok, long season ahead  
of us and all full of crap

You got 52 guys who left it all on  
that field looking at an 0-1 start.  
Is that the best you got Coach, no  
philosophers to quote?

Hank barges in to the locker room and brushes violently past  
Washington

Hank starts cleaning out Washington's locker

WASHINGTON

(angrily)

Whatcha doin' fool?

HANK

What I should have done before the  
season even started superstar

The other players start to get edgy

WASHINGTON

WHAT!! You think this is ISIAH  
WASHINGTON'S fault, it was your boy  
here who fucked up, never should  
have gotten rid of Pendergrass, he  
understood ISIAH WASHINGTON was the  
whole team!!!

HANK

Really, you're gonna' stand there  
with a straight face and say that  
Washington. Even an autistic kid  
would have known a passing play was  
coming. I'm sure there must have  
been surprise in the huddle when  
you brought in that play after the  
time out. Does that sound about  
right you primadonna?

ANONYMOUS GUARD  
(standing up sheepishly)  
I don't really understand any of  
the playbook, I just block.

HANK  
That's fine Hearman. Go back to  
your happy place now.

Washington, is it possible the  
coach called a pass play but you  
decided to change it. I'm sure it  
seemed easy peasy lemon squeezy to  
call a lame play instead, then the  
headlines would tell a much  
different story. They'd say the  
play didn't work, the coach would  
look like a buffoon

WASHINGTON  
That's garbage, nobody's buying  
what you're selling, man. It's like  
the media is saying... you and your  
boys here are out of your league

HANK  
You make me sick, Washington. I  
should have traded you at the  
draft. You're the kind of selfish  
player that the public thinks of  
when they think the worst of this  
game.  
But you think everyone adores you,  
you're like the wicked Queen in  
Snow White who has to check that  
stupid mirror everyday

HEARMAN  
(standing up quickly)  
I love that movie!!

HANK  
Interrupt me one more time Hearman  
and I'll have one of the coaches  
take the light bulb out of the  
fridge so you can't see the food

COACH  
I can handle this Hank

HANK

I know Coach, but it'd take you too much of the season and it might be too late.

Washington why don't you just go ahead and tell the team what play the coach called in the time out

WASHINGTON

Red dog 59, split right

ANONYMOUS PLAYER

(standing up slowly)

No you called Lightning, 21, blue noise

WASHINGTON

What!! .. no I didn't, sit down fool ,do more coke. Man, these fools barely understand the play in the huddle now you expect they remember an hour later

There is a feeling of doubt from other players

HANK

Feel that "All Pro". What you're feeling is 53 grown men buying a little bit of what I'm selling. Pretty soon you'll be feeling like Frankenstein after a big night at the village

WASHINGTON

This is ISIAH WASHINGTON's team, no one here's worth a damn but me. Shit, most of these guys can't even carry my cleats. Ain't no one cares if first win comes in game one or game 12 as long as we sneak out a couple of wins and stay out of the history books for worst team ever

COACH

Why not more?

WASHINGTON

You got somtin' to say now Plato? More gobbledegook nobody understand

COACH

Maybe the team doesn't understand  
the deep meanings of the great  
philosophers of our time but they  
do understand when something smells

WASHINGTON

Smells, what smells?

HANK

The smell of one bad apple spoiling  
the whole bunch. Look around  
superstar

The other players express anger, look at their feet or show  
signs of disgust toward Washington

HANK

Hey Coach, I kind of like that  
saying you just mentioned, what was  
it again, we want more?

COACH

Close, why not more?

ANONYMOUS PLAYER

(standing up)  
Yeah, why not more?

Washington grabs the quickly packed bag from Hank

WASHINGTON

If this is the way this team is  
gonna' roll ISIAH WASHINGTON don't  
want to be around anyhow. You  
losers will be lucky to win one  
game this year without ISIAH  
WASHINGTON around. You better  
decide right here, right now!! Is  
it ISIAH WASHINGTON or them

The players all start to look around, each one starts to say  
the new catch phrase for the team "Why not more"

Washington exits half dressed through the back door

INT-HALLWAY OUTSIDE LOCKER ROOM-MINUTES LATER

Hank comes out of the locker room.

A large contingent of reporters are going crazy waiting for  
the chance to do interviews, they rush Hank

HANK

Whoa, is there a free giveaway after the game no one told me about or is Oprah here, OPRAH?, OPRAH?

REPORTER 1

Funny guy like always huh Hank, can we get in now, I've got a deadline

HANK

In? Oh you want inside the locker room. I'm sorry I didn't realize we'd been making you folks wait outside for so long

We see the crowd of reporters get uneasy

REPORTER 1

Briscoe you have to let us in, league rules

HANK

Oh I know the league rules but fact is there seems to be a breakout of something in there so for your safety I'm imposing quarantine on the player's locker room

REPORTER 2

C'mon Hank quit screwin' around and let us in. Our bosses will have our asses if we don't get stories in

HANK

Sorry boys, no can do

REPORTER 1

You're a douchebag Briscoe. Expect to be called on the carpet for this one rookie GM. We'll see how the league likes your little stunt here

INT - T.V. STUDIO- NIGHT

Kate does the sports report

KATE

And we close today with news that after Hank Briscoe's fracas with the media yesterday the league has levied a fine against the Cougars for an amount of 100,000 dollars.

(MORE)

KATE(cont'd)

Couple that with the alleged incident that has QB All Pro Washington no longer with the team and you have an old fashioned storm brewing down at the Cougar's Den.

Play safe Chicago and remember if you can't play a sport, at least be one

INT-COUGAR'S PRACTICE FIELD-DAY

Hank and Coach Pullman are talking to each other about who should quarterback now that Washington is gone

HANK

Thanks for taking time to see me

COACH

No problem Hank, besides I think the players like seeing you on the field

HANK

What are your thoughts going forward?

COACH

Well I was thinking I should try a hybrid as my next car, and recycling, yeah I think recycling is really important

HANK

Smart ass, I think you've been hanging around me too long.

COACH

Sorry Hank, just keeping it light. As for your question we're really down to Brillson or the rook

HANK

Just our luck, who are you leaning to?

COACH

I was leaning towards Brillson, Jenks has barely had time to study the playbook

HANK

Yeah I guess Brillson's the safe play

COACH

Unless you've got someone up your sleeve

HANK

I checked the waiver wire today, it's emptier than a playboy bunny's head

COACH

Then I guess it's settled, it's Brillson

HANK

(dejectedly)

Yeah I guess it's Brillson

COACH

Why so down, at least Brillson has experience

HANK

Oh he's got experience all right. He's been around since the invention of Astroturf

COACH

At least Brillson's been around the league

HANK

Yeah, but he's been to more cities than Fed Ex

COACH

Are you making fun of one of your players... pretty crass, Hank

HANK

Yeah, but it's also pretty easy with someone like Brillson. Why don't you take a shot at it?

The coach hesitates for a second

COACH

You really expect I'm going to denigrate one of my players, in particular my potential new starting quarterback

HANK

Yup

COACH

You want me to come up with something like, oh I don't know, like Brillson is so old his first Christmas was THE First Christmas

HANK

Pretty good coach, or how about Brillson has had his bell rung so many so many times he thinks he's Quasimodo

COACH

(laughing now)

Or that Brillson's held more clipboards than a census taker

The two men have a long laugh before Coach catches his breath

COACH

I guess we could try Jenks

INT-HANK'S OFFICE-DAY

Hank and Dennis are chatting. There's a knock at the door and NATE TRUMBOLDT, a lean receiver sporting a dapper suit enters

HANK

Hi Nate, come on in

Nate takes a seat

HANK

Listen Nate we called you in today because we need your assistance. We know after your time in D.C. last year you've got something to prove and we want to let you do just that. We'd like you to help get Jenks ready to start on Sunday.

COACH

And we really think you can build some chemistry with him which should help your market value, being a free agent and all next year

NATE

I guess anything's gotta be better than watching that lone wolf Washington look past you like you weren't even there.

(MORE)

NATE(cont'd)

Besides I kind of like that kid,  
he's got some moxie

HANK

Great, and we'll put you with one  
of our best people to help you out  
with this special project

NATE

You mean Coach Harris?

COACH

Not exactly

INT-COUGARS PRACTICE FIELD-NEXT DAY

Montage of Jeff putting Nate and Jenks through many strange  
drills, including one of the players leap frogging the other  
to build coordination and having Christian throw passes blind  
folded to Nate while playing MARCO - POLO

Hank yells at Jeff as he makes his way across the field

HANK

Looking good Jeff

Jeff looks over to Hank, flashing him a big thumbs up. As he  
is doing this a blindfolded Jenks heaves up a pass, hitting  
Jeff square in the face

INT. - T.V. STUDIO

Kate is doing a feature on the Cougars

KATE

And once again the changes just  
keep on coming from down at the  
Cougar's Den. I swear you're going  
to need your own playbook to keep  
up with what's going on with this  
team.

In the most recent stunning move  
the Cougar's have announced that  
they are bypassing veteran backup  
QB Ryan Brillson in favour of  
starting the unproven and virtually  
unknown Christian Jenks

The season is now surely out of  
control and it is only game 2.

(MORE)

KATE(cont'd)

In this reporter's opinion the clock is already ticking on GM Hank Briscoe's tenure with this organization. I can't see how this team can win even one game out of their next five

EXT- COUGAR'S STADIUM - DAY

Coach is on the sidelines going over plays with Christian

COACH

Now Christian I know you're nervous but you'll be fine. Just keep things tight and run the plays I call

CHRISTIAN

I'm more nervous than a pretty boy in jail

COACH

Christian, just focus on the game and do what I tell you. Trust me I won't steer you wrong

CHRISTIAN

Yes sir

EXT. - COUGAR'S STADIUM - GAME DAY

Christian is gaining confidence with each play he makes, Coach is shown on the sideline smiling

CUT TO:

TITLE CARD SHOWING FINAL SCORE

CHICAGO 28 - SAN ANTONIO 7

INT -COUGARS LOCKER ROOM - POST GAME

Hank enters the locker room, making his way around the room congratulating players. An offensive lineman picks him up and gives him a bear hug

LINEMAN

Great game huh Mr Briscoe. It was awesome.

HANK  
Stop squeezing Moose. Any tighter I  
won't be able to have kids

MOOSE  
Sorry about that, I'm just so  
excited. There's a party tonight at  
my place to celebrate, you are  
gonna' come, aren't you

HANK  
Promise no more Bear Hugs?

MOOSE  
I promise

HANK  
I'll be there

EXT. - MOOSE'S SUBURBAN HOUSE - NIGHT

Expensive cars are parked in the driveway and on the yard  
A taxi drops Hank off and he makes his way to the door

INT - MOOSE'S HOUSE

Hank enters through the wide open door. He's greeted by Nate

NATE  
Hey Hank, glad you could come. Let  
me show you around

Nate leads Hank through the massive house. They encounter  
many players dancing to the music and drinking. Hank notices  
Christian in a corner surrounded by hot girls

HANK  
(pointing)  
Looks like the kid's doing OK

NATE  
If he wasn't so stupid he could get  
laid easy

CUT TO:

CHRISTIAN  
(Taking out his wallet)  
Would you girls like to see a  
picture of my girlfriend Jenny.  
She's just the greatest.

(MORE)

CHRISTIAN(cont'd)

She'll be here in a few weeks now  
that I'm playing and all

Christian reaches through his wallet for a picture. One of the girls throws a drink at him. Another whispers something in his ear and we see him blush, meanwhile her friend is smiling at Christian the whole time, holding out two fingers

CHRISTIAN

Is that even legal

The girls take each other's hand and grab hold of Christian. They try to lead him away but Christian struggles free and hides behind one of his lineman

BACK TO:

Hank and Nate making their way through the crowd again

They come across Moose getting a lap dance by a little person. Hank turns his head into a contortion as he watches

HANK

Christ what is that, Does Willy  
Wonka know that one of the Ooom-pah-  
loom-pas has escaped

NATE

Quiet Hank, that's Moose's wife

HANK

Oh shit. thanks Nate, I didn't want  
to die tonight

Hank watches the woman doing her dance on the oversized lineman, he's almost in a trance. Finally he snaps out of it

HANK

(Whispering to Nate)  
How does that even work, I mean  
just the sheer physics of it. It  
would be like me trying to fuck a  
hamster

MOOSE

Oh hey Mr Briscoe, glad you could  
make it. This is my wife Sally

Hank pulls Nate to him

HANK

Have you seen Jeff, he said he  
wanted to get here early to help  
Moose set up

Nate nods, leading Hank to the kitchen

Jeff and Steven are doing Keg stands in the corner. Steven is still dressed in his Mascot outfit, save the headgear. In another part of the room a well put together girl in a short skirt wearing Steve's headgear is giving a blow job to one of the players

HANK

I'd say this is a little too wild  
for me. You guys have a good time

CUT TO:

A montage of the Cougar's next 4 games, the team is doing alright

INT -T.V. STUDIO-NIGHT

Kate does her sports report

KATE

And with the season just 6 weeks old the Cougar's are only 2 wins away from equalling that of last year. It has been a smooth transition to young quarterback Christian Jenks and it is evident there is reason for hope with this team... maybe not this year but for the next few years ahead

INT- TEAM OFFICES-DAY

Seated around a boardroom table are Hank, Jeff, Dennis and a few other team executives. A marketing executive, JACK THOMPSON, a man with slick backed hair and a ponytail is making a presentation, showing cardboard cutouts of Christian in different costumes like a fireman with the slogan "He's so hot", etc

MARKETING EXECUTIVE

And so you see gentlemen that if we can couple Christian's popularity with the excitement of the city...

CU: Phone on boardroom table ringing, Hank answers

HANK

Hello, yes this is Hank Briscoe.  
Ohh, Hello Jasper, what's that, No.  
Christian Jenks is not available.

(MORE)

HANK(cont'd)

What's that, yes I know 3 players including an all star tight end is a good price, but what's the sense of having an star tight end if you don't have someone to throw him the ball. Right, I will, I will think about it. Good bye.

Hank hangs up the phone and motions to continue

JACK

Yes, well like I said if Christian can ..

CU: Phone rings again, Hank answers

HANK

Hello, yes this is me, I mean this is Hank. Oh hi Peter, how are things in Denver. Right, I guess I shouldn't ask that question when we have the same record. Sorry about that. Now what can I do you for.? Jenks, no Jenks is not available. No not at that price, no not at that price either, really?... well what do the twins look like. No, wait, what am I thinking. I'm sorry, he's not available  
(Addressing Steve again)  
I'm so sorry Steve, where were we.

Steve starts one more time but when the phone at the table rings again he packs up his stuff in a fury

DENNIS

Boy Hank, I didn't think Jenks would cause that big a stir

HANK

John Stansfield told me the GMs in this league were like a pack of hyenas, once they get the scent of something they go after it

Hank's cell phone rings and he answers it

HANK

Hello, Hank Briscoe here and if this is about a trade for Christian Jenks the answer is no. What? What's that, yes I'll hold for Mr Stansfield

Hank waves everyone out of the room politely

INT. - JOHN STANSFIELD'S DALLAS OFFICE - DAY

John is seated at his desk in his well appointed office, his expensive cowboy boots rested on top of the desk

JOHN

Hello Hank, Hank you there?

HANK (V.O.)

Yeah I'm here John, what do I owe this pleasure to?

JOHN

A little ground hog tells me you should be tired of getting phone calls with all kinds of wild offers for your young Hoss down there. What's his name again, Christian, Fletcher Christian, no shit that's a Mel Gibson movie. Pretty ballsy of you Hank to throw that Good ol' boy Washington out on his ass and go with the greenhorn

HANK (V.O.)

I have to try something, I don't have a 6-0 team. You guys are on fire with no losses on the horizon

But I must say it's uncanny how you're ahead of me all the time

JOHN

Thanks for the kind words pardner. But really I just wanted to tell you to avoid any temptations. I hear one guy whose ass is really on the hot seat may even be working to offer you twin hookers

HANK (V.O.)

Well that's just crazy. Thanks John for the phone call. I wish your team continued good luck

JOHN  
 And yours as well. We'll be talkin'  
 at ya Hank

CUT TO:

A montage of the Cougar's next few games. There is a sense that things are going OK

INT - COUGARS OFFICES - DAY

Three police officers are in Dennis' office, talking with him and showing him pictures when Hank and Jeff walk in

HANK  
 You wanted to see us?

DENNIS  
 Yeah Hank, these officers are looking for an escaped con. Sex addict, pervert, likes little kids.

Apparently he's been missing for months and they got a tip that he was seen at our last home game

HANK  
 I knew we were getting popular again but this is a little more than I bargained for

The officers show Hank the picture and the face looks familiar but he can't quite place him

Hank tries showing Jeff the picture but he just glances at it

HANK  
 Jeff, you didn't even really look at it, what's the problem?

JEFF  
 What, no. No problem, just looking at these kind of guys makes my skin kind of crawl, that's all

As they are talking Steven the mascot enters the room. He is dressed in costume, once again save for the head gear

STEVEN  
 Sorry to interrupt, they told me I could find you here Jeff.

(MORE)

STEVEN(cont'd)

I just wanted to know if you wanted  
me to do my leap of fire at the  
next home g..

The police pay him no mind but then one of the officers looks  
at him more closely and quickly pulls a gun. Steven starts to  
run, the officers give chase

EXT - CITY OF CHICAGO - NIGHT

The city has really embraced the team. Office buildings are  
shown with their lights making the logo of the Cougars.  
Workers are wearing Cougar's gear to their jobs

Superfan streaks through the city, his body painted in  
Cougars colors, high fiving Chicagoans as he goes by

INT - T.V. STUDIO- NIGHT

KATE

And in a totally stunning, yet ever  
so hopeful manner the Cougars now  
are on the precipice with a record  
of 9 wins and 5 losses. This  
reporter owes one Hank Briscoe an  
apology and I'm big enough to admit  
I made many mistakes this season in  
criticizing him for his actions.

All I can say now is I hope all is  
forgiven and please, please, Hank  
have your team pull this one out.  
That's right Chicago, I am saying  
what you've been waiting years to  
hear. One more win and we'll be in  
the PLAYOFFS

INT-HANK'S OFFICE-DAY

This is the day of the last regular season game. Hank's  
pacing when John Stansfield knocks and enters the office

JOHN

(extending his hand )  
How you doin' there Hoss. Pretty  
nervous times huh?

HANK

(shaking his hand)  
I'm more nervous than a virgin on  
prom night

JOHN

Didn't anyone tell ya' Hank, it's just a game

HANK

That's easy to say when everything this city has put up with the past 7 years isn't riding on YOUR team's ability to win one game. But you must be a little nervous too, what with the chance to go undefeated

John lights up a big cigar, taking a seat

JOHN

Hank, let me tell ya, nerves are for the chickens who realized the farmer left the hen house door open. After all my years in this game I forgot about nerves a long, long time ago

Besides, if we didn't have this thing so hyped up in the media I would've been able to tell Coach Brooks to rest the starters

Hank thinks about the situation

HANK

You could always just ORDER him to rest them and let our team go into the playoffs without even breaking a sweat

JOHN

Well, I can't quite do that but I can tell Brooks to not exactly have the boys build up too much of an appetite for dinner tonight

HANK

What?

JOHN

Done

The fans will just believe that my boys got tired of chasing that stupid record and that your boys, with the entire city pulling for them, were better today.

(MORE)

JOHN(cont'd)

The media, well, they'll just believe my team wilted under the pressure of the occasion. They'll have a helluva story no matter which way it plays out

Hank is completely taken aback by this statement, sitting down to digest the offer, a minute goes by

Finally Hank stands up

HANK

You mean you're willing to throw the game... just like that. You know I was just kidding, right? How bout the players. My guys who played all out as the team started to come together.

And your players, how do you think they'd like to be told what to do when history is only 60 minutes away from them. This isn't the American way John, Hell it's not anyway to do business at all!!

John stands now as well, moving over and patting Hank on the back

JOHN

I'm glad I could remind you of that Hank, I think you're going to be alright after all. I just wanted to make sure all that silly Fantasy Football, win no matter what it takes mentality had been cleaned out of your pipes. And it's pretty obvious it has

HANK

Thanks John, thanks for everything this year

JOHN

Good luck Hank and may the best team win, fair and square

HANK

Yours probably will but we won't go down without swinging

INT-COUGARS LOCKER ROOM-A FEW HOURS LATER

Hank is addressing the team,flanked by Dennis, Coach and Jeff

HANK

OK fellas, I know you've worked hard all season and you know what today is all about. I'm going to keep this short and sweet and turn it over to the Coach. I just wanted to say that no matter what happens today I'm proud of each and every one of you for bringing back to Chicago the one thing that has been missing the past 7 years... Cougar Pride!!

The players cheer and applaud

WHOLE TEAM

(in unison)

Thanks, Hank

The team is still applauding as Hank leaves the locker room

COACH

Now back to the task at hand boys. I know you guys like my speeches so much, but this game, well... I think you know what it's all about so I thought I'd let someone of little words lead you out onto the field. Oh Jeff, where are you?

JEFF

(astonished look)

Me??

COACH

Mm hmm

Jeff walks slowly to the front of the room

JEFF

Heh, Heh, I don't know what to say. You guys have done me a huge honour by letting me speak. You know I don't say much and so to be able to talk to you guys on the most significant day of the season. Well I just don't know what to say

He pulls up a stool and there is a long pause as he ponders what exactly to say to motivate the team

JEFF

Perhaps it's like Winston Churchill said, It's always darkest before the dawn. Or as Yogi Berra once said it's not every day that a man has a chance to excel but a man can excel every day. Franklin Roosevelt said we have nothing to fear but fear itself. I am reminded to paraphrase John F Kennedy when I say that you should not ask what your team can do for you but what you can do for your team. I am also reminded of the great 14th century artist and sage Roman Platonovich who proliferated that ...

The players all have astonished looks on their faces when the coach interrupts Jeff's soliloquy

COACH

Go COUGARS !!!

The team jumps up as a group excitedly and rushes out of the locker room

CUT TO:

Montage of the game. There are good plays made by both teams but no score is shown

INT-DENNIS' OFFICE-LATER THAT NIGHT

A television in a corner of the room plays Kate's report

KATE

And so fans today we were treated to a rare spectacle. A game for the ages with two teams who had so much at stake, each team not wanting to give an inch. Most fans are still in disbelief and have not digested yet what they witnessed. To this reporter a particular game can transcend the score and whether or not the Cougars made the playoffs...

BACK TO:

Hank and Dennis. Kate's voice trails in the background as Dennis moves to the bar, mixing two drinks

DENNIS

Well Hank, it's been a long season.  
Have YOU had time to really  
comprehend what happened this year?

HANK

Not yet, it all still seems like a  
dream to me

DENNIS

(handing Hank a drink)

I must admit I was scared to death  
to have an unknown in charge of  
this team. But I think after all is  
said and done I would recognize  
that the scared feeling is gone and  
the right decision was made

HANK

Trust me Dennis, I'm still scared  
every day, afraid someone is going  
to tell me it's not real. I mean  
when I look back on the season I  
did some things I know I could have  
handled differently, and so I'm now  
scared that there will be other  
situations that come up I might not  
know how to handle

DENNIS

To make sure you have some time to  
work on those things how 'bout we  
start talking about that contract  
now?

HANK

Why don't we wait until after the  
playoffs?

Hank clinks Dennis' glass and both men take a long sip of  
victory from their containers

CUT TO:

Television in the corner

KATE

And once again the final score of  
today's game, in triple overtime.

(MORE)

KATE(cont'd)

Your Chicago Cougars, 31 and the  
previously undefeated Dallas  
Thundering Herd, 28

DISSOLVE

As an ending tribute to Ferris Bueller, the end credits and  
music start to run and then there is a shot with Jeff putting  
up a nameplate on his new office door and his back to us

He turns around to face the audience

JEFF

What, you're still here. It's over,  
don't you get it. When the music  
starts and the credits roll it's  
time to get out of your seats.  
There's no funny little ending or  
outtakes, I mean if we did that  
what could we offer extra on the  
DVD

There is an extended pause then he speaks again

JEFF

Go home, I'm serious, don't make me  
come out there

FADE OUT