

Between the Pylons Podcast Proposal

Brayton Slusser

Co-Host/Analyst: Will Kline

Guest Host: Daniel Gallagher

There is absolutely no denying that the 2021 NFL season has gotten off to a rather odd start, especially looking back at the games from the last month with several teams mounting unexpected losses and season threatening injuries. As a result, the NFL playoffs picture is far from what we fans had anticipated back in week one, and ultimately teams across the league require reanalysis regarding their chances of making it to the playoffs and even the Super Bowl in general.

As young sports enthusiasts, who are die-hard fans of two teams in the AFC East, my friend Will and I believe that it would be beneficial, from the standpoint of aspiring sports journalists and general enthusiasts, to take an in-depth look at the playoff picture for the 2021 NFL season, where we can discuss and debate which teams currently have the best odds of making it to the playoffs this year. While it would be intriguing in a normal NFL season to look at a specific football conferences like the AFC South or the NFC West, I think analyzing the NFL as whole would be much easier and insightful.

To that end, I came up with the idea to create a podcast that varies from the typical sports commentary show, where it would contain methodical and passionate debate between myself, Will, and possible third guest, but avoid being consumed by a drawn-out shouting match. Most of the time when NFL teams are debated on television, there's either too much yelling and/or not enough content to provide to give any actual reasoning for their predictions, which is why I wanted to combine elements from a typical pre/post-game show with those my favorite podcasts

such as Achievement Hunter's "Off Topic" and Mike Rowe's "The Way I Heard It", which are, for the most part, unrelated to sports, but still entertaining in their own regard. "Off Topic" is known for simply being an hour long program where the cast just converses with each other for an hour with a brief outline acting as a guide, and although the subjects are often far from being termed "intellectual", there is still a lot of entertainment in watching five friends talk about whatever comes to mind. My primary basis for this podcast was that it should be "three friends sitting on a sofa debating sports", and moreover, there shouldn't be a set program or script for the show because the raw conversations between the three of us will have better content than they would if they were preset or filtered. Merely basing this project on "Off Topic" however, I felt would become unorganized and chaotic, and as the host I felt responsible for maintaining a calmer and more intellectual demeanor than my co-host and guests. For inspiration, I looked to one of the most profound narrators and hosts in the world of television, Mike Rowe, who has his own podcast called "The Way I Heard It" in which, he tells ambiguous stories about celebrities and historical figure of all ages and eras, but only reveals the person's identity at the very end. Each time, the story, its structure, and the word choice change, yet somehow Rowe can maintain this calm, almost father like tone, and has the listener hooked until the very end. While Mike Rowe's podcast structure would be not an inspiration for "Between the Pylons", his hosting abilities were, leading me to speak slower and more thoroughly during the recording of the first episode, which was a nice contrast to Will, who tended to be much more vocal and speak more frequently than Dan or myself, which is something that will be taken into factor for future recordings.

Sponsorships for the podcast weren't a serious discussion during the creation of "Between the Pylons" simply because we were certain that we would not want to create a second

episode, however, due to our surprising enjoyment this element is now being reexamined. I feel that the HWS college store would be an appropriate sponsor, since they sell school merch and would be a direct line to the podcast's home base at Hobart and William Smith Colleges, but I also don't think that a more open-ended podcast should be tied to the image and likeness of the college I am attending. The content of the show is clean and without risk, but I feel that it would be safer to work with sponsors that frequently look to internet sensations as a means of marketing their products, such as Express VPN, Reycon, and small mobile games (aside from Raid Shadow Legends). That being said, I don't think these companies would look to us for marketing until our podcast grows in popularity and possibly even production.

Episode #1:

Recorded: November 20th 2021

- Playoff Debate and Predictions:
 - Current Division Leaders
 - AFC:
 - Titans
 - Derrick Henry injury
 - AP stepping in as a replacement
 - (possible harm to sal. cap?)
 - Chiefs
 - Picking up Flash Gordon
 - Bills
 - Loss to Jaguars
 - Ravens
 - Patriots
 - Mack Jones
 - NFC:
 - Cowboys
 - “Dak is back”
 - Defense
 - Cardinals
 - Kyler Murray and D Hop injured
 - Rams
 - Matt Stafford
 - Cooper Kupp
 - Von Miller
 - OBJ
 - Packers
 - Aaron Rodgers
 - Widespread injuries
 - Special teams difficulties (??)
 - Buccaneers
 - Brady
 - Evans
 - Ali Marpet
 - Antonio Brown
 - Injuries
 - Gronk
 - Chris Godwin
 - Jason Pierre-Paul
- Will and Brayton’s Predictions:
 - Will [insert here]

- Brayton [Insert here]

- Dan [Insert here]

- **(IF TIME)** Discuss rising star Quarterbacks
 - Mack Jones
 - Joe Burrow
 - Jordan Love
 - Trevor Lawrence