

Full Out

Brenna

FADE IN:

EXT. OKLAHOMA UNIVERSITY - ESTABLISHING SHOT

A beautiful panoramic view of OU'S CAMPUS. We PAN ACROSS the buildings and the quad (some STUDENTS are MILLING ABOUT and a BOY CREW IS FREESTYLE DANCING) until we get to --

INT. OKLAHOMA SOONERS GYMNASTICS GYM - DAY

The OKLAHOMA SOONERS WOMEN'S GYMNASTICS TEAM GYM. National Championship banners hang on the walls. The team, decked out in signature RED practice leotards, works out across the floor, bars, beam and vault -- one girl does front layouts across the floor. Another does giants on bars. Another does back handsprings and layouts across the beam.

Start

BRENNA DOWELL (V.O.)

The Oklahoma Sooners Women's Gymnastics Team. Some of the toughest and strongest athletes in the entire world. You think football is hard? Running across a field to catch a ball? Why don't you try tumbling on a four foot high, four inch wide piece of wood. We are the best in the NCAA. And me? I am their captain.

We ZOOM IN on BRENNA DOWELL, as she tumbles across the floor -- double twist, front layout. STUCK. (This is her actual first floor routine pass from when she was on the team). She dances to the end of her routine and is met by KJ KINDLER -- Sooners Head Coach, big heart, tough as nails. She gives a nod of approval. Her teammates clap.

KJ KINDLER

That was nice, Brenna.

BRENNA DOWELL

I was thinking I needed to up my difficulty -- I have an idea for a new tumbling pass. I've been practicing, I'm almost there.

KJ KINDLER

Let's see it.

Brenna takes to the floor again and attempts a DOUBLE FRONT PIKE. She's short on the landing, taking a giant step out of bounds, nearly falling forward.

KJ KINDLER (CONT'D)
A double front pike. Never done in
competition by anyone in NCAA
history, let alone elite.

BRENNA DOWELL
I know.

KJ KINDLER
It's ambitious.

BRENNA DOWELL
I got this, Coach.

KJ KINDLER
Don't attempt it again until you
can stick it. The last thing we
need is for you to get injured.

BRENNA DOWELL
Yes, Coach.

KJ moves across to watch her athletes on beam. NATALIE BROWN
is up and her teammate, CHAYSE CAPPS is watching her.

CHRYON: NATALIE BROWN, heart of gold, never quits.

Natalie is doing her beam routine, bobbling through it but
trying her very best.

~~CHAYSE~~
~~Come on, Nat!~~

Natalie attempts a full turn and falls off. Frustrated, she
gets back up on the beam. KJ gives Natalie an encouraging
smile and turns her attention elsewhere.

~~CHAYSE (CONT'D)~~
~~You got this.~~

~~NATALIE~~
~~I really don't get this, but~~
~~thanks.~~

Natalie does another full turn and falls off again. She gets
back up and does one more. She bobbles, grabs the beam, but
manages to stay on. Time for her dismount.

~~CHAYSE~~
~~Well, now that it's time to~~
~~actually get off the beam, you~~
~~should have this part down.~~

Natalie gives Chayse a "very funny" smile. Chayse knows this is the way to get Natalie focused. Natalie does her dismount -- a full twist off the beam -- and she definitely doesn't nail it. She finishes on her butt.

~~CHAYSE (CONT'D)~~

~~Just get that on your feet and
Coach will have to put you in.~~

~~NATALIE~~

~~Thanks. At least Coach wasn't
watching. Hey, maybe I'll get to
compete an exhibition routine.~~

~~CHAYSE~~

~~It's going to happen. The real
thing, not just exhibition.~~

~~KJ KINDLER~~

~~Chayse, it's nice that you are
helping Ms. Brown, but you're up on
floor. Let's see that last pass.~~

CHYRON: CHAYSE CAPPS, five-time All American, one of the best on the team.

Chayse goes to the corner of the floor, takes a deep breath and runs -- front layout, front full twist, front layout. Except when she lands the full, she is short, and the layout barely makes it around. She squats and falls backwards.

~~KJ KINDLER (CONT'D)~~

~~Again. Push.~~

Chayse tries it again. This time, too much momentum and she steps forward.

~~KJ KINDLER (CONT'D)~~

~~You've been after that perfect 10
all season, Chayse. This will get
you there.~~

~~CHAYSE~~

~~Yes, Coach.~~

~~KJ KINDLER~~

~~Do some timers, let's see it again
tomorrow. You're close.~~

CHYRON: AJ JACKSON, Missouri State champion, National Champion, all-arounder.

(Cont.)

AJ JACKSON (striking, someone who was born with a natural ability for gymnastics) finishes a perfect full twisting double back dismount off the bars. She sticks it. She goes to chalk up next to Brenna.

BRENNA DOWELL

Nice one.

AJ

Thanks.

BRENNA DOWELL

You know, you really have the skills for elite... do you ever think about trying out for the National Team?

AJ

All that pressure? No thanks.

BRENNA DOWELL

It's an exhilarating kind of pressure.

AJ

Exhilarating but way too much.

BRENNA DOWELL

All I ever thought about as a kid was going to the Olympics. Didn't you dream about it, too?

AJ

I think all kids do -- but this is my dream now.

BRENNA DOWELL

There's not even a small part of you that pictures yourself up on that podium, with a gold medal around your neck and the National Anthem playing?

AJ

Nope. I like it here. I can eat what I want without coaches breathing down my neck. You know how much I love cupcakes.

Brenna laughs.

BRENNA DOWELL

Who doesn't?

AJ
 Girl, right?! Anyway, what's all
 this about?

Brenna gets back on the subject.

BRENNA DOWELL
 I've been thinking about starting
 to train. For the National Team and
 the Olympics.

AJ
 That would mean you'd have to defer
 this year -- you couldn't compete
 with us.

BRENNA DOWELL
 I know. But as much as I like it
 here, I owe it to myself. To little
 Brenna... to try.

AJ
 You really have your heart set on
 this, huh?

BRENNA DOWELL
 I don't want to leave you guys in a
 tough place right before the
 championships, but...

AJ
 I get it.

BRENNA DOWELL
 So I'm still deciding, I just don't
 know how I'm going to tell coach.

AJ
 Seems like you've already decided.

Brenna smiles knowingly at AJ.

AJ (CONT'D)
 But I definitely wouldn't want to
 face Coach with that news...

Brenna is about to get on the bars when --

KJ KINDLER
 Girls, huddle up.

The team gathers on the floor.

Stop