

FADE IN:

INT. DAY - JOE LOUIS ARENA - DETROIT, MI - DRAFT DAY (1992)

Thousands of hopefuls and their families occupy the lower bowl seating in Joe Louis Arena. The crowd awaits the upcoming name to be announced in the 1992 Junior Hockey Entry Draft.

A sea of team booths occupy the arena floor as team executives and general managers mull over their next draft choice.

The entire room focuses on a gigantic octagon stage in the middle of the floor where an announcer reaches down and takes a card from a Caladony Crock executive.

KELLY MILLER sits crunched over in his chair and wipes the sweat off his forehead. He reaches back and adjusts his suit jacket which is sticking to his soaked button down shirt. Kelly quickly glances around at the other nervous seventeen year olds who are biting their nails in anticipation.

The announcer begins to speak causing Kelly's eyes to revert to the stage.

ANNOUNCER

And in the third round, the Caladony
Cocks select from Detroit,
Michigan....Kelly Miller.

The words seem to hit Kelly in the chest as he takes a big sigh of relief and stands up. He reaches out and hugs his father and gives his mother a kiss before walking down to the stage.

Kelly reaches the podium and is greeted by the General Manager/Coach of the Caladony organization, COACH TEMPLE. Coach Temple hands Kelly a Crock sweater and he proceeds to pull it over his suit jacket. The two men shake hands as a photographer snaps a picture.

INSERT - PICTURE

BACK TO SCENE

Coach Temple pats Kelly on the back and steps down from the stage.

1

Kelly breaths in the applause and glances up at the giant scoreboard.

INSERT - SCOREBOARD

The scoreboard flashes in big lights: Caladony Crocks select Kelly Miller-3rd Round.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. MILLER'S CAR - DAY (1992)

MR. MILLER taps the steering wheel to the beat of a song that is playing on the radio as he drives down the highway. Kelly peers out of the passenger side window at the passing scenery. Mr. Miller notices his son's quiet behavior.

MR. MILLER

What are you thinking about?

KELLY

The closer we get to Caladony, the further away I'll be from the Motor City.

MR. MILLER

Detroit and all of your friends will still be there when you get back in nine months. So don't worry. Besides, seventeen of the other boys drafted to Caladony will be going through the same thing you are. You're all going to be in the same boat together.

KELLY

Yes, I know. I think I'm just anxious to get on the ice and claim one of the five spots available.

MR. MILLER

That's what I like to hear. Now Kelly, it's extremely important that you keep your focus up here. Don't get caught up with the wrong crowd. People know where you're headed son. Just make sure you don't forget where you're headed. You're going to Caladony to play your game. Do that and we'll be sitting at Madison Square Gardens for the big draft at the end of the year.

KELLY

Relax pops. I've been waiting for this opportunity my entire life.

MR. MILLER

I know you have. I'm just making sure. One last thing to remember Kelly.

KELLY

What's that?

Mr. Miller takes his eyes off the road and looks Kelly in the eyes.

MR. MILLER

You'll never be at this stage in your life again. You only get one shot at this.

Kelly nods and turns his head towards the window.

A sign passes reading: Caladony Population 30000.

EXT. JOHNSTONE'S HOUSE - DAY

The Millers pull into the Johnstone's driveway.

KELLY

Where are we?

MR. MILLER

We're at your billet's house. The team has arranged for you to live here while you're in Caladony. This family will be responsible for taking care of you when you're away from the team.

The Millers exit the car and proceed to walk up the driveway to the front door. Kelly rings the doorbell and FRAN JOHNSTONE answers. She's wearing tight "mom" jeans and a T-shirt that reads "Country Rocks". Kelly notices her front teeth are crooked and a couple are missing from her head.

FRAN JOHNSTONE

Hi! I'm Fran. You must be Kelly. Come on in.

Kelly and Mr. Miller look at each other and enter the Johnstone home.

CUT TO:

INT. JOHNSTONE'S HOUSE - DAY

The Johnstones and Millers sit around a circular kitchen table and look at each other. A Garth Brooks record plays in the background as Fran Johnstone rises out of her chair.

FRAN JOHNSTONE

I'll begin by introducing everybody.
This is my husband Eddie.

EDDIE JOHNSTONE nods at the Millers. Eddie's a very skinny man with a bushy mustache and flat hair. In his wife's presence, it appears Eddie does not wear the pants in the family.

FRAN JOHNSTONE (CONT'D)

My son Timmy.

TIMMY JOHNSTONE gives a thumbs up gesture to the Millers. He wears a sling on his left arm and his hair and skin appear to be extremely greasy. He appears to be roughly around fourteen years old.

FRAN JOHNSTONE (CONT'D)

And last but not least, my daughter Jenna.

JENNA JOHNSTONE releases a wry little smile at the Millers. She is a surprisingly good looking nineteen year old girl. She tosses her blond tresses over her shoulder and looks at Kelly.

Mr. Miller disrupts Jenna's "Farah Fawcett" moment.

MR. MILLER

Well it's very nice to meet all of you.
I'm sure Kelly is going to be very comfortable here. I want to thank your family for taking him into your home.

FRAN JOHNSTONE

Oh don't mention it. The team gives us a hundred dollars a week for him to stay with us and fifty percent off season tickets.

MR. MILLER

That's super.

Mr. Miller looks down at Timmy's sling.

MR. MILLER (CONT'D)

(to Timmy)

What happened to your arm Timmy?

Fran interjects.

FRAN JOHNSTONE

Oh Timmy was public skating and he fell into the boards. The doctor said it's just a sprain but the poor boy can't shower for five weeks.

KELLY

Why don't you throw a plastic bag over it?

TIMMY JOHNSTONE

I don't want to take the chance of getting it wet.

FRAN JOHNSTONE

Timmy has a hockey career to think about too. He just started playing this year and I think he might have what it takes to make the NHL.

Kelly tries to hold in his laughter.

EDDIE JOHNSTONE

Are you guys hungry? We have some Pizza Pops in the fridge.

Kelly really tries to hold in his laughter.

MR. MILLER

Oh that's OK. We have to actually get on the road now. The team is holding a meet and greet down at the rink before tryouts, so we'd better be going. Kelly will see you later tonight.

FRAN JOHNSTONE

(shaking her head)

We all go to the Midnight Bingo so we'll see you tomorrow. Good luck at the rink Kelly.

The Millers exit the Johnstone's house and close the door.

CUT TO:

EXT. JOHNSTONE'S HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

The Millers stand on the Johnstone's porch. Mr. Miller looks over at Kelly and they both begin to laugh.

INT. CALADONY CROCK CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

Parents and rookies sit in singular chairs awaiting Coach Temple's appearance at the official Crock Welcome. Returning veteran players occupy the seats in front of the parents and rookies. The room is loud due to the vet players catching up with each other's summer events.

Coach Temple enters the room. As the coach makes his way to the centre of the room, veteran player Kevin "DIVER" Duff, leans back in his chair and turns to Kelly.

DIVER
(smirking)
Your father's in for a good show.

Kelly is unsure of his response to the comment so he smiles and nods.

Coach Temple addresses the room and extends his arms.

COACH TEMPLE
(with a loud voice)
To our returning players in the front and to our new family members in the back: Welcome to the Crock family.

The rookie parents clap their hands rigorously.

The applause dies.

COACH TEMPLE (CONT'D)
(with a loud voice)
For those who don't know me, my name is Rick Temple and I'm the Coach and General Manager of the Caladony Crock organization. The man standing to my left is Assistant Coach James...

He points to ASSISTANT COACH JAMES who raises his hand to salute the audience.

COACH TEMPLE (CONT'D)

...and to his left, our Announcer/High School Principal, John "The Voice of the North" Cummings.

"THE VOICE OF THE NORTH" gives a salute to the audience.

Coach Temple waits for room eye contact.

COACH TEMPLE (CONT'D)

I'm here today to discuss some team objectives for this 1992-1993 season. In all my years of coaching, this team promises to take this year's Junior Championship than any other. There's no question in my mind that we will hoist the cup over our heads this year thanks in part to the amazing depth of our returning veteran players and the talented rookies that we've drafted. It will take one hundred percent of everybody's blood, sweat and devotion to make this possible but there's only one real attribute that will truly decide if we are victorious. Does anybody know what that is?

ANSON COOPER raises his hand.

COACH TEMPLE (CONT'D)

(pointing)

Anson.

ANSON COOPER

Heart.

COACH TEMPLE

You're Goddamn right. Heart! You need to have heart, gentlemen, to be here. You need it every time you step through our dressing room door. This game is played by seventeen to twenty-one year olds but I want my dressing room filled with men. If you don't have heart, I don't want you here. There is a reason why this league supplies the NHL with the most player ratio than any other. We develop men with heart. The rumors

are true ladies and gentlemen. This is the fastest road to the NHL. We want to help your son get there.

A huge ovation from the parents.

COACH TEMPLE (CONT'D)

I want to personally thank the parents of our new additions for making the long hike up here. For most of you, this is the first time you've said goodbye to your sons for an extensive period and I want to insure you that they are in good hands with our organization. We treat your sons as if they were from our organization's DNA.

Coach Temple points at John "The Voice of the North" Cummings.

COACH TEMPLE (CONT'D)

Mr. Cummings is the Principal at Caladony's High school and guarantees that every player is an outstanding student. If anybody misses a day, they will not play. It's that simple guys. Another strict policy our team has is for alcohol. I want to show all of you a recent liquor add I saw in a magazine.

He picks up the magazine page and raises it above his head to show his audience. The picture illustrates a bottle of Rum displayed with a glass filled with Rum and ice cubes.

COACH TEMPLE (CONT'D)

I'll ask our captain Anson Cooper if he notices anything peculiar about this picture.

Coach Temple lowers the picture in front of Anson's face. Anson examines the advertisement.

ANSON COOPER

I don't see anything coach.

COACH TEMPLE

Are you sure you don't see anything, Anson?

ANSON COOPER

No, nothing.

COACH TEMPLE

That's because they have hidden
subliminal messages in the ice cubes.
If you look closer Anson, you'll see a
picture of a devil. Can you see it now?

He holds the ad closer to Anson's face.

ANSON COOPER

No coach.

COACH TEMPLE

It's there. If any player is caught
drinking there will be consequences. If
you abuse, you let everybody down. I
want everybody to be on the same page.
There's a true saying that states that a
team that is together, wins together.

The coach raises his voice.

COACH TEMPLE (CONT'D)

And lastly...

The audience leans back at the volume of his voice.

Coach Temple's voice lowers.

COACH TEMPLE (CONT'D)

...We're here to have fun.

The audience bends back down to a relaxed position. The
parents applaud.

COACH TEMPLE (CONT'D)

Thank you all for coming and I'll see
you guys on the ice in an hour.

CUT TO:

Copyright 2004 Jud Richards -- All Rights Reserved

For the complete script please contact Jennifer Brooks at
info@filmmakers.com