

NOW WE'RE TALKING

EPISODE 201
"HELLO, FRIENDS"

Written by

Tug Coker and Tommy Dewey

Property of Warner Brothers Entertainment

NOTE:

We'll open Season Two with prominent sportscaster CARI CHAMPION calling a highlight package of Tug and Tommy's journey in Season One. Full of great jokes, but also re-racking storylines related to and important for 201. We'll end this piece with Curt Menefee offering the guys a job.

SMASH TO:

TITLE CREDITS

Then, A QUOTE FADES UP:

"We (as a People) decided we prefer personalities and pizzazz over substance and detail." -Jeff Pearlman, Author

BIG, ANTHEMIC MUSIC KICKS IN - think John Tesh's spirited "Roundball Rock for the "NBA on NBC".

CUT TO:

CHYRON: LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

CU of TUG TANNER, standing in front of a couple MICROPHONES. CAMERA FLASHES POP as he gives an interview, having a blast:

TUG

To broadcast the Super Bowl? It's an honor, it's the pinnacle of our business. I was proud to be a quarterback in the NFL, and although, as a player, I never made it to the Super Bowl...or the playoffs, I recognize the magnitude of announcing America's most prestigious sport. This is truly the highlight of my life.

(smiles, then)

Who else has a question?

FEMALE VOICE (O.C.)

Hey, Tug!

The voice seems to surprise Tug.

TUG

Yes.

The voice belongs to JASMINE STRONG (20s, positive but firm, obviously going places).

JASMINE

Love the big dreams. But we just need a headshot for the company website. So maybe stay still for one?

WE GO WIDE to see the set up: a white sheet is poorly hung as a backdrop. The mics aren't live. Tug smiles awkwardly. SNAP.

JASMINE (CONT'D)

(re: photo)

Okay. Toothy. But good! Thanks, Tug.

TUG

(walking over)

I'm Tug Tanner, by the way. It's a pleasure to be working with you -
(looking at her nametag)
"Ajazzys Smedia". Pretty name.

JASMINE

"Jazzy S Media." That's my social handle. I'm Jasmine Strong.

(they shake hands)

I run social for the network. I'll be helping all of our broadcasters grow their online presence.

TUG

Nice! I love the "sosh medes".

JASMINE

Be sure to watch my webinar on how not to take your dick out at work. The rest of the talent is over there.

She nods toward a few rows of chairs in front of a projection screen.

TUG

Thanks, Jasmine!

Tug walks to the table, where he's greeted by several Athlete Broadcasters from different sports. Locker room vibes abound.

CAIN VELASQUEZ

Here comes "Mr. Photo Op". You get enough snaps over there?

T.J. HOUSHMANDZADEH

More snaps than he ever got in the NFL.

TUG

Good one, T.J.

(to the group)

I remember dropping you at least one beautiful "go route" dime.

T.J. HOUSHMANDZADEH

In practice.

TUG

Hey, makes perfect, right? So, you feeling good? Enjoying retirement?

T.J. HOUSHMANDZADEH

Feeling great, down to just twenty Advil a day. Looking forward to relaxing behind the mic.

TUG

Yeah. R.I.P.

(off their confusion)

Relaxation, Intensity, Preparedness. Little gem I picked up back in broadcasting school.

CAIN VELASQUEZ

Oh, when'd you do that?

TUG

Graduated last week.

(reaching into his bag)

Made a mini laminated diploma to show--

CAIN VELASQUEZ

We believe you. You still paired with Tommy?

TUG

Don't underestimate the chemistry of two guys who played together. And recently we've--

TOMMY (O.C.)

You all afraid of drones? Suit yourselves, but I'm gonna need one to carry all my money.

(then)

Not a bad idea, actually.

Tommy appears, exchanges hugs and high fives with the group.

TOMMY (CONT'D)

Let's do this! I heard Keith Hernandez pulls ten times more tail broadcasting than he did in his playing days.

TUG

I was just telling everybody how supportive our relationship has--

TOMMY

My God, that is an ugly tie.

TUG

(to the group)

Constructive criticism.

MAN (O.C.)

Hi, Everyone, sorry I'm late.

ANTONIO HESS (early 30s, smart but a little off, driven by analytics) appears and moves to the front of the room to address the group. As he gets settled:

JASMINE

Ladies and gentlemen, many of you have already met our founder - celebrated announcer Curt Menefee - but I now have the pleasure of introducing you to the guy who'll be steering our day-to-day operations, our new CEO. He comes to us from the executive ranks of the BannCo Food Group - where his division turned BannCo into the highest-grossing suppliers of canned apricots in America. Here he is...ANTONIO HESS!

ANTONIO

Thanks, Jasmine. Listen, it's so great to have so many talented faces joining our new family here at...

(struggling to pronounce)

(MORE)

ANTONIO (CONT'D)

Cusp Sports. Whoa. Cusp Sports. Hmm, have never actually said it aloud. Kinda tricky. Anyway, I'm sure we'll all get the hang of it-- Look, we're a few days from launch, and the buzz is huge. I truly believe digital streaming is the future of sports broadcasting. So, thank you all.

Light applause.

ANTONIO (CONT'D)

Do me a favor, reach under your seats. Go ahead, get under there. Each of you is getting your very own banana, filled with "potassium", because I want you energized as we go on this adventure together. Any questions?

The group un-tapes bananas from the under their chairs.

T.J. HOUSHMANDZADEH

Do we have to eat the banana?

ANTONIO

Depends how much you want your job. I'm kidding. And that's the type of fun we're looking to have here. Okay, so, we want to become America's favorite way to watch "sports on the verge". Do we like Verge Sports better? Hmm. Anyway, our data shows that having well-known athletes from America's major sports call niche events raises viewership over 40%.

TOMMY

(playful)

Is Tug Tanner "well-known"?

ANTONIO

And at today's little ceremony, we're going to pair broadcasting teams with their first event!

(pulls out some notes)

Now, Bones Jones and Pete Sampras are already off covering the E-sports circuit and they'll stay on that beat.

TUG
(to Tommy)
Video Games are dead anyway.

ANTONIO
For another of our tentpoles, Back-Alley Street Fights, we're going to roll with Cain Velasquez and Ronda Rousey.

Cain smiles and give a small fist pump.

TOMMY
That makes sense.

ANTONIO
We've seen huge fan demand for flag football. So I'm personally excited to put this team on it: T.J. Houshmandzadeh and Bubby Brister.

TOMMY
Sounds like they're saving the best for last.

TUG
Absolutely.

ANTONIO
Which leaves us with Tommy Arondall and Tug Tanner.
(then)
America's about to get whispered a secret they won't forget. Tommy and Tug: you're calling...

TOMMY (PRELAP)
DARTS?!

FLIP TO:

102 INT. CONFERENCE CENTER - DAY

102

Tug and Tommy are apoplectic. Hess sits calmly as they pace. The rest of the CUSP staff has left.

TOMMY
That's not a *sport*. There's a rubberized version of it, for God's sake! Darts is for parolees!

TUG

Darts uses three muscles, tops.

TOMMY

We're football players, Tony. Can I call you Tony?

ANTONIO

Guys, guys, guys. Darts is the tip of the spear for us, pardon the pun.

TUG

I won't - I hate puns.

ANTONIO

Our data shows that it's going to be one of our biggest draws. The key here is matching *personalities* to sports. Darts is edgy, provocative, like you guys. At Bannco, we placed our most maniacal execs on the Guava juice accounts, and found enormous success.

TUG

The data really says that about darts?

ANTONIO

Yes.

TOMMY

Can we see the data?

ANTONIO

No one sees the data. Not even me.

Tug and Tommy exchange a look of confusion, calm down a bit.

TOMMY

If we agree to this, we're gonna need a pay bump.

TUG

A super bump.

ANTONIO

And I'd love to give you guys one. The way we've structured this enterprise makes that tough *right now*, but sets us all up for a MAJOR payday down the road.

TOMMY

How major?

ANTONIO

Super major.

TOMMY

Hmm. Where would we be calling these darts...matches? Games?

ANTONIO

Midwest mostly. Next weekend's tournament is in Milwaukee!

TOMMY

Milwaukee?! Absolutely not.

TUG

We need a bigger stage.

HESS

(shaking his head)

Well, then guys --

TOMMY

Unless you're putting us up in a Four Seasons.

TUG

Good point - *If* we're talking Four Seasons, I'd maybe consider it.

TOMMY

They're gorgeous. Worlds unto themselves. We wouldn't even know we were in Milwaukee.

ANTONIO

We're talking Marriott. But the nice kind.

TOMMY

For fuck's sake!

TUG

I'm actually okay with that, if I can put the nights on my Marriott rewards card.

Beat.

TOMMY

Well, we're gonna need travel money.

TUG

I want enough first class flights
for us to go home between these
darts things. That's non-
negotiable. I have a family.

ANTONIO

What would you say to economy plus?

Beat.

TUG

I could work with that.

TOMMY

Sure, that's doable.

FLIP TO:

103

INT. CONFERENCE CENTER HALLWAY - DAY

103

Tug and Tommy, upbeat, head towards an exit.

TOMMY

We kinda crushed that negosh.

TUG

I did some great acting in there,
because I actually love puns.

TOMMY

I guess we're doing this?

TUG

I guess so. So, see you in a week?

TOMMY

Yep. You gonna head home? Family
time back in Orlando?

TUG

So excited. Get some father/son
time in with the little guy. And
you...Tampa?

(searching)

For, um...fam...fun time?

TOMMY

Yeah, I guess. I wanna see my mom.
Maybe call a girl. There's a few
who, you know...come over..

(then)

Sometimes I always kinda get mobbed
by fans in Tampa, but...it's fine.
If I can make someone's day with an
autograph...

TUG
 (dry)
 Might make someone's life, even.

And they head out the door...

CUT TO:

104 INT. TANNER HOME - KITCHEN - ORLANDO - NIGHT 104

Tug comes through the doorway of his house carrying his suitcase and BAGS OF GROCERIES. He closes the door behind him and turns expecting a hero's welcome.

TUG
 The king is home! Family?!

CUT TO:

105 INT. TANNER HOME - KITCHEN - NIGHT 105

Tug drops his bags of groceries on the counter.

TUG
 Come forth! I've brought home a bounty of delectables that -

TRINA (Tug's wife) races in...

TRINA
 Shut the fuck up! Why are you screaming? I just put Tug Jr. down.

TUG
 I'm sorry. I'm sorry.

She gives him a kiss.

TUG (CONT'D)
 I stopped at the store on the way from the airport.

TRINA
 That's great, Sweetie. But I just had groceries delivered.

She points to ANOTHER SET OF GROCERY BAGS.

TUG
 I got a bunch of eggs.

TRINA

(looking into his bags)
 Me too. It'll be fun to see if we
 can get through 72 of 'em.
 (pulls out plastic bear of
 honey)
 Who's this for?

TUG

Tug Jr...it's a good sugar
 alternative.

TRINA

Honey can kill a baby. He could get
 botulinum spores.

TUG

Oh. But it's in a fun plastic bear!
 Why would they do that?

MARK (late 20s, warm, but doesn't always get how he comes off
 to others) races into the room.

MARK

(whispering)
 Guys, it's TJ's sleepytime! You
 have to keep it down.

TUG

TJ?

MARK

That's our guy.

TUG

(re: time of day)
 And what are you still doing here?

TRINA

Ever since Trina-ty started taking
 off--

MARK

The new shirts are so soft!

Mark indicates his micro-fiber/athleisure T-shirt, from a
 company Trina started.

TRINA

Yeah, so...I've needed the extra
 help. Hired Mark twenty-four seven.

MARK

Tug, you won't believe how much TJ has grown. So much cognitive development to show you.

TRINA

(holding the honey bear)
Well, Tug was hoping to slow down that development. He brought home honey for TJ.

Trina and Mark laugh together.

MARK

No honey for babies, Tug.

TUG

I know that now, Mark, thank you.

TRINA

Awww, Daddy's gonna learn so much.

Off Tug, not loving this arrangement, we...

CUT TO:

106

INT. TOMMY'S CONDO - FOYER/LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

106

Tommy, bored and frustrated, sits on a couch in his robe. He checks his watch. Finally, a KNOCK. Tommy answers the door, revealing DEANA, dressed for a night out.

TOMMY

Hi there!

DEANA

You're back!

She kisses him and enters.

DEANA (CONT'D)

You look...comfy.

TOMMY

Yeah. Thought we'd stay in. I can throw on a movie while you whip up some of your famous meatballs. Maybe we put the 'ole massage table to good use.

He nods towards a MASSAGE TABLE he's set up in the middle of the room.

DEANA
Meaning I massage you.

TOMMY
What? No! I mean, maybe you go
first, then I return the favor.
(beat)
It'll have to be limited, of
course, given my thumb arthritis,
but...yeah.

DEANA
Oh.

TOMMY
Did you have plans or something?

DEANA
Well, yeah! You remember Dave
Fiezer? Used to work at the CVS?
He's doing a stand-up set downtown
tonight. Thought maybe we could go
to that. My friends and I love him.
He just did Conan!

TOMMY
Hmm. Wasn't he a real weirdo?

DEANA
Sure, but, like, cool weird. Good
weird.

TOMMY
Hmm, weird is weird, but...
(then)
I'd love to go, but I gotta hit
the...night...dentist in a bit. But
come over after!

DEANA
Okay!

TOMMY
So we're not staying in?

DEANA
I'll come over after!

CUT TO:

107 INT. TANNER HOME - LIVING ROOM - MORNING 107

Tug slinks down the stairs and starts to assemble A FORT for Tug Jr. A SERIES OF QUICK CUTS:

-Tug throws everything in the living room onto the floor.

-He creates walls with COUCH CUSHIONS. He then pulls out a MEASURING TAPE to make sure the walls are even.

-He throws a SPOOL OF ROPE over the top of the fort.

-He opens a TOOLBOX, taking out different tools and trying to gauge which one is best for his next task.

-He admires his work: he's built a pristine fort from the furniture parts. But he's missing something. He grabs his keys and leaves the house...

CUT TO:

108 INT. TANNER HOME - LIVING ROOM - MORNING (LATER) 108

Tug re-enters the house with A FLAG in his hand. He stops in his tracks - the fort lies in pieces. Trina cleans up.

TUG

What happened to the fort?

TRINA

I'm sorry, Babe. He destroyed it. In like five seconds. I've seen him knock down blocks before, but I've never seen him this angry at anything. God, he just hated it.

TUG

I wasn't done yet.

Defeated, he holds up the flag.

TRINA

I did see a lot of raw athleticism from him, though, which I know you'd like.

TUG

Well, where is he?

TRINA

During the rampage, he cut his finger. Mark took him to the doctor.

Dejected, Tug starts to clean up the fort.

TRINA (CONT'D)

After you do that, do you mind delivering deliver two boxes of Trina-ty leggings to Carol for the tennis benefit?

TUG

Sure.

TRINA

I'm glad you're home.

TUG

Me too.

TRINA

(teasing)

It's nice to have some cheap labor.

AS Tug picks up Tug Jr.'s reign of terror...

CUT TO:

109 INT. TOMMY'S CONDO - MORNING 109

Tommy wakes up to find Deana still asleep. He stares at some OLD TROPHIES for a beat. He gets out of bed very carefully to avoid waking Deana, grabs his phone off the nightstand, and sneaks out of the room.

CUT TO:

110 OMITTED 110

111 INT. GOLF COURSE RESTAURANT - MORNING 111

We find Tommy holding court with his mother, CANDY (60's) and HER FRIENDS, AN ECLECTIC GROUP OF FIVE OR SIX WOMEN. They laugh heartily, directing their affection towards Tommy. One friend, JUANA, strokes his arm affectionately.

JUANA

...and you always looked so sexy throwing those touchdowns.

The ladies laugh, blush.

JUANA (CONT'D)

What? I'm allowed to say that!
Aren't I, Candy?

CANDY

Fine by me.

TOMMY

(flirting)
Fine by me, too, Juana.

Another friend, FRANNIE, jumps in:

FRANNIE

I love telling our grandkids how
Miss Candy's son used to be an NFL
star.

Tommy doesn't love that phrase - "used to" - but he's still
happy to be there.

JUANA

Lawrence and I just rewatched that
game where that Charles Woodson
sacked you, but you came back to
win! In the snow!

TOMMY

That...was Tom Brady.
(shifting gears)
Y'know, I'm not out of the game
yet.

JUANA/FRANNIE

You're gonna play again?!/You found
a new team?!

CANDY

He's getting into broadcasting.

The group deflates a little.

TOMMY

Yep, putting the 'ole brain into
the dome.

FRANNIE

How wonderful. ESPN?

TOMMY

No.

JUANA

ESPN 2?

CANDY

No, Juana. "CUSP SPORTS". It's a new digital venture.

Beat.

JUANA

Hmm. What channel is that?

CANDY

It's not a channel. It's the internet. Young people don't have TV's anymore.

TOMMY

Not entirely accurate, but okay.

JUANA

Well, it sounds great.

(then)

Now, Tommy, tell Frannie that story about you going to the bathroom in Rob Gronkowski's van...

TOMMY

That was also Tom Brady.

Tommy smiles, trying to push down their dismissal of his new gig...

CUT TO:

112 INT. TANNER HOME - HALLWAY - DAY

112

Tug sits in the hallway, reading "The Art of Darts". He's noticeably fidgety. Trina appears holding Tug Jr's hand - Tug lights up. Trina walks Tug Jr. over to his dad.

TRINA

Tell Daddy: "Now it's play time."

TUG

Thank you.

(then, to Tug Jr.)

Hey buddy!

Tug Jr. leans in to hug his Dad, and Tug melts. It's all he was looking for. After a moment, Tug Jr. grabs a ball and shows it to Tug.

TUG (CONT'D)

Want to play catch with your Old Man?

Tug Jr. throws the ball - it goes straight into the ground.

TUG (CONT'D)
Nice! Intentional grounding...like
Father, Like Son.

Tug gathers the ball and tosses it back to Tug Jr., who misses it and waddles to grab it. Suddenly, Mark swoops in and picks up Tug Jr.

MARK
(to Tug Jr.)
Okay! Let's get dressed.

TUG
Where you going?

MARK
We're off to swim class.

TUG
I could take him.

MARK
It's okay, I'm actually the
teacher. Fully certified.

TUG
Well...I could watch.

MARK
Sorry, no guests. The company
frowns on adults staring at
children in the water. Just relax.
Enjoy your down time! We'll be
back soon.
(to Tug Jr.)
Ready to get your suit on?

Off Tug, wondering where exactly he can fit in, we:

CUT TO:

113 INT. TOMMY'S CONDO - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

113

Tommy looks on from a recliner as Deana, DAVE FEIZER and SOME OTHER FRIENDS play "Settlers of Catan" in the living area. Feizer, a little maniacal, is the center of attention.

FEIZER
Did you see the look on that
fuckhead's face when I did that bit
about his Hawaiian shirt?!

DEANA'S FRIENDS

...that was the best, Dave!/So funny, dude./Think you'll do Colbert?

FEIZER

Probably. Oh! Did I tell y'all that I didn't recognize Conan when he passed me back stage?! SO EMBARRASSING.

DEANA

No! Oh my God.

FEIZER

But what a *high*. I really don't mean to brag, but being at the top of your game...in *that venue*. Wow. And I feel like I'm just getting started!

As Dave Feizer speaks, we PUSH IN on a pensive Tommy, hating this. Then:

DEANA

Tommy.
(no response)
Tommy!

He snaps out of it and turns to her.

DEANA (CONT'D)

Wanna buy a sheep?

CUT TO:

114 INT. TANNER HOME - KITCHEN - NIGHT

114

Mark is on the ground scooping up toys when he runs into some big boots. He looks up and sees Tug standing over him.

TUG

Hey, Mark.

MARK

Hey, Tug. Hungry?

TUG

I think we should--

MARK

Can I make you an omelette? We still have like four dozen eggs.

TUG

No, I'm good, Mark.

(then)

Actually, I'm not good, Mark. Look, this is my family--

MARK

(anticipating the convo)

And I 100% recognize my role here. You're TJ's Dad and I will never get in the way of that.

TUG

Okay, but it's important--

MARK

--for me to clearly state that I'm not trying to replace you. I work for you. I just really love your family.

TUG

Well, that's nice to hear, but--

MARK

I can imagine how hard it is for you to be away from TJ. So I went ahead and downloaded the PEEP APP on to your phone. Trina gave me your password, I hope that's okay.

TUG

Peep App?

MARK

You can watch TJ sleeping from wherever you are. Now you'll always be near him, even when you're not.

TUG

Well...I'm glad we both understand that I run things around here.

(then, looking at phone)

How do I turn the Peep thing on?

MARK

Literally just tap your finger on the screen. It'll open right up.

TUG

I would've figured that out.

The two guys stand quietly as Tug fiddles with his phone.

TUG (CONT'D)

Just don't give my kid a nickname, ok? His Dad should be able to give him a nickname. And I want to start calling Tug Jr--

(searches for it)

...TJ is actually pretty perfect. And that sucks for me.

(then)

Just take lots of pictures while I'm gone. Preferably landscape format.

CUT TO:

CHYRON:
MILWAUKEE,
WISCONSIN

115 OMITTED

115

A115 INT. DARTS BAR - EVENING

A115

Tug survey's the site of their first darts broadcast, maybe snaps some photos with his iPhone. Tommy arrives.

TOMMY

Milwaukee is beautiful this time of year. And by that I mean...what a dump.

(then)

What's up? How was your week?

TUG

Yeah, it was...incredible.

TOMMY

Really?

TUG

Yeah. It was good to be back with the family. Lots of "you're the best dad ever"s and "we almost didn't survive while you were gone"s. So, that was nice to hear. How about you?

TOMMY

Oh, it was great. So inspiring to hear that people are even more excited about the next phase of my life. They love that I'm a broadcaster now.

TUG

That's awesome.

TOMMY

Yeah, thanks. And same for you. Glad it was so fun.

TUG

I appreciate that.

A long pause as the boys contemplate the week behind them. Finally:

TUG (CONT'D)

(revving it back up)

I'm excited about this broadcast.

TOMMY

Me too.

TUG

Did you get the email I sent you?

TOMMY

Which one? You sent 400.

TUG

The one about the dart guys?

TOMMY

I didn't read any of them.

TUG

Great. Well, we should probably head over to the venue and prep.

TOMMY

(not looking at Tug)

Yep. I'm in.

TUG

(not looking at Tommy)

It's gonna be fun.

TOMMY

I'm ready.

TUG
Then let's do it.

TOMMY
Let's go.

TUG
Absolutely.

TOMMY
Time to hit it.

Off our boys, not moving, we...

CUT TO:

116 INT. DARTS BAR - NIGHT

116

Tommy and Tug wander into the darts playing area, where a HANDFUL OF PLAYERS practice. They wander up and greet DOUGLAS FARRADAY (40-something darts professional) standing next to VICTOR, his teenage son. As Tug greets the teenager and starts talking to him, Tommy strikes up a conversation with Douglas...

TOMMY
Hi, Tommy Arondall.

They shake hands.

DOUGLAS
Aron--? Sorry, didn't totally catch that.

TOMMY
ARONDALL.

DOUGLAS
Douglas Farraday, Grand Rapids, Michigan. Pleasure.

TOMMY
(re: the confined space)
This the practice area?

DOUGLAS
(proudly)
Nah, man, this is the arena.

TOMMY
Ha. I'd hardly call it an "arena".

DOUGLAS

Believe you me, the energy gets
crazy in here. IN-TENSE.

TOMMY

Gets pretty intense in a 65,000
seat stadium, too.

DOUGLAS

Yeah, I saw Aerosmith at Camp
Randall Stadium once. Badass.

TOMMY

(eye-roll)
Okay.

Clearly, a bitterness has crept into Tommy since his trip
home, and he's taking it out on this perfectly nice guy. We
MOVE OVER TO TUG AND VICTOR...

TUG

Awesome venue. You always travel
with your dad?

VICTOR

(who cares, head in phone)
Not always. Sometimes.

TUG

Cool. Must feel pretty special to
share these moments with him.

Nothing.

TUG (CONT'D)

Not all fathers and sons get this
kind of time together.

VICTOR

It's usually kinda boring.

TUG

(increasingly needy)
Have you found that as you've
gotten older, you guys have become
closer?

(no answer)

Have you? Have you found that?

Beat.

VICTOR

I gotta go take a shit, bro. I'll
catch you later.

The kid takes off, leaving Tug distressed, and we...

CUT TO:

117 INT. DARTS BAR - NIGHT

117

Tug and Tommy get settled in their seats at the broadcast table - they're surrounded by FANS a few yards from the competition space (think Season 1 arm-wrestling scene). Jasmine pokes her head in.

JASMINE

Hey guys! I'm now your field producer.

TOMMY

Promoted already?

JASMINE

Oh, no one else wanted to do this. But sure, call it a promotion.

(then)

Remember, it's all about the three "R's": Ratings, Relevance, and Revenue. I'm adding a fourth "R" tonight: Red wine, because I hurt a little inside. But of all the "R's", just focus on "Relevance". Become relevant, and you'll be on every TV in the country. Well, you'll be on every phone that has our app. So...we ready to bring darts to America?

Jasmine gives the guys a "3,2,1..." hand-signal countdown, and they jump in.

TUG

Ladies and Gentlemen, welcome to the Pro Darts League Milwaukee Open, one of the year's biggest tournaments.

TOMMY

"Big" being relative of course...

Jasmine rolls her eyes.

TUG

Battling for tonight's crown are Enrique Salinas, last year's Mexican League Champion.

(MORE)

TUG (CONT'D)

And Douglas Farraday, whose son is here to support him...

ANGLE ON: Douglas' son, not paying any attention as his father takes his position. He sneaks a sip of a STRANGER'S BEER. Seeing this, Tug stammers for a moment, then:

TOMMY

You gotta give these guys credit for their passion, Tug. In some sense, it's all they've got. Frankly, the stakes are lower than they were for us in the NFL. God, I was just thinking about our game in Jacksonville in '05...

Some QUICK CUTS of darts action, and we...

FADE TO:

118 INT. DARTS BAR - NIGHT

118

Tommy drinks a beer, over it. Tug is becoming increasingly unsettled...

TUG

And here we are, about halfway through tonight's event. Tommy, there's something about the intimacy of pro darts. Doug Farraday's son was able to watch him practice last night, and he's able to stand mere feet from his father today.

TOMMY

Look, I'm not saying it's a worthless sport entirely, just--

TUG

And you just hope that the younger Farraday isn't taking this for granted, Tommy. You only get one life, one dad, and you don't want to look back with regrets.

Tug cuts a look to Farraday's son, watching the match now, but apathetic, yawning.

TOMMY
 (reflecting on his week)
 Looking back at *all* kinda blows.

FADE TO:

119 INT. DARTS BAR - NIGHT

119

END OF MATCH

Tug starts to spin out, off in his own world now:

TUG
 ...and as Farraday, closing in on a win, hits another 20 and turns back towards us in the booth, we take in the countenance of a man who surely has family on his mind. Think how much easier this game would be if *sport* were his only focus, but it's not. A man of his age takes on some baggage. This is a man with enormous responsibilities--

TOMMY
 Why is this a sport?

TUG
 --carrying love, loss, rejection, shame...all of these things burdening that dart as it seeks the bullseye--

Tommy reacts to Tug's descent into sentimentality...

TOMMY
 Okay--

TUG
 And what THE FUCK is it all worth if no one respects what you put into it?!

LONG BEAT.

TOMMY
 (covers his mic)
 Want me to grab you some tea, or a Xanax or something?

Tug stares off into space...

Jasmine signals to Tommy to pick up the play-by-play.

TOMMY (CONT'D)

Oh, right. The moment has arrived - we are approaching the final throw. Farraday makes his way up to the...um, line thingy...

Farraday lines up his final throw.

TOMMY (CONT'D)

(whispering)

And here it comes. I'd say you could hear a pin drop...but it's actually fairly loud in here, given the heavy drinking. And the heavy footsteps of these overweight players.

Farraday lets the dart fly, and...BULLSEYE! THE CROWD ERUPTS!

TOMMY (CONT'D)

Farraday wins! What a clutch play! Go figure - everyone seems really excited by all this.

As the crowd rushes the playing area, a tired, despondent Tug gets up and starts gathering his things.

KID (O.C.)

Hey, Tommy. Tommy!

Tommy turns to see a KID (10) racing up to Tommy.

KID (CONT'D)

Can I get picture with you?

TOMMY

Sure.

The kid takes a selfie of himself and Tommy.

KID

I wanna do what you do.

TOMMY

Yeah? You wanna be a quarterback?

KID

No, a sportscaster! You rock! Thanks!

The kid scurries off. Tommy perks up instantly - maybe he will get another shot at glory.

TUG
 (toward the playing area)
 Well I'll be damned.

Tommy follows Tug's gaze to find Farraday and his son
 EMBRACING JOYFULLY - the kid is near tears, screaming at the
 top of his lungs in celebration of his father's victory. We
 PUSH IN on Tug, taking in the moment...

CUT TO:

120 INT. MILWAUKEE AIRPORT BAR - NIGHT

120

Tug and Tommy toast beers and recap the broadcast. Tug is
 still a bit pensive.

TUG
 (a beat, then)
 One more for the road?

TOMMY
 My flight's delayed, so I got time.

QUICK CUTS of the guys bonding:

-Tommy asks Tug how many career interceptions he had? Tug: "I
 know that like it's tattooed on my body: 102."

-They argue about Tommy's refusal to accept Tug's "hazing"
 during Tommy's rookie year in the NFL. "I wasn't gonna carry
 your pads."

-Tommy talks about the merits of a zipper: "I mean, who knew
 there was drone bubble?"

-They're eating snacks and ordering more beers.

-Tug: "So, I tell stupid Mark. I'm taking my son to the pool.
 And another thing: I'm calling him TJ from now on!"

-Tommy: "Why weren't you this fun as a player?" Tug: "We were
 competing for the same job. Ask Steve Young about Joe
 Montana."

Finally, Tug and Tommy laugh as Tug signs the check.

TOMMY (CONT'D)
 This was fun.

TUG
 Yeah. So I'll see you in a week?

TOMMY

In the great city of Omaha.

TUG

It'll be nice to re-charge at home.

Tug looks at HIS PHONE: the PEEP APP is up and he's looking at Tug Jr. sleep. He stares at it for a moment, smiling. Tommy gets up to go.

TUG (CONT'D)

Hey. What if we stay on the road?

TOMMY

You just said--

TUG

I have to get better...as a broadcaster. Jasmine is right, we need to get relevant. And if we want to work at ESPN or FOX, or apparently Barstool is a legit option now? We have to raise our profile immediately because players are retiring every day looking to land gigs. And I build terrible forts. So...what do you say?

TOMMY

(almost too quickly)

I thought you'd never ask! My week home sucked. There's this Dave Feizer guy, buncha sheep trading. So, yeah.

TUG

Okay, great.

As Tommy clocks Tug taking one last look at the baby monitor,

CUT TO:

121

INT. TUG'S MILWAUKEE HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

121

Tug relaxes in a chair, holding a beer in one hand, reading "The Art of Darts". He scribbles on a LEGAL PAD. There's a KNOCK at the door, and he gets up to answer it. It's Tommy.

TUG

What's up?

TOMMY

Just like our away games back in
the day!

TUG

What are you talking about?

TOMMY

I'm rooming with you.
(off Tug's blank stare)
Yeah, I said I'd stay on the road.
But I'm not going to pay for it.

Tommy brushes Tug aside as he pulls his roller bag past and
settles into the room. We stay on Tug, staring out the door.

TOMMY (O.S.) (CONT'D)

(re: bed)

A king? We might want to call down
for two doubles. Or we can do that
after room service. Do you care
what side of the bed you're on?

As Tug tries to convince himself this is the right decision,
we...

CUT TO BLACK.