



# “BACK ON TRACK”

FOOTBALL LIKE YOU’VE NEVER SEEN IT BEFORE

*AN INTIMATE LOOK INSIDE A FIRST YEAR SEMI PRO FOOTBALL TEAM IN A TOWN NO ONE HAS EVER HEAR OF*

CREATED BY: KYLE ROMANEK  
PRODUCTION COMPANY: KAPOW VIDEO



# THE CONTEXT

## URBAN DICTIONARY DESCRIPTION OF BRUNSWICK, MD

"A small, hick, railroad town where everyone knows each others business within a matter of 0.5 seconds. There are a total of about three restaurants to eat. Many locals/ burnouts/ underage pregnant girls work at the Superfresh or McDonald's. The Kim Weddle is the most hoppin spot for all the G's and ballas.

*'Hills, whores and liquor stores'* is the motto of the town. Go Roaders."

# WHY THIS STORY?

Never has a football story been told in this way. The camera is a character all the way onto the field. It is a love letter to football with a goal to inspire players of all ages and remind them that the journey doesn't have to end after high school, or even college. Whether you are 18 or 57, there is a place for you in semi-pro football and an opportunity to rewrite history and battle out your demons in the trenches.





# WHAT DOES A LOVE LETTER TO FOOTBALL MEAN?

I would watch this film before every football game growing up. It's attention to detail is something that you rarely see in modern football films. This is the feeling of football.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y6iVHelTR9c&t=83s>





# OVERVIEW & LOGLINE

What does football mean to those who thought they would never play another snap?

## APPARENTLY EVERYTHING.

“BACK ON TRACK” (*working title*) is a feature documentary that follows the journey of the Brunswick Railroaders Semi-Pro Football team as they attempt to finish their story on the football field. The film is an honest objective depiction of small town football the likes of “Last Chance U” and the personal dramas of “Minding the Gap.” Some players have just graduated high school and others are nearing retirement. No matter the age gap, race or personal histories, the team must learn to come together as one unit under the guidance of on one of Brunswick’s most celebrated and since retired coaches. The film tackles a host of topics such as drug and alcohol addiction, absent fathers, brain damage and most importantly what it means to be a man. Oh, and there’s a murder.

It doesn’t get more personal than this.







# WHY SUPPORT THIS FILM?

Believe it or not there aren't many football films that are hyper focused on the love of the game. There also aren't many football films about Semi Professional football. Most football stories rely on their audience to have a pre-established passion and relationship with the game whereas this film should be accessible to non-football fans and fans alike.

Growing up I watched an NFL Films produced movie called "NFL Rocks" before every football game. I watched this film all the way into college. It showcased four quarters of football in a high energy music video style montage that truly immersed you in the game. This is the experience I am attempting to capture. You're placed in the shoes of an ex-player who has forgotten how to play the game and through rigorous training and some patient coaching he assists the team to a successful first season as a program.

When I moved back to Maryland, I started thrusting myself into the local football culture. Filming high school teams on the weekends and telling the stories of young players, boys becoming men. Making high-end cinematic experiences for local teams. On one hand I was selfishly absorbing the experience of the game through my headphones with coaches in one ear and players in the other. On another hand I was technically and financially unprepared, running up and down the field with a massive camera on my shoulder in the rain as a one man band making compromises every time a lavalier frequency cut out, peaked or even shattered. It was enough for me to offer my own talents to the team for no money but worse yet to be solely financially responsible every time gear didn't work or broke. Affording and managing storage for 4k media from full games and lacking funds to hire other camera men limited my creative options in post.

This time around I am playing the game and can only film when I am off the field. The Semi-Pro team is a non profit organization that survives on fundraising and limited ticket sales during the pandemic. They have just enough funding for jerseys and field rentals. To cover the sheer complexities of football comparable to something like "Last Chance U," it requires funding. I am one year into the making of this documentary and with more than enough character and location exposition to set up the first act leading into the official first full season of football for the team. Securing these funds would allow us to tell a fully immersive story like never seen before.



# THE STORY

“BACK ON TRACK” follows the journey of 4-6 Semi-Pro football players ages 18-57 as they return to football one last time to reclaim their youth. Each player has a reason for stepping back onto the field. For many it’s just for the love of the game and for others it’s much more personal. This is an objective and personal story that reveals hard truths about players and coaches as they navigate fatherhood, societal challenges including an on-going pandemic and develop their abilities on and off the field to be the best version of themselves.

Brunswick, MD is the home of the Railroaders. The small town (population 6,258) is located on the north bank of the Potomac River. It’s unique Railroader mascot wielding a maul represents a history as a commuter town once run entirely by the railroad economy.

The film is narrated by the filmmaker, an ex-Brunswick football player who returns to his home town amid the pandemic from a career in Hollywood full of shame and in need of new purpose. When he catches wind of a start up semi-pro football team in his home town, he grabs his camera and shows up to their first practice. It was a disaster. Players vaping in the huddle, a lack of leadership, the team was player-coached and overall dysfunctional. Following the team and players intimately through their first unofficial season during COVID, the stakes and conflicts were increasing rapidly. These are grown men with families and jobs on the line. The founder struggles to keep the team together and mitigate player conduct as personal relationships and business clashes with issues such as lack of attendance, domestic violence and even a murder. Under new coaching the 2021 season is underway and the filmmaker is taking the field for the first time in 10 years.







# THE CHARACTERS



# BRIAN SWIGER

## FOUNDER/ RECEIVER

A 46-YEAR-OLD BACHELOR, EX-DIRT TRACK RACER AND COAST GUARD CONTRACTOR WHO IF GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO RETURN TO HIGH SCHOOL WOULD PROBABLY CONSIDER IT. EVEN WHILE IN HAWAII ON A WORK TRIP HE CAN'T HELP BUT THINK OF HIS BELOVED RAILROAD TOWN AND FOMO FROM HIS SEMI PRO TEAM.

SWIGER ASSEMBLED AN EXCITING ALUMNI GAME IN 2018 WITH PLAYERS OF ALL AGES INCLUDING HIS SON. AFTER THE SUCCESS OF THE GAME HE IMMEDIATELY STARTED THE SEMI-PRO TEAM TO RECLAIM HIS GLORY DAYS. LITTLE DID HE KNOW HE WOULD SOON HAVE TO KEEP THE TRAIN ON THE TRACKS AS HE NAVIGATES CONTROL OVER THE TEAM, COVID-19 AND EVEN A MURDER.



# KYLE ROMANEK

THE FILM WILL BE NARRATED AND CONSTRUCTED FROM THE VIEWPOINT OF A 29-YEAR-OLD FILMMAKER AND EX-BRUNSWICK FOOTBALL PLAYER WHO RETURNS HOME FROM HOLLYWOOD AND LIVES WITH HIS MOM AMID THE COVID 19 PANDEMIC. HE IS FULL OF SHAME AND FEELS LIKE A FAILURE OF A MAN IN DESPERATE NEED OF NEW PURPOSE. THAT IS UNTIL HE DISCOVERS BRUNSWICK SEMI-PRO FOOTBALL AND DECIDES TO SUIT UP FOR ONE FINAL RIDE WITH HIS HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL COACH WHOM HE ABANDONED HIS SENIOR YEAR. THROUGHOUT THE DOCUMENTARY THE FILMMAKERS STORY WILL SUBTLY UNRAVEL BOTH IN THE PRESENT AND PAST USING THE CAMERA AS A CHARACTER AND STORIES FROM FRIENDS AND FAMILY TO REVEAL THE ABSENCE OF A FATHER FIGURE, HIS RAPIDLY ADVANCING LOVE LIFE AND ULTIMATELY LEARNING HOW TO BE A BETTER MAN AND LEAVE HIS PAST BEHIND.

# ZAVAE JOHNSON

## AKA “HOLLYWOOD”

A FATHER OF THREE CHILDREN WITH THREE DIFFERENT WOMAN AND LONG TIME SEMI-PRO PLAYER. ZAVAE AKA “HOLLYWOOD” IS COCKY ON AND OFF THE FIELD. AFTER AN ACL TEAR FROM FOOTBALL, ZAVAE SUFFERED DEPRESSION A DRUG ADDICTION. A FRIEND AND NOW PLAYER ON THE TEAM HELPED GET ZAVAE BACK ON TO THE FIELD . COMING INTO THE 2021 SEASON UNDER A NEW COACH AND MORE STRUCTURE, HOLLYWOOD’S COCKINESS WILL NOT BE TOLERATED. IT IS NO LONGER ABOUT ME BUT ABOUT WE.







# TIMMY PRIVETTE

ON THE SURFACE TIMMY IS A GOOFBALL. A CLASS CLOWN PERSONALITY WITH SOMETHING TO PROVE. BEING A SUBJECT TO BULLYING FOR INDIFFERENCES AT A YOUNG AGE HE MASKS HIS PAIN WITH HUMOR. SHOW UP ON ANY GIVEN DAY AND YOU'LL FIND TIMMY VAPING IN THE HUDDLE AND CRACKING JOKES. THIS TENDS TO KEEP THE TEAMS MORALE HIGH.

GROWING UP IN BRUNSWICK AND BATTLING PERSONAL DEMONS WITH HIS FAMILY, TIMMY'S STORY IS THE STUFF OF HOLLYWOOD. HE'S JUST A CHARACTER THAT YOU CAN'T IGNORE.

# EVAN KAY

HE'S A CHIROPRACTOR WITH A WIFE AND KIDS PUTTING HIS BODY ON THE LINE FOR ONE MORE OPPORTUNITY TO SUIT UP. WITH AN ANXIETY MONSTER BEING DEVoured BY AN OCTOPUS ON HIS RIGHT ARM, HE HAS OVERCOME ADVERSITY AT EVERY CORNER OF HIS LIFE. AS A MEMBER OF THE SEMI-PRO FOOTBALL BOARD, EVAN DOESN'T HAVE TIME FOR PLAYERS EXCUSES WHEN THEY DON'T SHOW UP TO PLAY. BULLSHIT SHOULD WILL NOT BE TOLERATED NO MATTER THE COST.



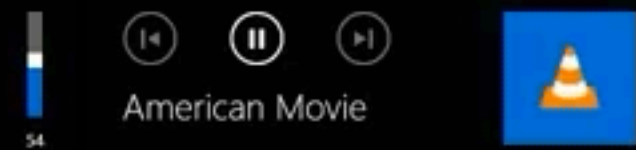
# TAZ WEDGEWORTH

A FIREFIGHTER, FATHER AND ONE OF THE BEST RECEIVERS ON THE TEAM. HE'S SENSITIVE, HANDSOME AND QUITE FRANKLY HIS STORY HAS YET TO EMERGE BUT THERE IS NO DOUBT IN MY MIND THAT IT WILL BE TOUCHING.



# NARRATION INSPIRATION

This opening sequence to the documentary film “American Movie.” It sets the tone for a character down on his luck with big dreams in a small town. Combining this style with more camera



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZnMUhgdh63w>



# THANK YOU!

HERE IS A TEASER FOR THE FILM

<https://vimeo.com/581238908/5ba7409f9f>