

Game Day Decisions

A skit by Dwayne Yancey

Selected from his collection, "Skits 24/7"

Cast: 3 m, 1 w

Length: 4 ½ pages of dialogue (809 words)

Performance time: About 2 minutes

The Story

Stan and Tony are rooting for the Jets while John, who's just arrived, starts rooting for the Steelers. When they ask him why, he says he never roots for "Northern" teams. As the guys question him further, John reveals his complicated method of determining which team to support. It seems totally illogical until Trisha enters and starts rabidly rooting for one of the teams for her own reasons.

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“Game Day Decisions”

(3 males, 1 female)

*(Two guys, STAN AND TONY, are watching a football game.
A third, JOHN, has just arrived.)*

JOHN: Hey, guys. Sorry I'm late. What'd I miss?

STAN: Not much.

TONY: No score, but the Jets are driving. They're down
about the twenty-yard line.

STAN: All right, gotta have a first down here, guys. Just
punch it up the middle like you've been doing.

*(STAN and TONY react negatively to a bad play for their team;
JOHN reacts positively. These three lines are more or less
simultaneous.)*

TONY: Oh, what was that? What was he thinking?

STAN: All right, shake it off. Still just third down.

JOHN: Yes! Way to put the stop on 'em!

(TONY and STAN look at JOHN, who looks back at them.)

TONY: You're not rooting for the Steelers, are you?

JOHN: You're rooting for the Jets?

TONY: Of course.

STAN: All right, let's not get fancy this time. Just some good
old smashmouth will get it done.

JOHN: So why are you rooting for the Jets?

STAN: Underdog. I always root for the underdog. No! Not a pass play! Not on third and one! Geez!

JOHN: How about you?

TONY: Have to. I'm from New York.

JOHN: Oh, yeah, I guess so.

STAN: Well, I guess we'll have to settle for a field goal. I told you, they should have just run it right up the middle.

TONY: So why are you rooting for the Steelers?

JOHN: Have to. It's my rule.

TONY: What's your rule?

JOHN: I never root for Northern teams.

TONY: You never root for Northern teams? What's with that?

JOHN: Well, I'm a Southerner. I always root for Southern teams.

STAN: All right, this ought to be a gimme. Three points, guys. Three points. Let's get something on the board here.

TONY: Pittsburgh's not Southern.

JOHN: No, but it's more Southern than New York.

STAN: The snap's good.

TONY: So what if Pittsburgh's playing Philadelphia?

STAN: The hold's good.

TONY: Do you try to figure out which one has the southernmost latitude?

STAN: He's got his plant foot down —

TONY: Is it latitude or longitude? I can never remember.

STAN: Looking good, looking good —

JOHN: Well, Philadelphia's more culturally Northeastern than Pittsburgh. So I'd still root for Pittsburgh.

STAN: The crossbar! He hits the bleeping crossbar! Geez!

TONY: So you've really got this anti-Northern thing going, don't you?

JOHN: It's nothing personal. Just my rule.

STAN: They pay the guy millions of dollars and he can't make a stupid gimme field goal.

TONY: Your rule, huh?

JOHN: Well, it helps me figure out who to root for.

STAN: Hey, you seen this beer commercial? It's pretty funny.

TONY: So anything under the Mason-Dixon Line is fair game then, huh?

JOHN: Well, I don't root for Baltimore.

STAN: I just love this one.

TONY: What's wrong with Baltimore?

JOHN: They used to be in Cleveland. I don't root for teams that have moved.

STAN: You wanna hand me those chips?

TONY: So you don't root for the Indianapolis Colts?

JOHN: Never. No way.

TONY: And the Rams are out?

JOHN: They've been all over: Cleveland, LA, St. Louis.

TONY: Arizona Cardinals?

JOHN: Same.

TONY: What about the Raiders? They moved.

JOHN: Yeah, but they moved to LA and then moved back to Oakland.

TONY: So that makes it OK?

JOHN: Yeah, moving back to Oakland cancelled it out. But the Chargers are OK.

JOHN: *(Continued.)* They started out in LA, but I grant them an exception because they didn't leave the city in the lurch 'cuz the Rams were still there at the time. Besides, the Chargers were an AFL team, so they barely count anyway.

TONY: So any other, um, rules you have about who to root for?

JOHN: I never root for Dallas.

TONY: What's wrong with Dallas? Texas is a Southern state. And the Cowboys have never moved.

JOHN: Yeah, but look how they treated Tom Landry. That was pretty shabby the way they fired him after all those years.

TONY: So one clumsy personnel move and you're out?

JOHN: Sure. And I always root for Green Bay, no matter what. Gotta root for a team that's got community ownership.

TONY: So what if Dallas plays New York. Who would you root for then?

JOHN: Oh, man, don't make it complicated, OK? All right, here we go. Steelers' ball. Let's go guys!

STAN: Come on, Jets, let's see some big D! Shut 'em down! You can do it.

(TRISHA enters.)

TRISHA: Hey, guys, who's playing?

TONY: Hey, Trisha.

JOHN: Jets and the Steelers.

TONY: So who are you rooting for?

End of Freeview

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