

Brent Furtney Interview – Winner Gillette Drafted 2

Interviewed by Rhys Evans

1. Rhys: I know that there were 3000 entries. What was the entry process for the show?

Brent: I went to Toronto for a live audition. It was 3 minutes and when it was done, I thought, "That was terrible!" I decided that I needed to send in an audition tape. With so many entries I knew that it would have to stand out. I decided that it needed to look professional. I have a friend in Fonthill who has good camera equipment. We used my ideas but he knew a lot about camera angles etc. We decided to shoot the same interview three different times with different people and cut it together to look like one interview. When my friend was done editing it, I was really pleased.

2. Rhys: How do you deal with nerves on camera?

Brent: That is one thing that I can still improve on. I was nervous in all the challenges. I decided that the way to be less nervous was to show my personality and just be myself. It's not easy. It was difficult.

3. Rhys: How did you prepare for the challenges?

Brent: We would find out about the Challenges the day before so we had the night to prepare for them. I found that I tried to visualize myself succeeding at the challenge. It is important to think positively. Stay fun with it.

4. Rhys: Was it hard to get people to talk to you?

Brent: Not really. People will talk to you but they don't want to be on camera, even though no one in Philadelphia would have seen reality show from Ontario.

5. Rhys: You looked like you were a little nervous when you heard that you were going to Philadelphia for the last challenge.

Brent: Philadelphia was really neat. It seems like a cool Sports Town. The teams there all play in one little area. You can stand on one corner and turn around and see where the Eagles, Phillies, Flyers and 76ers play. We left right after the show on a Sunday night. I probably looked nervous because I didn't know what to do. The plane ride was about an hour and a half so I had time to think about it then.

6. Rhys: On the plane to Philadelphia, how did you concentrate on what you needed to do?

Brent: I knew what was at stake and we were so close to winning; it wasn't too hard to focus on the goal.

7. Rhys: On the finale you spoke about having only 6 hours of sleep in two nights when you were in Philadelphia.

Brent: When we were in the hotel on Sunday night in Philadelphia I was up very late doing research on the Internet. On Monday shot we shot film all day long. They had told us to cut some of the film that we absolutely knew we didn't want before we came back to Toronto. We were up till about 2 am cutting the video from 1 hour down to 9 minutes.

8. Rhys: When you were editing for the Philadelphia piece, how did you prioritize yourself?

Brent: We only had three hours to edit. Right from the airport we went straight to the editing room. I didn't know how to use the equipment but they had someone there to help me. I kind of had in my mind how I wanted the segment to go. When I went to Toronto to edit I had to cut 9 minutes of video down to a maximum of three minutes. I used 2 hours and 58 seconds. Trying to prioritize was difficult. I was trying to make it as perfect as possible. I wanted to start off with something that grabbed the audience's attention and then hold on to it.

9. Rhys I noticed that you are quite a creative guy. I like your press conference?

Brent: I wasn't sure if I was allowed in that room so I shot it in there really quick and got out.

10. Rhys: Can you tell me about your Gillette presentation?

Brent: The Score shoots different segments then shows to them companies and gets them to sponsor the show. This reality show that I won was an idea pitched to Gillette and now they sponsor it. The idea that Sean and I had was to take an average fan and set them up in the Gillette bus. The bus would be all set up with TVs, a fridge with snacks; the fan would get a shave with Gillette products. The bus would take them to a game maybe the Yankees and after the game the fan would get to meet a player like Derek Jeter. We thought of Jeter because he is a spokesman for Gillette.

11. Rhys: Did you have any idea what Casey was doing? She commented that she was wondering "What Brent was doing?"

Brent: She was in Cleveland and I was in Philadelphia so it didn't have any idea what she was doing. If I had known I might have been more nervous since she had talked to real players and I didn't.

12. Rhys: Will you have to move and do a lot of travelling?

Brent: The Score studios are in Toronto. I am going this weekend to try to find a place in Toronto. I'm not sure how working for The Score is going to work. They will pay for travel and expenses. I don't really know much about working for The Score. I won in July and they didn't talk to me for the longest time. I was worried that they had forgotten about me!

13. Rhys: How did it feel to see people leave?

Brent: There were a couple times when I thought that it might be me. I was in the bottom three early on and I was nervous.

14. Rhys: What was the Top Ten like?

Brent: They gave us about a week to get used to Toronto and the other contestants. There was no filming just some photo shoots. We were put up in a hotel and we had a chance to just hang out together. I roomed with Sean Francois who was one of the nicest people I've ever met. Everybody was really nice and helpful.

15 . Rhys; How did you hide your nervousness when you were on camera.

Brent: That is one thing that I can still improve on. I was nervous in all the challenges. I decided that the way to be less nervous was to show my personality and just be myself. It's not easy. It was difficult.

16. Rhys: I assume you are better person from this experience.

Brent: I do feel more confident and able to talk to people easier. I learned that it is best not to worry about what other people think about you. If you're doing the best you can do and are having fun, people will respect you for it.