**Superlative Pickleballs!**

**How Pickleball Enables Redemption.**

**9.7.24**

Meet Dan Beeman, The Pickleball Evangelist. He is a true ambassador for our sport who wrote an award-winning buddy comedy movie script called, Superlative Pickleballs!

He also wrote a couple of books and the definitive 44-page research paper about pickleball and travel in 2019 while earning his master’s degree in Hotel Management called *The Implications of Pickleball for The Hospitality Industry.*

He has some big ideas but wants them to be a community-oriented and collaborative effort. He wants our help. So, we bring this opportunity to you, our readers.

He wants Jamie Foxx to be the Executive Producer but wants us to help him get your input about who should produce direct, star, and cameo.

He says that he has a master plan for the movie: He wants a portion of the proceeds to benefit a youth pickleball non-profit initiative to fund getting pickleball in every high-school gym class in America.

He thinks 40 million players by 2030 is a realistic goal. He wants this movie to raise awareness and the necessary money to make it happen. He wants it to be a cult classic.

He says it is like Talladega Nights but with pickleball, not NASCAR.

He says it is a story of redemption through pickleball and pickleball is the true star, not the protaganists.

According to Beeman, “this adventure/comedic buddy movie was inspired by *Blades of Glory, Talladega Nights, and Wedding Crashers*. When a former tennis champ loses his job, home, and his mother, on the same day, he must travel the country in an old RV with his former rival hustling for enough cash to pay off gambling debts by playing in pickleball tournaments.

The comedic plot comes from differences in the main characters 40 years after they had an infamous, calamitous conclusion to their battle at the French Open Tennis championships in 1979.  At that time, the brash Californian, Chip Cox was a six-time reigning champ and Boris Baryshnikov was an unknown in the tennis world outside of Russia.

Both are caricatures of men from their respective countries and ideologies.

Now, fast-forward to 2023. These two are now in their 60’s.  One is a capitalism-loving American named Chip Cox. The other is an introspective, communism-loving Russian named Boris Baryshnikov.  They are both broke and lonely. Chip from gambling debt to the mob and Boris from failing to pay taxes because he thought it was Texas and had never been there before so why pay them money?

They lived on opposite ends of California, without ever talking to each other again – Chip in sunny southern California was teaching occasional tennis lessons, and Boris in a commune in northern California ran a failing marijuana-growing business. Neither has ever played pickleball before they decided to join forces and try to reclaim their former glory.”

Beeman, who says pickleball helped save his life, found pickleball while recovering from a major car accident. He used that as his inspiration for the character’s story of redemption. He gives a bit more context to the main characters.

“Chip Cox is kind of a mashup of a youthful John McEnroe and Andre Agassi. He was beloved, deeply tanned, and heavily muscled. Now, 40 years later, he is a wig-wearing, pale, flabby, single, sex-starved, gambling addict.

At the beginning of the movie, Chip tried to ignore it but saw the rise of pickleball on the courts next to where he learned and taught tennis at his country club.  He lives in Van Nuys, CA in an old, run-down RV in his mother’s driveway directly across the street from the club. That club has decided to convert all tennis courts to pickleball courts and fires Chip. After his unceremonious dismissal, he is sent away with the statue of his younger self that was at the entrance of the club, as severance for 40 years of service.

He goes ‘home’ to find his beloved, religious, mother who just passed away in her sleep. He learns that she gave the home to her church to guarantee herself a spot in heaven and he owes lots of money to the mob from decades of family gambling debt.

He needs to reinvent himself with no job, home, or living family.

Upon returning to the club to load his statue into his RV, he sees a pickleball tournament flier and has an idea. Sign up and kick ass. He thinks he could easily dominate this silly sport but needs a partner. He asks his trusty Echo device to look up Boris and finds that Boris is also in financial trouble. So, he calls him and says that he wants to help him pay off his debt.

Boris came from nowhere to “win” the 1979 French Open singles due to a drug test failure and exposure of his illegal gambling by Chip. He immediately disappeared back to Russia and gave his winnings to the communist party. He eventually ended up getting orders to set up and run a commune in California, so he could help spread communism. To financially sustain his commune, he was learning the marijuana growing business while trying to manage an often stoned and lazy staff. He struggled with the hypocrisy of his interest in making a profit despite his antipathy for capitalism.  He doesn’t understand the concept and has never paid his taxes.

Chip didn’t initially tell Boris that he had been living in his RV, is unemployed and broke, or of his specific plan to help pay off the debt – on the road playing pickleball for money.  Somehow, he convinces Boris to join him.

On the road, they have many adventures together discovering and debating their differences. The movie culminates at the National Pickleball Championships in Indian Wells, CA

What do you think? Can Beeman pull it off?

Can this community come together and help him get it made?