

Sports Night

"Kyle Whitaker's Got Two Sacks"

Written by

Tom Szentgyorgyi

and

Aaron Sorkin

Directed by

Dennie Gordon

#N331

UPDATED FINAL

10/28/99

SPORTS NIGHT - "Kyle Whitaker's Got Two Sacks"
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a.

<p>TEASER INT. CONTROL ROOM/STUDIO/ NEWSROOM/CONTROL ROOM/STUDIO/ EDITING ROOM/STUDIO/CONTROL ROOM - NIGHT - (NIGHT 1) (Dan, Casey, Dana, Jeremy, Natalie, Kim, Elliot, Chris, Will, Dave, Corbin, Atmosphere)</p>	<p>1</p>		
<p>ACT ONE Scene A INT. DAN AND CASEY'S OFFICE - MORNING: 10:00AM - (DAY 2) (Dan, Casey)</p>	<p>13</p>		
<p>Scene B INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - MORNING: 10:10AM-(DAY 2) (Dan, Casey, Dana, Jeremy, Natalie, Kim, Elliot, Chris, Will, Dave)</p>	<p>15</p>		
<p>Scene C INT. CORRIDOR/NEWSROOM/CORRIDOR - MORNING: 10:35AM - (DAY 2) (Natalie, Jeremy, Atmosphere)</p>	<p>20</p>		
<p>Scene D INT. ABBY'S OFFICE - LATE AFTERNOON: 3:55PM - (DAY 2) (Dan, Abby)</p>	<p>23</p>		
<p>ACT TWO Scene E INT. STUDIO/CONTROL ROOM/NEWSROOM/CONTROL ROOM/STUDIO - NIGHT: 10:50PM - (NIGHT 2) (Dan, Dana, Jeremy, Natalie, Kim, Elliot, Chris, Will, Dave, Tina, Alyson, Atmosphere)</p>	<p>31</p>		
<p>Scene H INT. EDITING ROOM/CORRIDOR - NIGHT: 11:03PM - (NIGHT 2) (Jeremy, Corbin, Atmosphere)</p>	<p>41</p>		
<p>Scene J INT. STUDIO/CONTROL ROOM/CORRIDOR/STUDIO/CONTROL ROOM- NIGHT: 11:15PM - (NIGHT 2) (Dan, Casey, Isaac, Dana, Jeremy, Natalie, Kim, Elliot, Chris, Will, Dave, Tina, Atmosphere)</p>	<p>44</p>		
<p>Scene K INT. EDITING ROOM -NIGHT: 11:20PM- (NIGHT 2) (Jeremy, Corbin, Intern, Atmosphere)</p>	<p>55</p>		
<p>Scene L INT. STUDIO/CONTROL ROOM/-NIGHT: 11:27PM-(NIGHT 2) (Dan, Dana, Tina, Atmosphere)</p>	<p>58</p>		

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b.

<p>Scene M INT. NEWSROOM/STUDIO/CONTROL ROOM - NIGHT: 11:30PM - (NIGHT 2) (Dan, Casey, Dana, Jeremy, Natalie, Kim, Elliot, Chris, Will, Dave, Atmosphere)</p>	61		
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SPORTS NIGHT

"Kyle Whitaker's Got Two Sacks"

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Cast

Dan..... Josh Charles
Casey..... Peter Krause
Isaac..... Robert Guillaume
Dana..... Felicity Huffman
Jeremy..... Josh Malina
Natalie..... Sabrina Lloyd
Kim..... Kayla Blake
Elliot..... Greg Baker
Chris..... Timothy Davis-Reed
Will..... Ron Ostrow
Dave..... Jeff Mooring
Abby..... Jayne Brook
Corbin..... Charlie Finn
Tina..... Nadia Dajani
Alyson..... Suzanne Kellogg

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1.
(T)

SPORTS NIGHT

(TEASER)

INT. CONTROL ROOM/STUDIO/NEWSROOM/CONTROL ROOM/STUDIO/
EDITING ROOM/STUDIO/CONTROL ROOM - NIGHT - (NIGHT 1)
(Dan, Casey, Dana, Jeremy, Natalie, Kim, Elliot, Chris, Will,
Dave, Corbin, Atmosphere)

CASEY AND DAN ARE GETTING SETTLED AT THE DESK WHILE THE
CONTROL ROOM KICKS INTO GEAR--

DAVE

Three minutes to VTR.

NATALIE

Two minutes live.

CHRIS

Stand by 1, 2, 2A and 5.

WILL

Loading FX-5.

NATALIE

Preview Denver, lemme talk to Katie in
South Bend.

CHRIS

Sound-2's standing.

WILL

Denver's up.

DAVE

You've got Katie.

CASEY

Jeremy.

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2.
(T)

JEREMY

Yeah.

CASEY

You have a shot sheet for Phoenix?

JEREMY

It should be in there.

CASEY

It's not.

JEREMY

(JEREMY'S LOOKING) Hang on.

DAVE

90 seconds to VTR.

NATALIE

Jeremy--

CASEY

I don't have a shot sheet.

JEREMY

Hang on.

JEREMY BOLTS OUT--

CASEY

Did not see the Phoenix game, could
not tell you about it without I have a
shot sheet.

NATALIE

Jeremy's on it.

CUT TO:

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3.
(T)

INT. NEWSROOM - SAME TIME

JEREMY'S FLYING THROUGH AND SHOUTING--

JEREMY

Corbin! Who's seen Corbin Davis?!

Nobody. Who's seen the Phoenix game?

Nobody. Thank you for your help.

JEREMY RUNS OFF AS WE

CUT TO:

INT. CONTROL ROOM/STUDIO - SAME TIME

CASEY

It's not like I couldn't do it without
the shot sheet.

DAN

Please don't start.

CASEY

I'd have video right in front of me.

DAN

Casey--

CASEY

It'd be the same as calling play-by-
play.

DAN

Dude--

CASEY

I can do it.

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4.
(T)

DAN

No you can't.

CASEY

I got nervous that time.

DAN

Yes you did.

DAVE

60 seconds to VTR.

KIM

Two minutes live.

DANA COMES INTO THE CONTROL ROOM--

DANA

Two sacks, my little brother had
tonight.

NATALIE

Where's Philly?

DANA

Sacked the quarterback on Monday Night
Football not once but twice.

CHRIS

Philly's up.

DANA

That's Whitaker blood.

NATALIE

Good blood.

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5.
(T)

DANA

Excellent blood. Made grown offensive
linemen cry like they were little
girls.

ELLIOT WALKS IN--

ELLIOT

Can I see Tampa and Minneapolis?

DANA

Elliot, stand there, I'm gonna sack
you.

ELLIOT

What?

DANA

I wanna show you how he does it.

ELLIOT

Natalie--

NATALIE

Dana, you can sack Elliot later.

CHRIS

Tampa's up.

KIM

30 seconds to VTR.

CUT TO:

INT. EDITING ROOM - SAME TIME

CORBIN DAVIS AND TWO OTHER INTERNS ARE LOUNGING AND
WATCHING SOMETHING ON THE TV MONITORS AS JEREMY HURRIES IN--

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6.
(T)

JEREMY

Where's the shot sheet on Phoenix?

CORBIN

Hey, Jeremy.

JEREMY

Where's the shot sheet?

CORBIN

Chill, Jeremy, I was--

JEREMY

Where is it?!

CORBIN

Phoenix?

JEREMY

Yeah.

CORBIN

Hockey?

JEREMY SLAPS OFF THE TV--

JEREMY

Guys, we watch sports around here.

JEREMY BOLTS OUT--

INT. STUDIO - SAME TIME

DAVE (VO)

Roll VTR.

KIM (VO)

60 seconds live.

THE SPORTS NIGHT THEME ROLLS IN--

CASEY

I look right down there at my
highlight. Call it. No shot sheet.
Like the days of old, my friend, like
the men of yore.

DAN

You can't do it.

CASEY

Why not?

DAN

No other reason than because it's you.

CASEY

What of the days of old and the men of
yore?

DAN

I miss 'em too.

JEREMY COMES UP TO THE DESK--

JEREMY

If we can slide Phoenix back to the
50's, I can super-speed the game tape
through and get it to you in the 4-
block.

DAN

Are you telling me it's not that we
can't find the shot sheet it's that
nobody did the shot sheet?

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8.
(T)

JEREMY

Slide it back to 50.

DAN

Tell Dana.

JEREMY

I'm really looking forward to that.

JEREMY GOES OFF--

CASEY

Shot sheets are for wimps.

DAN

Fix your tie.

INT. CONTROL ROOM - CONTINUOUS - (NIGHT 1)

AS JEREMY COMES IN--

KIM

45 seconds live.

JEREMY

Dana--

DANA

Hang on.

DANA CROSSES INTO STUDIO

DANA (CONT'D)

Casey, what do you know about Ohio?

CASEY

Nothin', what's goin' on?

DANA

Something about football and drugs.

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9.
(T)

CASEY

That's pretty unusual.

DANA

Come in early tomorrow and work the
phones.

CASEY

Absolutely, 'cause you know why?
'Cause there's nothing like a good
story about professional athletes and
illegal drugs to really capture my
attention.

DANA

Just do it, Casey.

CASEY

We couldn't just pull an old story and
fill in the names?

DANA

Casey--

CROSSES BACK INTO CONTROL ROOM.

CASEY

Or would that be unethical.

JEREMY

Dana--

DANA

Yes sir.

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10.
(T)

JEREMY

I need to slide Phoenix down to the
50's.

DANA

Stand there, I'm gonna sack you.

JEREMY

Okay, I need just another moment of
your time and then you can go back to
being crazy.

NATALIE

What's going on?

DANA

I'm not crazy.

JEREMY

I'm gonna put together a shot sheet.

NATALIE

Jeremy--

JEREMY

Just say yes, Natalie.

NATALIE

You're firing him tomorrow.

JEREMY

Can we talk about it tomorrow?

NATALIE

We can talk about it tomorrow, you can
plead your case tomorrow, I will tell
you for the hundreth time why you're
wrong tomorrow and then you will fire
him tomorrow.

JEREMY

I can't tell you how much I'm looking
forward to tomorrow.

DANA

(TO JEREMY) My brother got two sacks
tonight.

JEREMY

I saw.

DANA

He tackled the quarterback twice.

JEREMY

I know what the word "sack" means.

DANA

He did it two times.

JEREMY

And I know what the word "twice"
means.

DANA

He has excellent blood.

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12.
(T)

JEREMY

Whatever.

DANA

(INTO MIC) Casey, you got we're
sliding Phoenix to 50?

CASEY

I can call it blind.

EVERYONE

No!

CASEY

No appreciation for the days of yore.

DAVE

In three...two--

DAN

Good evening...

END OF TEASER

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13.
(1/A)

ACT ONE

(A)

INT. DAN AND CASEY'S OFFICE - MORNING: 10:00AM - (DAY 2)
(Dan, Casey)

CASEY'S TALKING ON THE PHONE--

CASEY

This is Casey McCall from CSC, I'm
calling for Andy Alter in player
relations.

DAN COMES IN--

DAN

Hey.

CASEY

Hey.

DAN

What's goin' on?

CASEY

I think I'm goin' to Ohio. (INTO
PHONE) Yeah, hi, this is-- (TO DAN)
Didn't people used to ask people to
hold?

DAN

Yeah.

CASEY

It's a bit more of a command now.

DAN

Steroids?

CASEY

It's called Pednasone.

DAN

Pednasone's a bad drug.

CASEY

Jeremy's putting together some stuff
for me. (INTO PHONE) Yeah, this is
Casey McCall, I'm still holding for--
No problem. (TO DAN) Again with the
telling.

DAN

What's goin' on?

CASEY

A doctor in Ohio was arrested for--
(INTO PHONE) Hi, it's still Casey
McCall, and I'm still a sports
reporter which is why I suspect Andy's
ducking me. (BEAT) You don't have to
give him the message, I'm getting on a
plane. (HANGS UP) I talk the talk, I
walk the walk, and I do it all while
maintaining a polite telephone
personality.

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15.
(1/B)

ACT ONE

(B)

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - MORNING: 10:10AM - (DAY 2)
(Dan, Casey, Dana, Jeremy, Natalie, Kim, Elliot)

DANA, NATALIE, JEREMY, KIM AND ELLIOT ARE WAITING FOR
DAN AND CASEY.

DANA

Natalie.

NATALIE

No.

DANA

Please?

NATALIE

You can't sack me.

DANA

I just want to show you how he does
it.

NATALIE

I've seen how he does it.

DANA

It's the Whitaker blood.

NATALIE

Yes.

THEY SIT IN SILENCE A MOMENT BEFORE...

DANA

My brother could beat up your brother.

NATALIE

My brother's a grad student in comparative literature. My mother could beat up my brother.

DAN AND CASEY WALK IN--

DANA

What do you have?

CASEY

Jack Coughlin's wife was brought in for questioning two days ago when a pharmacy alerted local authorities in Columbus, Ohio to an unusually large number of prescriptions being filled in her name for a drug called Phentermine. Anybody know what it is?

DANA

It's the Phen in Phen-Fen.

CASEY

That's right. It's a diet pill.

DANA

Is Mrs. Coughlin overweight?

CASEY

5'8", a hundred and fourteen pounds.

DANA

That makes me crazy.

CASEY

Coughlin rolled over on the internist
who was writing the scrips--

DANA

--and he's turning in the players she
was getting 'em for?

CASEY

Yeah, he was a tough nut to crack. The
thing is, it turns out it's a lot more
than diet pills. It's Pednasone.

DANA

Oh man.

NATALIE

What's Pednasone?

CASEY

Jeremy?

JEREMY

It's been around about a year and a
half. The trade name is Pednasone-50
and it's Andracycline, and it's maybe
the world's most powerful oral
anabolic steroid.

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18.
(1/B)

CASEY

I have an off-the-record source backed
up by a second off-the-record source
that says seven starters from one team
are about to get themselves suspended
for the rest of the season including
the playoffs.

DANA

You think we'll have it by tonight?

CASEY .

I'm on the next plane to Ohio.

DANA

(TO NATALIE) Get a fill-in for Casey
tonight.

DAN

Get Tina.

NATALIE

Why Tina?

DAN

Why not Tina?

NATALIE

She's a woman.

DAN

I like women.

NATALIE

No kidding.

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19.
(1/B)

DANA

Tina's fine.

CASEY

I'm outa here.

DAN

Have a good flight.

CASEY

By the way, last night.

DANA

Yeah?

CASEY

Could've called the highlight blind.

EVERYONE

Go!

CASEY EXITS

DANA

What's next?

CUT TO:

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20.
(1/C)

ACT ONE

(C)

INT. CORRIDOR/NEWSROOM/CORRIDOR - MORNING: 10:35AM - (DAY 2)
(Natalie, Jeremy, Atmosphere)

NATALIE CALLS OUT TO JEREMY--

NATALIE

Oh Jerome?

JEREMY

Why do you call me that?

NATALIE

'Cause it's your little boy name.

Little boy too scared to fire one of
his people.

JEREMY

You think I'm scared? .

NATALIE

Scared chicken.

JEREMY

Natalie--

NATALIE

How many times does he have to screw
up before you'll show him the door?

JEREMY

It's a hard job.

NATALIE

Then let's get somebody who can do it.

JEREMY

This isn't a regular--

NATALIE

Yes it is.

JEREMY

He's--

NATALIE

I know who he is.

JEREMY

Natalie--

NATALIE

I know who he is and I'm telling you
he's not up to the job on top of which
he has a bad attitude, now go show him
the door.

JEREMY

You've taken to bossing me around a
lot, you know that?

NATALIE

Yes. You know why?

JEREMY

'Cause you're my boss?

NATALIE

Bullseye, Jerome.

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22.
(1/C)

JEREMY

Have a nice day.

NATALIE

I almost always do.

THEY GO OFF IN SEPARATE DIRECTIONS AS WE

CUT TO:

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23.
(1/D)

ACT ONE

(D)

INT. ABBY'S OFFICE - LATE AFTERNOON: 3:55PM - (DAY 2)
(Dan, Abby)

DAN IS HAVING A SESSION.

ABBY

Dan?

DAN

Yes?

ABBY

I'm kind of feeling like these
sessions are a waste of your time and
money.

DAN

You're being a little hard on yourself
aren't you?

ABBY

No, I'm being a little hard on you,
Dan.

DAN

I don't feel like my time is being
wasted.

ABBY

Okay.

DAN

Though you do charge an awful lot of
money.

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24.
(1/D)

ABBY

Yes I do.

DAN

I pay you \$700 a month.

ABBY

Yes I know.

DAN

For seven-hundred bucks a month I
should get the shrink, two rooms and a
bath.

ABBY

Is it important to you that you get
every attractive woman you meet to
like you?

DAN

It's important to get the unattractive
ones to like me too.

ABBY

Why.

DAN

Why?

ABBY

Yes.

DAN

Why do I want people to like me?

ABBY

Yes.

DAN

Don't you want people to like you?

ABBY

Sure.

DAN

So?

ABBY

So I'm a likable person and I assume
that people are gonna like me and many
of them do.

DAN

What about the ones who don't?

ABBY

I don't really think too much about
that.

DAN

Why not?

ABBY

'Cause many of them do.

DAN

I think it's easy for you to say that.

ABBY

Why?

DAN

Why?

ABBY

Yes.

DAN

'Cause you look the way you do.

ABBY

You think if you were better looking
you wouldn't have to work so hard at
getting women to like you?

DAN

No.

ABBY

Do you think you're good looking?

DAN

Can we--

ABBY

We only have a couple of minutes left,
so try and get some work done. Do you
think you're good looking?

DAN

I think--

ABBY

Of course you do. You can't get over
how good looking you are.

(MORE)

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27.
(1/D)

ABBY (cont'd)

So this thing must come from someplace inside of you. Something so fundamentally bad, that you feel it must be either overcome or covered up, lest the entire world run away from you, not unlike two other people you know.

DAN

Have you noticed how you always come back to my parents by the end of the session?

ABBY

Session's over.

DAN

What was the point of this?

ABBY

In the long term, to relieve you of the pressure of getting people to like you. In the short term, to tell you this:

DAN

What.

ABBY

Stop trying to get me to like you.

DAN

I haven't been--

ABBY

You've been flirting with me and I
want you to take this seriously.

DAN

I do take this seriously.

ABBY

Okay.

DAN

I wasn't flirting.

ABBY

Okay.

DAN

I'm a very charming guy, Abby, it's
not something I can control.

ABBY

Tell me about it.

DAN

You wanna know what I think?

ABBY

Next week.

DAN

I think we could end this whole thing
right now.

ABBY

If I just did what?

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29.
(1/D)

DAN

Told me that you liked me.

ABBY

I know.

DAN

I'd be cured right away, next case.

ABBY

Not gonna happen.

DAN

I'd like you to bear in mind that it
is my money.

ABBY

And I'd like you to bear in mind that
you're the patient, I'm the doctor and
you're in pain.

DAN

I have no trouble remembering that
last part.

ABBY

See you next week.

DAN

Watch me on television tonight.

ABBY

Why?

DAN

You'll like me.

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30.
(1/D)

ABBY

See ya.

DAN

That was a joke.

ABBY

You know what?

DAN

What?

ABBY

It wasn't.

AFTER A QUICK MOMENT, DAN NODS AND WALKS OUT.

FADE TO BLACK.

END OF ACT ONE

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31.
(2/E)

ACT TWO

(E)

INT. STUDIO/CONTROL ROOM/NEWSROOM/CONTROL ROOM/STUDIO -
NIGHT: 10:50PM - (NIGHT 2)

(Dan, Dana, Jeremy, Natalie, Kim, Elliot, Chris, Will, Dave,
Tina, Alyson, Atmosphere)

DAN IS STANDING ALONE IN FRONT OF THE ANCHOR DESK AS
TECHNICIANS CROSS BACK AND FORTH. KIM COMES THROUGH.

DAN

Kim.

KIM

Yeah.

DAN

I kinda wanted to put you on alert.

KIM

What do you mean?

DAN

You know how ordinarily I flirt with
you during the show?

KIM

Yeah.

DAN

I won't be doing that.

KIM

Okay.

DAN

It's not that I don't like you.

KIM

Okay.

DAN

Even more important, it's not that I
don't want you to like me.

KIM

I do like you.

DAN

All right...well...keep it up.

KIM

Okay.

KIM EXITS AS ALYSON PASSES THROUGH--

DAN

Alyson.

ALYSON

Yeah.

DAN

I won't be flirting with you tonight.
You shouldn't be alarmed. It's just
something that I'm trying. It's gonna
be hard, but I think it's important.

ALYSON

Okay.

DAN

So here I go.

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33.
(2/E)

KIM (VO)

Five minutes to air, first to team to
the studio please, five minutes.

CUT TO:

INT. NEWSROOM - SAME TIME - (NIGHT 2)

DANA AND NATALIE ARE ON THEIR WAY THROUGH--

NATALIE

He just got off the plane--

DANA

I'm saying--

NATALIE

He's on his way in from La Guardia.

DANA

I'm saying why doesn't he have the
names?

NATALIE

They're gonna be faxed to him when he
gets here.

DANA

Tina's all set?

NATALIE

She's in hair.

DANA

Let's get this thing on the air
tonight.

NATALIE

We will.

JEREMY'S PASSING--

NATALIE (CONT'D)

Oh Jocelyn?

JEREMY

Please stop that.

NATALIE

I'm assuming you've fired him.

JEREMY

You know what?

NATALIE

What?

JEREMY

He's J.J.'s cousin, so why don't we--

NATALIE

Jeremy--

JEREMY

Look--

NATALIE

I know he's J.J.'s cousin.

JEREMY

And?

NATALIE

I could honestly give a damn.

JEREMY

Is it necessary to go out of your way
to pick fights with the network?

NATALIE

No, is it necessary to go out of your
way to kiss their ass?

JEREMY

That's not what I'm doing.

NATALIE

Jeremy--

JEREMY

No, I mean it. This is their network,
Natalie, we have to work with these
people. And the special delight that
you and Dana take in--

NATALIE

You don't know what you're talking
about.

JEREMY

I do know what I'm talking about. They
keep us on the air when our ratings
don't support it and their paychecks
don't bounce.

NATALIE

I consider neither of those to be
magnanimous gestures worthy--

JEREMY

I didn't say--

NATALIE

--worthy of keeping someone on who
very nearly cost us the show last
night.

JEREMY

Cost us the show--it was a *hockey*--

NATALIE

He screwed up, it wasn't the first
time, his attitude sucks and I don't
care if his cousin's Thomas Edison.
Get him outa here.

JEREMY

I'll do it in the first C-break.

NATALIE

Thank you.

THEY WALK INTO--

INT. CONTROL ROOM/STUDIO - CONTINUOUS - (NIGHT 2)

DAVE IS STANDING UP. STRAIGHT, SOLID AND EXPRESSIONLESS.
DANA HAS HER HEAD BURIED IN HIS SHOULDER AND HER ARMS
AROUND HIS CHEST.

NATALIE (CONT'D)

Dana, stop sacking Dave.

DANA

You keep your center of gravity low
and your feet moving.

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UPDATED FINAL

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10/28/99

37.
(2/E)

DAVE

Dana--

DANA

It's hard in these shoes.

DAVE

Can I siddown?

DANA

Okay.

KIM

10 seconds live.

ELLIOT

Standby 5.

CHRIS

Loading 5, FX 1, 2 and 2A.

NATALIE IS LOOKING AT JEREMY...

JEREMY

What? I'm gonna do it in the
commercial.

DAVE

In three...two...

DAN

*Good evening, from New York City I'm
Dan Rydell alongside Tina Lake sitting
in for Casey McCall. Those stories
plus, Hello Dolly as the Heisman race
heats up.*

TINA

*And Goodbye Columbus as the Buckeyes
take a beating. All that comin' up
after this. You're experiencing Sports
Night on CSC, so stick around.*

DAVE

We're out.

KIM

Two-twenty back.

DAN

That was nice.

TINA

Experiencing?

DAN

Yeah.

TINA

You didn't mind that I changed it?

DAN

No.

TINA

I'm trying to plant my flag.

DAN

Listen.

TINA

Yeah?

DAN

I'm not gonna flirt with you tonight.

TINA

Really?

DAN

Yeah.

TINA

Okay.

DAN

Ordinarily I flirt with you.

TINA

I like it.

DAN

And I appreciate that. But tonight
it's not gonna happen that much, and I
didn't want you to get the wrong idea.

TINA

That you don't like me?

DAN

Not so much that, as that I don't want
you to like me.

TINA

I do like you.

DAN

I appreciate it, I like you too.

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40.
(2/E)

TINA

Are you okay?

DAN

Not even close.

CUT TO:

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UPDATED FINAL

"Kyle Whitaker's Got Two Sacks"
10/28/99

41.
(2/H)

ACT TWO

(H)

INT. EDITING ROOM/CORRIDOR- NIGHT: 11:03PM - (NIGHT 2)
(Jeremy, Corbin, Atmosphere)

CORBIN IS TALKING TO A COUPLE OF FRIENDS. JEREMY POPS HIS HEAD IN--

JEREMY

Corbin.

CORBIN

Hey.

JEREMY

You got a second?

CORBIN

Sure.

CORBIN FOLLOWS JEREMY OUT AND THEY STEP AROUND THE CRAFT SERVICE AREA INTO THE CORRIDOR--

JEREMY

Listen. Here's the thing. You've been falling down on the job. Everybody screws up a little at first, but I get the feeling you don't even want this job.

CORBIN

I don't.

JEREMY

You don't?

CORBIN

No.

JEREMY

(BEAT) Why are you here?

CORBIN

It puts pizza money in my pocket 'till
I get out of school. That's when
J.J.'ll get me a job with the network
and I can tell you what to do.

JEREMY

Well...that notwithstanding, I'm
supposed to fire you right now, but
I'm not.

CORBIN

Thanks.

JEREMY

I want you to try harder though. I'll
smooth things over with Natalie.

CORBIN

Hey, I'm on the team.

JEREMY

Good.

CORBIN

And I don't take sides.

JEREMY

What do you mean?

CORBIN

I mean when J.J. says stuff about you
guys. I don't, you know, I don't come
back with stuff.

JEREMY

What kind of stuff?

CORBIN

The usual stuff.

JEREMY

I don't know what that is.

CORBIN

Don't worry about it.

JEREMY

Okay.

CORBIN

Take it easy.

JEREMY

You'll work harder?

CORBIN

Hey, I blew the thing last night, all
right? Enough is enough.

JEREMY

All right.

JEREMY GOES OFF AS WE

CUT TO:

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44.
(2/J)

ACT TWO

(J)

INT. STUDIO/CONTROL ROOM/CORRIDOR/STUDIO/CONTROL ROOM - NIGHT:
11:15PM - (NIGHT 2)

(Dan, Casey, Isaac, Dana, Jeremy, Natalie, Kim, Elliot,
Chris, Will, Dave, Tina, Atmosphere)

TINA

...trying to break a four game losing
streak and at 3-9 and 2, their worst
start in franchise history. Let's go
to the second period highlights where--

CASEY COMES INTO THE STUDIO--

CASEY

Hey, I'm back.

DANA

When are you getting the names?

CASEY

Any minute. I'm gonna go stake out the
fax machine.

CASEY STARTS TO GO--

NATALIE

Whoa, whoa. Give 'em up.

CASEY REACHES INTO HIS COAT POCKET AND TOSSES NATALIE A
SMALL BAG OF SOMETHING.

NATALIE (CONT'D)

They only gave you one?

CASEY REACHES INTO HIS COAT AND TOSSES HER ANOTHER ONE.

(MORE)

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45.
(2/J)

NATALIE (CONT'D)

Thank you.

CASEY EXITS.

NATALIE (CONT'D)

(EXPLAINING) Honey roasted peanuts.

DANA

You can buy 'em in a store, you know.

NATALIE

This is better.

JEREMY ENTERS--

JEREMY

Hi.

NATALIE

Did you do it?

JEREMY

Do you have a second?

NATALIE

(TO DANA) Do I have a second?

DANA

Yes.

NATALIE

Don't eat the peanuts.

DAVE

Stand by 22.

NATALIE AND JEREMY GO OUT INTO--

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46.
(2/5)

INT. CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS - (NIGHT 2)

NATALIE

Did you do it?

JEREMY

Did I fire him?

NATALIE

Yes.

JEREMY

Yes.

NATALIE

Good.

JEREMY

I did it--

NATALIE

Yes.

JEREMY

But not really.

NATALIE

Put a pair of tights and a party dress
on you, you're one pretty little girl.

JEREMY

As a matter of fact you're wrong. As a
matter of fact I happen to be the only
person here who isn't acting
emotionally.

(MORE)

JEREMY (cont'd)

I'm the one who's saying, "Yes,
they're bullies and we've never gotten
along and the lines were drawn long
before I got here, but for the sake of
self-preservation, why not try to make
it work." I'm throwin' 'em one. I'm
saying let's let this one thing not be
a hassle.

NATALIE

What'd he say when you talked to him?

JEREMY

He said he'd try harder.

NATALIE

Did he?

JEREMY

Yes.

NATALIE

Really?

JEREMY

Those weren't his exact words, but--

NATALIE

What were his exact words.

JEREMY

Get off my back. (BEAT) That's not me
saying that, I'm saying those were his
exact words.

NATALIE

He's your responsibility, Jeremy, do
what you want. He screws up again,
it's my responsibility.

JEREMY

Got it.

NATALIE

Jeremy?

JEREMY

Yeah.

NATALIE

Being emotional about their work never
killed anybody.

JEREMY

My point was--

NATALIE

I know what your point was. I'm loyal
to Isaac, I'm loyal to Dana and I'm
loyal to the show.

JEREMY

And I am too.

NATALIE

Good.

NATALIE GOES BACK IN--

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49.
(2/J)

INT. STUDIO/CONTROL ROOM - CONTINUOUS - (NIGHT 2)

TINA

...and we'll be bringin' you all the
action live from Watkins Glen
International Motor Speedway, this
Saturday at one, ten o'clock pacific.

DAN

Don't go away, Tina and I've got lots
more comin' up including news from the
Indiana Pacers. You're watching Sports
Night on CSC, so stick around.

DAVE

We're out.

KIM

Two minutes back.

TINA

It's going well.

DAN

Yeah.

TINA

You don't think it's going well?

DAN

I do.

TINA

Really?

DAN

Yeah.

TINA

Danny--

DAN

I think it's going very well, but rather than, you know, banter with you, I think I'll just leave it at that.

TINA

Dan, it's not like if you chat with me I'm gonna go home with you.

DAN

(PAUSE) Why not?

TINA

What?

DAN

Never mind.

TINA

Dan, you're having a bad night.

DAN

Yes, but could we just chalk it up to that and not, you know, come to a general conclusion about me as a result of it?

TINA

(PAUSE) I hardly ever understand what
you're saying.

DAN

I've gotten that before.

TINA

Try and keep it together, huh?

DAN

Sure.

TINA GETS UP FROM THE DESK AND DAN WALKS OVER TO WHERE
ISAAC IS STANDING AT A MONITOR.

ISAAC

She's doing well.

DAN

Yes.

ISAAC

What's wrong.

DAN

She thinks I'm crazy.

ISAAC

You are crazy.

DAN

You're not helping.

ISAAC

I wasn't trying to.

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52.
(2/5)

DAN

Abby thinks my flirting is unhealthy.

ELLIOT HANDS ISAAC A PAPER TO SIGN.

ISAAC

Who's Abby?

DAN

My therapist. Are you paying
attention?

ISAAC

No.

DAN

The thing is, she may have a point.

ISAAC

Who?

DAN

Abby.

ISAAC

Danny?

DAN

Yeah.

ISAAC

You're not flirting with me right now,
right?

DAN

No.

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53.
(2/J)

ISAAC

Good.

DAN

I'm sayin'--

ISAAC

'Cause that'd just be strange.

DAN

I know.

ISAAC

Not that I wouldn't be flattered.

DAN

Sure.

ISAAC

But it'd still be weird.

DAN

I hear ya.

ISAAC

Though I'll say this, you're a
handsome young man, Danny.

DAN

Stop it now.

ISAAC

What exactly is your problem?

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54.
(2/J)

DAN

I'd like to, you know, get my
reputation back with Tina as a fun and
desirable person.

ISAAC

I'll bet that's gonna go well.

DAN

You think?

ISAAC

Oh yeah.

ISAAC WALKS AWAY AS DAN GOES BACK TO THE DESK AND WE

CUT TO:

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55.
(2/K)

ACT TWO

(K)

INT. EDITING ROOM - NIGHT: 11:20PM - (NIGHT 2)
(Jeremy, Corbin, Intern, Atmosphere)

CORBIN'S STILL THERE WITH HIS FRIENDS AS JEREMY COMES IN--

JEREMY

Hey.

CORBIN

Hey, Jeremy.

JEREMY

You know our show is actually on right
now.

CORBIN

We just switched it for a second.

JEREMY

I stuck up for you. Everything's cool.
I just want to know that you're really
gonna make an effort.

CORBIN

I will.

JEREMY

I put myself on the line for you.

CORBIN

I'll tell that to J.J.

JEREMY

Tell it to whoever you want, but do a
better job around here.

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56.
(2/K)

CORBIN

Okay.

JEREMY

(BEAT) What were the things he said?

CORBIN

Who?

JEREMY

J.J. About the show. What were the things he's been saying?

CORBIN

Stuff.

JEREMY

Does he talk badly about Isaac or Dana?

CORBIN

Everyone, I guess.

JEREMY

Me?

CORBIN

C'mon, man--

JEREMY

Never mind. Just get back to work.

CORBIN

He says Natalie's a nice piece of tail.

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57.
(2/K)

JEREMY

You're fired.

CORBIN

What're you--

JEREMY

You're totally fired.

INTERN

He was just--

JEREMY

You guys really want to back this
horse?

THERE'S SILENCE.

JEREMY (CONT'D)

Get out.

THE TWO INTERNS LEAVE.

JEREMY (CONT'D)

You're fired. I'm firing you. Tell
J.J. I'm the one who did it.

JEREMY EXITS AS WE

CUT TO:

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58.
(2/L)

ACT TWO

(L)

INT. STUDIO/CONTROL ROOM - NIGHT: 11:27PM - (NIGHT 2)
(Dan, Dana, Tina, Atmosphere)

DAN AND TINA ARE AT THE ANCHOR DESK.

DAN

You know what would make this a lot
easier?

TINA

What a lot easier?

DAN

Me, you know, being alive right now.

TINA

What?

DAN

If you'd just reassure me that you've
had a good time being here tonight.

TINA

I'm being paid to be here.

DAN

I know. But you're gonna tell your
friends that you liked it, right?

TINA

My friends?

DAN

The girls.

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59.
(2/L)

TINA

Which girls?

DAN

(BEAT) The girls in, you know, Danny's
world of fantasy and psychosis.

TINA

Dan, you need to get into therapy.

DAN

I'm in therapy.

TINA

You need more.

DAN

I'm not sure how much more I can take.

DANA SPEAKS INTO HER HEADSET

DANA

Dan?

DAN

Yeah.

DANA

Casey's getting the fax right now. The
story's gonna be up on the prompter,
just fill in the names.

DAN

Is it exclusive.

DANA

The Ohio trip paid off.

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60.
(2/L)

THERE'S SILENCE AT THE DESK FOR A MOMENT BEFORE...

DAN

Can I ask you something?

TINA

Is it creepy?

DAN

No.

TINA

Go ahead.

DAN

Don't you think my obsessive need to
get you to like me has less to do with
my parents and more to do with the
fact that you look good? (PAUSE) Or is
that what you meant by creepy?

TINA

Yeah.

DAN

I'll stay over here.

TINA

Thanks.

CUT TO:

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61.
(2/M)

ACT TWO

(M)

INT. NEWSROOM/STUDIO/CONTROL ROOM -NIGHT: 11:30PM - (NIGHT 2)
(Dan, Casey, Dana, Jeremy, Natalie, Kim, Elliot, Chris, Will,
Dave, Atmosphere)

CASEY STANDS BY A FAX MACHINE, READING A PRINTOUT THAT'S
COMING THROUGH, AS JEREMY COMES BY.

JEREMY

I fired Corbin Davis.

CASEY'S STARING AT THE FAX.

JEREMY (CONT'D)

Did it myself. (BEAT) Did it myself
and I'd do it again. Nobody calls me
Jocelyn. (BEAT) Are those the names?

CASEY HANDS THE LIST TO JEREMY, WHO LOOKS IT OVER, THEN
LOOKS UP AT CASEY. CASEY TAKES THE FAX BACK AND HEADS INTO

INT. STUDIO/CONTROL ROOM - CONTINUOUS - (NIGHT 2)

AS CASEY COMES IN--

DANA

You got it?

CASEY

Yeah, listen...

DANA

(INTO MIC) Here it is, Dan.

CASEY

Dana--

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62.
(2/M)

DANA

Hang on. "Tommy Reed". "Clifton
White". "Zachary Armstrong".

DANA'S ABOUT TO READ THE NEXT NAME WHEN SHE STOPS SHORT.

DAN

Dana?

DANA'S STARING STRAIGHT AHEAD...

DAN (CONT'D)

Dana, that's only three.

DANA LOOKS UP AT CASEY...

DANA

I'm gonna call my parents.

CASEY

Go ahead.

DAN

Dana?

CASEY

(INTO MIC) It's her brother, Danny,
It's Kyle Whitaker. Orlando Cortez,
Corey MaCrane and Warren Green.

DAN GIVES IT A RESPECTFUL REACTION...

DANA

(INTO PHONE) Mom? It's me. Listen,
turn off your TV.

DAVE

In three...two...

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63.
(2/M)

DAN

Welcome back, we've got breaking news.

Sources are reporting to CSC that

League officials are questioning seven

players in connection with drug

charges which, if proven true...

FADE TO BLACK.

END OF SHOW