

0:00:09.583,0:00:10.291

Welcome, everybody.

0:00:10.291,0:00:13.500

I'm Ogden Mayor Ben Nadolski,
and we're here at the Ogden Way podcast,

0:00:13.500,0:00:16.875

the place where we tell Ogden stories
by telling the stories of ordinary people.

0:00:17.125,0:00:17.708

And today,

0:00:17.708,0:00:21.500

we're telling the story of Evan Parker,
the manager of the Ogden Raptors.

0:00:21.541,0:00:22.500

Go, Raptors!

0:00:22.500,0:00:24.208

Go, Raptors! Go, Raptors, baby!

0:00:24.208,0:00:25.833

Yes, sir.

Evan, thanks for being here, man.

0:00:25.833,0:00:28.958

I've seen you in action a ton.

0:00:29.041,0:00:30.375

Hear a lot about you.

0:00:30.375,0:00:33.791

I probably hear more about you
than you want me to hear because of Cindy.

0:00:34.375,0:00:37.625

But I thank her for connecting you
and I and, And invite you here today.

0:00:37.833,0:00:39.791

Only half of it's true, by the way.

Whatever-

0:00:39.791,0:00:41.708

Whatever you've heard, so
I know, right?

0:00:41.708,0:00:44.166

You can only believe

half the stuff that women.

0:00:44.166,0:00:47.625

Yeah, I really I really appreciate
you having me on this as an honor.

0:00:47.625,0:00:50.416

As I mentioned before we started,
I appreciate the efforts

0:00:50.416,0:00:52.375

you're putting into the city
and all the work.

0:00:52.375,0:00:54.458

You know, I definitely take notice of it.

0:00:54.458,0:00:56.500

And, this is a great opportunity.

0:00:56.500,0:00:58.958

And,
thank you, Cindy, for lining this up.

0:00:58.958,0:01:01.666

And I'm very excited to be here.

Yeah. No, thank you.

0:01:01.666,0:01:04.583

And let's not be so praiseworthy of Cindy
as it goes.

0:01:04.583,0:01:05.500

Her head. Right? Sure.

0:01:05.500,0:01:07.416

Yeah,

I know we gotta keep ourselves in check.

0:01:07.416,0:01:09.041

Right. Yeah. Let's do it.

0:01:09.041,0:01:11.041

Just kidding, Cindy's an awesome
lady. It's good people.

0:01:11.041,0:01:12.208

Yes.

0:01:13.416,0:01:15.041

You are an Ogden boy.

0:01:15.041,0:01:17.291

Born and raised and raised right.

0:01:17.291,0:01:20.291

Like, proud to be Ogden Regional.

0:01:20.583,0:01:21.791

Been here all the way through.

0:01:21.791,0:01:25.083

You know, I, Bonneville High School

0:01:25.083,0:01:29.125

and then, ended up playing at Utah Tech,
so I've kind of covered the whole state.

0:01:29.166,0:01:32.333

I played travel ball growing up down
kind of South Salt Lake area.

0:01:32.333,0:01:33.333

So I've really played.

0:01:33.333,0:01:39.500

And, every part of Utah, but,
Ogden's my heart, man.

0:01:39.708,0:01:41.375

It's it's it's where it is.

0:01:41.375,0:01:42.541

That's one thing I know about you.

0:01:42.541,0:01:44.500

Without knowing you
and getting to know you.

0:01:44.500,0:01:46.000

I've always known
you're an Ogden boy. Yep.

0:01:46.000,0:01:47.916

You love this town.

0:01:47.916,0:01:49.291

You and I share something else
in common, too.

0:01:49.291,0:01:51.666

You actually played JuCo ball? Yes, right.

0:01:51.666,0:01:52.416

In Nevada.

0:01:52.416,0:01:53.708

Yep. Western Nevada.

0:01:53.708,0:01:54.416

Western Nevada.

0:01:54.416,0:01:57.583

So I played junior college
football in Phoenix. Yep.

0:01:57.625,0:02:00.166

But I played a lot of baseball
growing up.

0:02:00.166,0:02:01.416

Phoenix is a big baseball city.

0:02:03.000,0:02:04.000

It wasn't quite like

0:02:04.000,0:02:07.458

today's day and age where you play a year
round and all this accelerated travel.

0:02:08.083,0:02:10.416

You know,
it was like that when I was young, but,

0:02:10.416,0:02:12.000

that's a year round baseball city.

0:02:12.000,0:02:12.708

Sure. Right.

0:02:12.708,0:02:15.875

And, you know,
and I mean, the volume of players

0:02:15.875,0:02:17.500

that come out of there,
I mean, that has a lot to do

0:02:17.500,0:02:19.958

with the weather and the infrastructure
and stuff like that.

0:02:19.958,0:02:23.541

But, I like to think that, you know,
being from where I'm from

0:02:23.833,0:02:26.125

hold my own with anybody. And. Right.

0:02:26.125,0:02:30.500

You know, you do take notice of those guys
that get to to be outside a lot.

0:02:30.500,0:02:33.500

And the travel ball thing has become so,

0:02:33.541,0:02:36.791

it's it's escalated quickly.

0:02:36.916,0:02:40.500

You know, even just since I was younger,
I try to avoid.

0:02:40.541,0:02:42.250

Yeah, I totally agree.

0:02:42.250,0:02:44.458

And, you know,
watching workload for pitchers,

0:02:44.458,0:02:47.833

especially in young kids playing too much,

you got to you got to watch that stuff.

0:02:47.833,0:02:50.583

But yeah, great. Great baseball.

0:02:50.583,0:02:53.375

I actually lived down there for a while
when I was with the Brewers.

0:02:53.375,0:02:54.958

I played on the Diamondbacks scout team.

0:02:54.958,0:02:58.333

So I've lived in Arizona as well, and,
got a taste,

0:02:58.333,0:03:01.708

some some good playing,
you know, good players down.

0:03:01.708,0:03:02.375

There you go.

0:03:02.375,0:03:05.416

So when I was a kid, Cactus League
spring training.

0:03:05.416,0:03:06.333

Yeah.

0:03:06.333,0:03:09.250

Where you guys did you do spring training in Phoenix? Yep.

0:03:09.250,0:03:11.208

So I grew up my dad.

0:03:11.208,0:03:12.250

My dad's awesome. He's a-

0:03:14.375,0:03:16.208

the best man I've ever known is my dad.

0:03:16.208,0:03:19.833

And, he, he did business all around town.

0:03:20.083,0:03:22.291

You know, selling insurance and financial instruments and stuff.

0:03:22.291,0:03:24.625

And he would just drop me off

at spring training.

0:03:24.625,0:03:28.416

Me and my buddies were out,
most often at a spring training.

0:03:28.708,0:03:29.125

Oh, yeah.

0:03:29.125,0:03:31.625

And we were, like, on a first name
basis with Ricky Henderson.

0:03:31.625,0:03:33.333

Oh, man. All right.

0:03:33.333,0:03:35.333

One of the goats, dude. Goat.

0:03:35.333,0:03:36.083

Yes. Right.

0:03:36.083,0:03:38.708

Remember
when he broke the stealing record?

0:03:38.708,0:03:39.500

He held up the.

0:03:39.500,0:03:40.000

Oh, yeah.

0:03:40.000,0:03:41.375

I mean, we're like Ricky.

0:03:41.375,0:03:42.833

Like we felt like he was our guy.

0:03:42.833,0:03:43.166

Yeah.

0:03:43.166,0:03:46.750

I mean, only Rickey Henderson
can speak in third person, so.

0:03:46.750,0:03:49.208

Right,

I know. Hey, Ricky. Ricky do good things.

0:03:49.208,0:03:50.375

Yeah, Ricky does what he does.

0:03:50.375,0:03:53.875

I know, but I grew up around baseball,
playing a ton of baseball.

0:03:53.875,0:03:55.000

My dad coached me.

0:03:55.000,0:03:57.458

All of our. My four siblings,
and in baseball and softball.

0:03:57.458,0:04:00.000

I met one sister
that was the best athlete of all of us.

0:04:00.000,0:04:03.000

Yep. And, I love the game of baseball.

0:04:03.333,0:04:05.666

I love what it does for kids.

0:04:05.666,0:04:08.666

I love what sport does for kids
and for families and for people.

0:04:08.875,0:04:11.291

Sure. Grit builds resilience.

0:04:11.291,0:04:15.541

But you being the manager of Ogden
Raptors can also build community.

0:04:15.750,0:04:16.291

Sure.

0:04:16.291,0:04:20.791

And that's that is, that is
one of the biggest reasons why I'm here.

0:04:20.791,0:04:22.583

You know, a lot of things have,

0:04:22.583,0:04:27.250

happened for me and a fortunate sense of,
you know, I, I'm a big believer

0:04:27.250,0:04:31.250

that, you know, luck is when preparation,
preparation meets opportunity.

0:04:31.541,0:04:35.000

So I definitely feel like

I've worked to be in the position

0:04:35.000,0:04:37.583

that I'm in,

but I mean, for it to all come full circle

0:04:37.583,0:04:40.625

where I'm, I'm in my home town

doing what I love.

0:04:40.916,0:04:41.750

I love the sport.

0:04:41.750,0:04:42.958

Going back to what you were saying.

0:04:42.958,0:04:45.958

You know, baseball is a game of failure.

0:04:45.958,0:04:48.916

It's a game of, strategy.

0:04:48.916,0:04:50.375

It's a skill sport.

0:04:50.375,0:04:52.083

There's so many things that you can learn

0:04:52.083,0:04:53.791

from it in terms of the cause and effect.

0:04:53.791,0:04:56.791

You know, the work that you've got
to put in the attention to detail.

0:04:56.791,0:04:59.791

And, to me,
it's the greatest game in the world.

0:04:59.791,0:05:02.208

You know,
and I, I love all the major sports, but,

0:05:02.208,0:05:04.958

you know, I'm obviously
a little biased to baseball, right?

0:05:04.958,0:05:06.666

And I love baseball.

0:05:06.666,0:05:08.500

I love football.

0:05:08.500,0:05:08.916

Yeah.

0:05:08.916,0:05:14.041

I just love sport
because I love competition.

0:05:14.041,0:05:16.458

I love what competition creates within us.

0:05:16.458,0:05:20.500

I love, the people that we become
by learning hard lessons through sport.

0:05:21.000,0:05:24.666

And you learn those lessons through sport
so that you don't have to learn them in

0:05:24.666,0:05:27.666

life, you know,
and but you can apply them in life.

0:05:27.666,0:05:28.833

Yeah. Right.

0:05:28.833,0:05:30.291

And I think that's a rare thing

0:05:30.291,0:05:33.666

that is taken for granted,
but also overlooked by too many people

0:05:33.666,0:05:37.666

that if we give our kids more opportunity
to more,

0:05:38.375,0:05:42.250

competitive opportunities, we're
giving our kids something to grow through.

0:05:42.458,0:05:43.750

I totally agree with that.

0:05:43.750,0:05:45.541

And the adversity.

0:05:45.541,0:05:51.041

I mean, I always kind of get down,
like when I'm, talking.

0:05:51.041,0:05:53.583

I run a private training facility
in the off season.

0:05:53.583,0:05:56.958

I can only I can only do it in parts
of the offseason now, because running

0:05:56.958,0:06:00.708

the team is being being the guy in charge
is pretty time consuming.

0:06:01.541,0:06:05.250

But, you know, I always tell these guys,
I say, hey, look, you know, baseball

0:06:05.500,0:06:10.000

taught me how to work hard and then apply
those principles to life, you know?

0:06:10.166,0:06:13.208

I always stress
that school is very important, you know,

0:06:13.208,0:06:16.541

especially
when you get into be an NCAA athlete.

0:06:16.666,0:06:21.875

Even before that, in high school,
you need to be a student athlete.

0:06:21.875,0:06:23.458

You need to take your education serious.

0:06:23.458,0:06:28.333

But if you don't like school, well,
just find a way to,

0:06:28.333,0:06:31.416

take that mindset that you have towards
the sport that you love

0:06:31.625,0:06:33.500

and apply it to the classroom, apply
it to the classroom.

0:06:33.500,0:06:37.625

And then when you learn how to do that,
you can kind of couple that mindset

0:06:37.625,0:06:39.625

and turn it into doing anything in life.

0:06:39.625,0:06:43.250

You know, it's great being,
being a friend, being a father, being a,

0:06:43.458,0:06:45.291

you know, son family member.

0:06:45.291,0:06:46.833

And it is, you know. Right.

0:06:46.833,0:06:48.041

Professional career.

0:06:48.041,0:06:54.666

So, yeah, the sport, has certainly taught
me more about life than anything, right?

0:06:54.750,0:06:57.708

I, I take a fair amount guff.

0:06:57.708,0:07:00.250

Yeah, from people, in this job.

0:07:00.250,0:07:03.541

But sometimes I take a lot of crap

for talking about sports so much.

0:07:03.541,0:07:04.416

Sure. I'm.

0:07:04.416,0:07:06.875

Frankly,

I'm not going to apologize for it.

0:07:06.875,0:07:08.666

Totally unapologetic about it.

0:07:08.666,0:07:11.291

Because I am who I am because of it.

0:07:11.291,0:07:12.958

Also because of my family.

0:07:12.958,0:07:15.750

Also because of my community. Right?

0:07:15.750,0:07:20.416

But sport taught me

more than I could ever imagine.

0:07:20.708,0:07:22.500

More than I could ever explain. Yep.

0:07:22.500,0:07:24.791

Put me through more challenge
and more heartache.

0:07:24.791,0:07:29.166

Showed me more triumph and more challenge
to the triumph than anything.

0:07:29.291,0:07:30.166

Sure. Right.

0:07:30.166,0:07:31.500

Sure. And you're right.

0:07:31.500,0:07:34.500

You apply that same mindset to everything
that's in life and apply it

0:07:34.500,0:07:35.500

to the campaign to be the mayor.

0:07:35.500,0:07:38.416

Apply it to every single day
of being the mayor. Right.

0:07:38.416,0:07:39.375

I was telling you before we started,

0:07:39.375,0:07:42.375

how many times did me and Mike McBride
talk about hitting dingers today?

0:07:42.500,0:07:42.916

Yeah.

0:07:42.916,0:07:46.000

It might just feel like a figment of
or a little expression.

0:07:46.125,0:07:46.541

Yeah.

0:07:46.541,0:07:49.000

But for Mike and I, it's
a thing that we connect with on.

0:07:49.000,0:07:51.625

We both understand what that means
for each other.

0:07:51.625,0:07:52.250

Absolutely.

0:07:52.250,0:07:53.916

It means we're going to go out,
we're going to do good things,

0:07:53.916,0:07:55.666

and we're going to win for our good today.

0:07:55.666,0:07:59.500

And when you cobble together
wins, you you you create champions

0:07:59.875,0:08:03.458

Championships for arguing championship
mindset man.

0:08:03.500,0:08:06.375

I know
you really have to have it in everything.

0:08:06.375,0:08:11.833

And, you know, athletics is one
of those mediums where you can learn it.

0:08:11.833,0:08:15.916

You know, I have good friends who are, you know, engineers and, you know, gone

0:08:15.916,0:08:20.541

through very difficult school, paths and education paths and stuff.

0:08:20.541,0:08:22.916

And, similarly

0:08:22.916,0:08:26.208

that you get out what you put in, you know,

0:08:26.208,0:08:28.458

and you have to apply yourself in a certain way.

0:08:28.458,0:08:30.125

It has to be a certain level of focus.

0:08:30.125,0:08:32.041

It has to be,

0:08:33.375,0:08:34.750

you know, all of those things.

0:08:34.750,0:08:37.416

But the thing that you said
is the competition.

0:08:37.416,0:08:40.000

Yep. Sport makes you compete.

0:08:40.000,0:08:42.708

That's a that's an objective measure
of what you do in sports.

0:08:42.708,0:08:43.416

And so

0:08:43.416,0:08:47.541

I don't think you should apologize at all
for having learned the,

0:08:47.541,0:08:49.750

the way that you are having been
an athlete,

0:08:49.750,0:08:52.000

because, you know,

it makes you tough, man.

0:08:52.000,0:08:56.208

It makes it tough, teaches
you resiliency, teaches you life lessons.

0:08:56.208,0:08:57.625

And I think it's beautiful.

0:08:57.625,0:08:59.500

Why? It's
why I told you you're doing a good job.

0:08:59.500,0:09:00.375

Appreciate it man.

0:09:00.375,0:09:03.583

Well, we're going to we're going
to keep focused on the more wins.

0:09:03.666,0:09:05.916

Sure. Hit more dingers, right? Yep.

0:09:05.916,0:09:08.750

Winning championships,
being having a championship mindset

0:09:08.750,0:09:09.916

as a community and a city.

0:09:09.916,0:09:13.375

Yep. Building more winners and more wins
for our people and with our people.

0:09:13.666,0:09:14.291

Right. Oh, man.

0:09:14.291,0:09:17.291

Facilitating success for other's success.

0:09:17.708,0:09:21.375

Just think about facilitating wins for
and with others.

0:09:21.791,0:09:25.541

However, you need to frame it in
your mindset based on how you were wired

0:09:25.541,0:09:27.166

and built. Sure.

0:09:27.166,0:09:29.416

Let's just reach for our own greatness.

0:09:29.416,0:09:30.583

Step into our own greatness.

0:09:30.583,0:09:33.833

Well, I'm behind you on it

100%, and I think that everybody else

0:09:33.833,0:09:37.916

in this town should be because, you know,

I think it's important

0:09:37.916,0:09:41.541

that you gotta have someone at the top

with, with that winning mindset.

0:09:41.791,0:09:42.791

But it's the bottom line.

0:09:42.791,0:09:45.291

Well, a baseball club needs the same.

0:09:45.291,0:09:47.500

Yeah. You're you are exactly right.

0:09:47.500,0:09:48.500

You're exactly right.

0:09:48.500,0:09:51.041

So we're looking at I'm
looking at this ring on your on your hand.

0:09:51.041,0:09:53.833

Yes, sir. Championship ring.

Yep. Right. Yep.

0:09:53.833,0:09:56.083

What what are we doing and what can we do?

0:09:56.083,0:09:57.250

And the upcoming season.

0:09:57.250,0:10:00.666

Tell us more about what we have in store
for the upcoming season.

0:10:01.208,0:10:05.125

How what we're putting in place
to to continue to drive toward that.

0:10:05.416,0:10:06.041

Sure.

0:10:06.041,0:10:08.458

And I mean, you know,
it's it's the goal every year.

0:10:08.458,0:10:12.458

You know, and and the thing that you have
to understand about the laws of averages

0:10:12.458,0:10:17.708

of especially sports is that, you know,
there's a reason that you don't see,

0:10:18.208,0:10:22.333

you know, teams winning the World
Series year after year after year.

0:10:22.333,0:10:25.416

I mean, it's a very tough industry
in terms of doing that.

0:10:25.416,0:10:28.708

But what you want to do
is you want to contend every year.

0:10:28.875,0:10:31.791

You want to compete every year
to the best of your abilities.

0:10:31.791,0:10:32.166

Okay.

0:10:32.166,0:10:36.791

So, you know, I've looking back on 2023
when we won the championship,

0:10:37.041,0:10:39.916

you know, there were waves of adversity
that we went through.

0:10:39.916,0:10:42.166

But you know, when you're able to

0:10:43.208,0:10:47.041

utilize the lessons that you learned

0:10:47.041,0:10:50.041

while you're going through the adversity
to push through,

0:10:50.291,0:10:53.583

that's when you're going to find,
you know, it's like, what's the saying?

0:10:53.833,0:10:57.208

Whatever you're looking for
is on the other side of that hard thing,

0:10:57.333,0:11:00.041

you know, or something along those lines.

0:11:00.041,0:11:02.625

You know,
that's my goal for my guys every day.

0:11:02.625,0:11:07.666

And I think for me personally,
you know, right now,

0:11:07.958,0:11:10.750

I think I'll have to fact check myself
at least last year,

0:11:10.750,0:11:13.666

I believe I was the youngest manager
in professional baseball.

0:11:13.666,0:11:16.750

You know, so I'm relatable
to my guys in a way, because I'm.

0:11:16.750,0:11:19.416

I'm kind of close to their age.

0:11:19.416,0:11:22.833

But,
you know, my guys know I have their backs,

0:11:22.833,0:11:25.375

and I don't ask them to do anything
that I don't do.

0:11:25.375,0:11:27.583

I say, hey, look,
I'm going to show up here every day.

0:11:27.583,0:11:29.500

I'm going to give you everything I got.

0:11:29.500,0:11:32.250

If you think that I, expect

0:11:32.250,0:11:36.041

all of us

to have 100% of our potential by,

0:11:36.125,0:11:39.041

you know, we play 100

something games in 100 something days,

0:11:39.041,0:11:40.208

we're all going to get beat up.

0:11:40.208,0:11:43.458

It's mentally, physically,

it's going to happen, you know.

0:11:43.708,0:11:47.875

And so but if you'll just show up

and you bring what you got

0:11:47.875,0:11:52.416

and you just let you leave it out there

that night, you have nothing to regret.

0:11:52.583,0:11:53.708

Same thing I tell my kids,

0:11:53.708,0:11:58.416

you know, and you're not going to win
every outcome on everything.

0:11:58.416,0:12:01.416

You're never going to have
a perfect record in anything.

0:12:01.541,0:12:02.375

You know what I mean?

0:12:02.375,0:12:05.375

I look at some of these
Hall of Fame managers who are,

0:12:05.458,0:12:09.250

you know, idols of mine,
you know, Tommy Lasorda, who spent,

0:12:09.458,0:12:15.208

you know, I had a that's that's a,
that's a legend that I got a decent amount

0:12:15.208,0:12:18.375

of time to spend,
you know, around and talking to him.

0:12:18.375,0:12:22.250

And, you know, you look at some
of the adversity that he went through and,

0:12:22.291,0:12:25.250

you know, Hall of Fame managers,
Hall of Fame coaches in general.

0:12:25.250,0:12:27.125

I mean, you think about these guys

0:12:27.125,0:12:30.083

and you just have to accept that
you're not going to be perfect.

0:12:30.083,0:12:33.083

But it's about the application
of bringing it every day

0:12:33.291,0:12:35.291

because it's a process to build. Yes.

0:12:35.291,0:12:37.625

I mean, Hall of Fame managers don't become
Hall of Fame managers overnight.

0:12:37.625,0:12:40.583

They've built themselves
into Hall of Fame manager coaches. Right.

0:12:40.583,0:12:43.125

Sure. By building champions.

0:12:43.125,0:12:46.291

I think what you were saying before is
success is on the other side of the work

0:12:46.291,0:12:48.375

that you haven't done yet. Yeah, right.

0:12:48.375,0:12:52.166

And this mentality of embracing the grind,
leaning into the grind and loving,

0:12:52.166,0:12:53.375

learning to love the grind,

0:12:54.458,0:12:57.458

that's just the process, however long it
takes.

0:12:57.458,0:13:00.458

And I have to think in your
in your setting,

0:13:00.500,0:13:04.083

you know that
there's so much change in rosters.

0:13:04.416,0:13:07.833

So not just on your team but on the other
teams that you're playing as well.

0:13:07.916,0:13:10.708

Yeah, so much change in your travel
dynamics and injuries and.

0:13:10.708,0:13:12.083

Yeah, right.

0:13:12.083,0:13:15.333

Just in your there's just so much change

0:13:15.333,0:13:17.666

that you have to manage
all the way through. So-
Right.

0:13:17.666,0:13:20.166

It would be hard to continue to build,

0:13:20.166,0:13:23.083

but probably what I'm thinking is
you must be building culture.

0:13:23.083,0:13:25.000

That's that's exactly right.

0:13:25.000,0:13:27.625

And and to kind of go off of that

0:13:27.625,0:13:30.625

is this is what they call a transaction
business.

0:13:30.666,0:13:33.583

You know, and I tell these guys
all the time because, you know,

0:13:33.583,0:13:36.791

the goal is every guy wants to play
in the big leagues, you know, and I always

0:13:37.208,0:13:39.500

and we love to put as many in
in the big leagues as possible

0:13:39.500,0:13:41.791

because it means we're recycling talent
through our town. Yeah.

0:13:41.791,0:13:45.750

And we just we just had, one of my guys
from this last year

0:13:45.750,0:13:47.583

get signed by the Houston Astros.

0:13:47.583,0:13:49.083

You know, I always stress these guys.

0:13:49.083,0:13:52.041

Look, you're one transaction away, right?

0:13:52.041,0:13:52.833

That's all it is.

0:13:52.833,0:13:54.333

All you got to be is a transaction.

0:13:54.333,0:13:56.500

But it is a transactional business.

0:13:56.500,0:14:00.625

And one formula for success,
especially when we want it.

0:14:00.833,0:14:04.541

We had the least amount of transactions
of any team in the league that year.

0:14:05.166,0:14:09.916

And to me the correlation is,
is that when you have that group

0:14:09.916,0:14:11.916

and you can attest to this is like

0:14:11.916,0:14:15.208

if you can get that group of people
around you, the people

0:14:15.208,0:14:18.416

that you trust, the team that you can work
with and move with as a unit.

0:14:18.541,0:14:18.833

That's right.

0:14:18.833,0:14:23.125

You guys are ultimately going to give yourselves the best chance to succeed.

0:14:23.333,0:14:23.708

That's right.

0:14:23.708,0:14:27.666

You know, and as the guy at the top, me being the guy right in the lineup

0:14:27.666,0:14:30.583

every day and, you know, deciding who's going to be in our starting rotation,

0:14:30.583,0:14:33.666

you know, the best coaches and managers that I've had, our guys

0:14:33.666,0:14:37.375

that understand the ability to put guys

0:14:37.375,0:14:40.958

in positions to succeed,
you have to be a talent evaluator.

0:14:40.958,0:14:42.750

You have to be a skills evaluator.

0:14:42.750,0:14:46.791

And when you put those guys into positions
to succeed, you haven't played football.

0:14:46.833,0:14:51.000

You know, it's like if you got a guy
on the defensive side of the ball playing

0:14:51.000,0:14:55.541

in the wrong position, he's probably not
in the best position to succeed, you know?

0:14:55.541,0:14:59.666

But if you if you can look at skill sets,
put those guys in the right positions,

0:14:59.916,0:15:03.250

you're going to give yourself, your team
and everyone else around you a chance to

0:15:03.291,0:15:04.000

to get it done.

0:15:04.000,0:15:04.916

It's like another way of saying

0:15:04.916,0:15:06.083

you got to get

the right people on the bus,

0:15:06.083,0:15:09.125

but you got to get the right people

on that bus in the right seats. Yes.

0:15:09.208,0:15:10.750

That's exactly right.

0:15:10.750,0:15:14.083

I you know, if you as you build culture,

0:15:15.041,0:15:16.958

do you what's the most important thing

0:15:16.958,0:15:19.833

when you build that culture,

especially when you've got,

0:15:19.833,0:15:22.958

you know, one transaction away,
you're also one transaction the other way,

0:15:23.583,0:15:26.791

maybe one transaction way
from going up to the bigs, one transaction

0:15:26.791,0:15:29.416

away from being out all together.

Right? Right.

0:15:29.416,0:15:30.291

So how do you what

0:15:30.291,0:15:33.291

what kind of core values do you focus on
when you're building that kind of culture?

0:15:33.625,0:15:37.625

I mean, day one,
when I sit down with my guys, you know, I,

0:15:37.625,0:15:41.583

I talk to these guys all offseason

and going back to

0:15:41.583,0:15:43.208

kind of what we can expect for this year.

0:15:43.208,0:15:47.416

You know, I've got a lot of I've got
a good, returning core of players, right.

0:15:47.416,0:15:50.291

Which is very helpful
because, you know, going into last year,

0:15:50.291,0:15:53.708

we lost a lot of our championship
team, and I had and I had to kind of

0:15:53.708,0:15:56.208

that's the consequence of success.
Yep. Yep. Exactly.

0:15:56.208,0:15:57.791

You got to hit a rebuild a little bit.

0:15:57.791,0:16:03.125

So you know, but on day one when that

clubhouse door closes I say, hey, look,

0:16:03.125,0:16:07.083

this is where you're going to see
the version of me that is the manager.

0:16:07.208,0:16:08.791

You know, I talked you all offseason.

0:16:08.791,0:16:11.583

I want to make sure you're
in a positive mindset coming in here.

0:16:11.583,0:16:13.291

But this is where reality sets in.

0:16:13.291,0:16:16.291

And the number one thing I say is my first

0:16:16.291,0:16:19.291

rule is, is you respect yourselves,

0:16:19.541,0:16:22.541

you respect the game,
you respect your peers.

0:16:22.625,0:16:26.458

And that's non-negotiable,
you know, and every team's going to have

0:16:26.458,0:16:28.916

a little bit
different nuances in terms of like,

0:16:28.916,0:16:31.708

you know,
you want to listen to your players,

0:16:31.708,0:16:35.750

you want to listen to your team
members and, and let them know

0:16:35.750,0:16:38.750

that their feedback
and communicating with them is important.

0:16:38.833,0:16:41.833

But non-negotiables for me
is the respect factor.

0:16:41.916,0:16:45.125

If you respect the game and you do things

the right way, good things will happen.

0:16:45.416,0:16:48.166

You know, I believe in the
I believe in the baseball gods.

0:16:48.166,0:16:49.875

You know, I have faith myself, you know?

0:16:49.875,0:16:53.166

So it's like if you don't do things
the right way, you're you're asking

0:16:53.166,0:16:56.208

for, negative outcomes in my opinion.

0:16:56.208,0:16:59.500

So that's that's the basis of

0:16:59.500,0:17:02.500

my culture is we respect what we do.

0:17:02.666,0:17:06.750

And, you know, I always remind these guys,
look, man, we're in my hometown.

0:17:07.083,0:17:09.791

Yeah, right.

I have a lot of pride about it.

0:17:09.791,0:17:10.875

I got a lot on the line here.

0:17:10.875,0:17:13.875

Yeah, I got a lot of pride
about the way we go about our business.

0:17:13.875,0:17:18.875

So, as long as we can keep that in
perspective, we won't have any problems.

0:17:18.875,0:17:21.916

Dude, I can't tell you how much I share
that, perspective.

0:17:22.000,0:17:24.625

Like, obviously I have a job to do here.

0:17:24.625,0:17:26.375

Is there? Like, this isn't just my job.

0:17:26.375,0:17:27.166

This is my town.

0:17:27.166,0:17:30.125

I'm like, I'm

this is serious. Yeah, right.

0:17:30.125,0:17:34.541

So if I mess something up at work, it's
more than just something going to work.

0:17:35.125,0:17:37.083

Mess something up in this town. Yeah.

0:17:37.083,0:17:37.958

And this is where I live.

0:17:37.958,0:17:40.208

Where my kids are going to live,
where I'm raising them.

0:17:40.208,0:17:42.750

Where all my friends
and my neighbors are doing the same.

0:17:42.750,0:17:45.708

This is important.

We got to get this right.

0:17:45.708,0:17:47.125

I hadn't thought about that for you.

0:17:47.125,0:17:49.250

I should have, yeah. So.

0:17:49.250,0:17:50.750

Well, and that was,

0:17:50.750,0:17:53.125

you know, I mean, look, man,

I went through the interview process.

0:17:53.125,0:17:56.291

You know, I was the pitching coach
before I ever got the manager's job.

0:17:56.291,0:17:57.916

I worked my way up.

0:17:57.916,0:18:00.916

And I'm proud of that because I,

0:18:01.541,0:18:04.708

in this industry,
there are no handouts. Not.

0:18:04.708,0:18:07.000

No, everything is not
everything is earned.

0:18:07.000,0:18:10.208

And I've always quantified
on that scoreboard. Yep.

0:18:10.416,0:18:13.875

I've always prided myself
on having that mindset of,

0:18:13.875,0:18:17.375

you know, you know, working
like my job could be taken away.

0:18:17.375,0:18:19.958

You know, I, I don't
I don't want anything given to me.

0:18:19.958,0:18:24.041

I want that challenge every day
of showing up and earning it, you know?

0:18:24.041,0:18:25.333

Yeah. What's the saying?

0:18:25.333,0:18:28.208

Rents

do every day or something like that.

0:18:28.208,0:18:28.708

Sure.

0:18:28.708,0:18:29.375

But whatever.

0:18:29.375,0:18:34.958

But, you know, working my way up
through, like, the interview process,

0:18:35.166,0:18:40.625

I, I was up against some guys
that simply had more experience than me.

0:18:40.625,0:18:41.458

They were older.

0:18:41.458,0:18:44.708

They've, you know, maybe they played
in the big leagues or whatever like that.

0:18:44.708,0:18:47.291

But, you know,
when I sat down with Dave, our owner,

0:18:48.333,0:18:49.375

I'll never forget the first

0:18:49.375,0:18:53.250

question he asked me is he goes,
I know Evan Parker, the pitching coach.

0:18:53.250,0:18:55.791

He goes, but what could I expect from you
as our manager?

0:18:55.791,0:18:58.791

Yeah, if I hired you. And I said,

0:18:59.000,0:19:01.250

I don't know
if there's a guy that you could hire

0:19:01.250,0:19:05.083

that would walk in here every day and wear
that uniform with as much pride as me.

0:19:05.166,0:19:06.125

I said, that's it.

0:19:06.125,0:19:09.875

I said, I said, I will fact,
it is a fact.

0:19:09.875,0:19:11.583

And I put everything on the line.

0:19:11.583,0:19:15.875

And ultimately players
will reciprocate that respect

0:19:15.875,0:19:19.125

because they understand that
not only am I doing it for my hometown,

0:19:19.125,0:19:22.416

I love the game of baseball,
but I'm doing it for them, you know?

0:19:22.541,0:19:24.291

And you got to lead from the top, man.

0:19:24.291,0:19:27.666

You can't expect your guys to do stuff
that you won't do.

0:19:28.000,0:19:31.000

You know, I have an open door policy.

0:19:31.125,0:19:31.833

These guys know

0:19:31.833,0:19:34.958

they can come in and talk to me
not only about baseball, but about life.

0:19:34.958,0:19:38.833

Because, you know, sometimes, and I'm sure
you maybe even feel this way at times,

0:19:38.833,0:19:42.416

like, you almost have to be a psychologist
sometimes, you know?

0:19:42.458,0:19:45.458

Yeah, yeah, yeah,

yeah, yeah, I, I figured you.

0:19:45.500,0:19:48.458

Well, I got 90,000 psychologist
judging me all the time.

0:19:48.458,0:19:49.000

Yeah. You're right.

0:19:49.000,0:19:50.416

Yeah, yeah, professionals too.

0:19:50.416,0:19:52.083

Right. Armchair stuff for you

0:19:52.083,0:19:53.500

as well, right?

Yeah.

0:19:53.500,0:19:57.166

So, you know, I just think that, I think

0:19:57.791,0:20:00.875

just going back to it, leading by example,
you got to do it.

0:20:00.875,0:20:02.791

It's a, it's a non-negotiable for me.

0:20:02.791,0:20:07.291

I think the way you explained respect
for the game for each other.

0:20:07.500,0:20:08.833

Right. Yep.

0:20:08.833,0:20:10.750

That's another

I got another way to simplify it.

0:20:10.750,0:20:12.541

Feel free to take it or not share it.

0:20:12.541,0:20:14.166

But it's kind of a family rule for us.

0:20:14.166,0:20:16.208

We just summarize it by saying
don't be a dick.

0:20:16.208,0:20:19.333

Ay, there you go. I'm glad you said it

Just like that.

0:20:19.333,0:20:23.291

Hey, that's exactly
that is pretty much exactly what I say,

0:20:23.291,0:20:25.166

and I could we've cut ten minutes
out of our interview for you.

0:20:25.166,0:20:27.458

Just what started
with that? Sure. Yeah, yeah.

0:20:29.500,0:20:32.041

You know, and I got no problem
saying that, you know,

0:20:32.041,0:20:32.708

I get a little more

0:20:32.708,0:20:36.416

colorful behind, you know, when I get
when I get my environment, I have to,

0:20:36.458,0:20:41.583

you know, I'm dealing
with, 26 to 30 alpha males every day.

0:20:41.750,0:20:42.041

Yeah.

0:20:42.041,0:20:45.375

Well, even dudes think they're the best,
and I want them to have that edge.

0:20:45.375,0:20:47.583

I want them to have that,
you know, competitive edge.

0:20:47.583,0:20:49.833

And so you got to keep those guys in
check.

0:20:49.833,0:20:54.208

And, you know, I,
I think I'm the guy for the job.

0:20:54.208,0:20:55.416

Yeah, it's a different atmosphere.

0:20:55.416,0:20:59.500

Yeah, but but, I like to say, look,
we're from our demand.

0:21:00.125,0:21:01.125

We're edgy.

0:21:01.125,0:21:03.458

Oh. Like I'm again.

I'm unapologetic about it.

0:21:03.458,0:21:05.041

We are - we have a chip on our shoulder.

0:21:05.041,0:21:07.458

We are a gritty town. Yeah,
we are a blue collar.

0:21:07.458,0:21:09.625

Roll up our sleeves.

Get it done, town. Yeah.

0:21:09.625,0:21:11.958

And I am only electable and I can.

0:21:11.958,0:21:12.458

Oh, yeah.

0:21:12.458,0:21:15.458

Because I love that fact sometimes
because I say things like that.

0:21:15.500,0:21:18.500

Yeah, right I love that and it's okay
I, this is who I am.

0:21:19.208,0:21:21.000

If you don't like it, pound sand,
so be it.

0:21:21.000,0:21:23.791

There you go. But frankly,
I think that's just Ogden.

0:21:23.791,0:21:25.916

And, you know, I've watched

0:21:25.916,0:21:28.291

I mean, you know,
not only my parents, but, you know,

0:21:28.291,0:21:30.541

my parents have led by example

their entire lives.

0:21:30.541,0:21:33.916

I mean, I mean,
they came down to 25th Street and started

0:21:33.916,0:21:37.500

from basically nothing
and have built two successful businesses.

0:21:37.500,0:21:38.666

But, you know, I've,

0:21:40.166,0:21:41.833

I've, I've worked

0:21:41.833,0:21:47.000

in their by following their example,
you know, and they are Ogden and I'm.

0:21:47.000,0:21:47.708

Oh yeah.

0:21:47.708,0:21:50.458

I mean you take a look at me,
I look like I might fit in here,

0:21:50.458,0:21:52.208

you know, and so might you just might.

0:21:52.208,0:21:53.041

Yeah, I just might.

0:21:53.041,0:21:56.291

And so, you know, and that was
a compliment that I took from my mom.

0:21:56.291,0:21:59.500

And I got this job, and she goes,
you know, I'm so proud of you.

0:21:59.500,0:22:01.083

But she goes, you know, you're Ogden.

0:22:01.083,0:22:02.708

She goes, this is who you are.

0:22:02.708,0:22:04.375

This is who you were born to be.

0:22:04.375,0:22:08.958

And, you deserve to be in this position

and go, go prove your worth.

0:22:08.958,0:22:11.791

Dude, I'm so excited for the season. Yeah.

0:22:11.791,0:22:14.541

After having this conversation with you,
because,

0:22:14.541,0:22:16.583

of course, I go to the games and cheer
on the Raptors.

0:22:16.583,0:22:18.041

Sure. Right.

0:22:18.041,0:22:20.791

And I've gone to games on Sundays
and is a huge baseball fan.

0:22:20.791,0:22:25.208

Is, you know, really I know know that
I know her and Art know it's annoying.

0:22:25.208,0:22:25.750

Yeah, right.

0:22:25.750,0:22:27.250

They're Cardinals fans. Yeah.

0:22:27.250,0:22:29.333

Whatever. Right. But

0:22:30.666,0:22:32.500

I hear her cheer for you as

0:22:32.500,0:22:35.500

much as anything when I'm at those games,
and I appreciate it.

0:22:35.500,0:22:38.083

And I and I want this
to be an opportunity for people.

0:22:38.083,0:22:41.083

And I need to know you
because it's important that

0:22:41.083,0:22:44.083

when we're at the games,
we're there to cheer on you

0:22:44.458,0:22:47.208

and to cheer on the Raptors, to cheer
on Ogden, to cheer on the players.

0:22:47.208,0:22:50.208

You know, I'm saying, yeah,
your success is ours. Yep.

0:22:50.416,0:22:51.666

Ours is yours.

0:22:51.666,0:22:53.916

That right? That's completely accurate.

0:22:53.916,0:22:57.416

And you know, one thing
that I really pride myself on is that,

0:22:57.416,0:22:58.375

you know, we've got some guys

0:22:58.375,0:23:02.041

with some Utah roots on our team and,
you know, managers that were here before,

0:23:02.250,0:23:06.250

it might have worked out that, you know,
we get a Utah guy here and there.

0:23:06.250,0:23:11.791

But, you know, I got a guy who,
pitched at ridgeline up in, Cache Valley,

0:23:11.916,0:23:15.416

you know, one of my best relief
pitchers last year, Shaun Triplett.

0:23:15.666,0:23:18.666

I picked up a kid out of Utah
Valley called Jordan.

0:23:18.791,0:23:21.500

We signed the Pac 12 pitcher of the year
this last year.

0:23:21.500,0:23:26.166

Bryson Van Sickle, who's a Utah kid, you
know, I mean, I want these Utah guys here

0:23:26.166,0:23:30.083

because they understand my level of pride
for what we're doing, you know?

0:23:30.083,0:23:34.750

And, there's really no way to look
when guys get in here.

0:23:34.791,0:23:36.541

That's the other thing
about building my culture.

0:23:36.541,0:23:38.416

You got to buy in. If you're not in.

0:23:38.416,0:23:41.041

I always just tell guys, hey, look, man,
I might as well get out.

0:23:41.041,0:23:43.958

Like, honestly, the doors right
there.

0:23:43.958,0:23:47.791

Just save me the conversation of,
you know, having to give you your release

0:23:47.791,0:23:51.958

and go through all of that, just you're

either in or you're out and that's it.

0:23:52.291,0:23:55.416

You know, I don't

I don't think that's asking for too much.

0:23:55.416,0:23:58.708

But when you get these Utah guys, man,
they really bring

0:23:58.708,0:24:01.750

a different level of,
you know, it's it's in them.

0:24:01.750,0:24:04.833

And, I appreciate that. And I know that.

0:24:04.833,0:24:09.041

And that was why I chose to, you know,
I had some offers to go to,

0:24:09.458,0:24:12.208

you know, schools in California.

0:24:12.208,0:24:16.041

And, you know, I went to Nevada early on

because I think I wanted to leave a little

0:24:16.041,0:24:21.000

bit and spread my wings and, and,
but when the opportunity came back to,

0:24:21.041,0:24:24.166

you know, play at Utah Tech
and play for a coach

0:24:24.166,0:24:27.166

who I loved, who changed my career
and helped me get drafted,

0:24:27.291,0:24:30.291

I've always had a ton of pride
for the state of Utah.

0:24:30.375,0:24:34.041

And, I don't that can't be taught.

0:24:34.041,0:24:35.625

Ogden's a sticky town.

0:24:35.625,0:24:40.083

It's, there were, you know, I came from

Arizona when I came to Weber State.

0:24:41.458,0:24:42.375

Played with a lot of guys

0:24:42.375,0:24:45.375

from Arizona, California,

0:24:46.541,0:24:47.291

all across the country.

0:24:47.291,0:24:48.958

Frankly, a lot of guys in Canada.

0:24:48.958,0:24:49.416

Yeah.

0:24:49.416,0:24:51.833

And it was funny because, you know,
you're that age,

0:24:51.833,0:24:54.083

I think we all wanted to kind of
leave the nest a little bit.

0:24:54.083,0:24:54.583

Yeah.

0:24:54.583,0:24:58.375

So we we all spread
our wings, came different places and

0:24:59.416,0:25:02.416

I think we all had the intention of maybe
going home when we're done,

0:25:02.916,0:25:05.458

but I can just stuck you, like,
just grabbed you.

0:25:05.458,0:25:06.041

Yeah.

0:25:06.041,0:25:10.333

And we all just either
stayed afterward or left and came back.

0:25:10.625,0:25:14.041

Yep. So many times, you know, of course
some went home and stayed home.

0:25:14.041,0:25:19.416

But it was so many players
that came here, fell in love with here.

0:25:20.083,0:25:23.916

And you're left here or just stayed here,
that it is a hometown man.

0:25:24.291,0:25:27.541

And I couldn't agree more with that.

0:25:27.541,0:25:29.916

And one thing that I deal with
is that, you know,

0:25:29.916,0:25:31.750

we've got 12 teams in our league.

0:25:31.750,0:25:33.666

Pretty much everyone travels
in and out of here,

0:25:33.666,0:25:36.333

even if it's just for a six
game series or whatever.

0:25:36.333,0:25:39.833

And, you know,

I I'm coaching third base and, you know,

0:25:39.833,0:25:42.666

I'm talking to some of the other team
during batting practice and stuff.

0:25:42.666,0:25:46.791

And I mean, these guys are and,
some guys who've never been to Utah, guys

0:25:46.791,0:25:47.541

from the East Coast

0:25:47.541,0:25:50.333

have never been out to the West, you know,
and they're just like,

0:25:50.333,0:25:54.833

you know, we did not expect this place
to be in Utah based on, you know,

0:25:54.958,0:25:59.500

maybe the, you know, general consensus
is throughout the states or whatever.

0:25:59.708,0:26:03.083

But, I mean, Ogden is captivating,
captivating.

0:26:03.083,0:26:07.625

I mean, you see these mountains,
you see the town, you see the downtown

0:26:07.625,0:26:11.916

district, you see,
I mean, we've really got it all, man.

0:26:11.916,0:26:14.666

I mean, I've lived in big, you know?
I mean, you're from Arizona.

0:26:14.666,0:26:15.750

You've lived in the

0:26:15.750,0:26:19.750

in the in the bad traffic and the stuff
that, you know

0:26:19.791,0:26:22.000

Yeah. Like. Yeah,
it is the concrete jungle.

0:26:22.000,0:26:25.291

It is I was, I was

I car culture is off the charts.

0:26:25.541,0:26:26.125

Yeah.

0:26:26.125,0:26:32.416

And so Ogden's just got so many things
that are, captivating about it.

0:26:32.666,0:26:35.291

And I think that that's kind
of what you're alluding to is,

0:26:35.291,0:26:38.041

I mean, you come here
and you just go, whoa. Yeah.

0:26:38.041,0:26:39.125

It just feels good to be here.

0:26:39.125,0:26:39.833

Yeah.

0:26:39.833,0:26:42.125

Feel a part of something,
but you become a part of it.

0:26:42.125,0:26:43.833

Yeah. You don't just feel a part.
You are a part of it.

0:26:43.833,0:26:44.750

You get.

0:26:44.750,0:26:47.000

You get to be as involved
as you want to be. Yep.

0:26:47.000,0:26:50.000

You get to participate in the greatness
of Ogden in the growth and.

0:26:50.250,0:26:50.708

Right.

0:26:50.708,0:26:53.458

Sure, the building of the community
as much as you want. Sure.

0:26:53.458,0:26:56.375

You just got to roll up your sleeves,
pick up a shovel and do that work.

0:26:56.375,0:26:59.000

Right. Welcome to come, dog baby. Yeah.

0:26:59.000,0:27:02.041

So let's talk about what we can expect
for the Raptors moving forward.

0:27:02.041,0:27:05.041

We talked a little bit about
some of the pitching that you've signed.

0:27:05.041,0:27:07.500

You started to sound a little bit
like Jay Hill.

0:27:07.500,0:27:11.375

You're talking about local talent,
local recruiting, in-state guys.

0:27:14.000,0:27:16.541

Tell us, tell us what we can expect
from this year's roster

0:27:16.541,0:27:19.791

and what are some of the things
that we're building on in preparation

0:27:19.791,0:27:21.875

for the season?

Sure.

Opening day.

0:27:21.875,0:27:25.416

So like I said, going back to last year,
you know, I was in a

0:27:25.416,0:27:26.708

I was in the rebuild stage.

0:27:26.708,0:27:27.666

That's that's what happens,

0:27:27.666,0:27:30.791

like you said, when everybody ages out
and we when everybody kind of,

0:27:30.833,0:27:33.250

you know, either moves up

or get signed or, you know, whatever.

0:27:33.250,0:27:37.958

But I've got a lot of second year
guys, and I can tell you, being in year

0:27:37.958,0:27:42.541

five of being involved with the Raptors
that second year of experience

0:27:42.541,0:27:46.125

is huge for guys, because guys
don't really know what to expect

0:27:46.125,0:27:49.208

when you come into this level of baseball,
you know?

0:27:49.416,0:27:53.791

And so there's for MLB partner leagues
just to lay this out there

0:27:53.791,0:27:55.666

for people
who may not be familiar with it.

0:27:55.666,0:27:57.250

There's four MLB partner leagues,

0:27:57.250,0:28:01.166

which are basically a facet of the minor leagues throughout the the the nation.

0:28:01.166,0:28:04.000

So, you know,

the Pioneer League is kind of the West.

0:28:04.000,0:28:06.875

You start moving

closer to, you know, the East.

0:28:06.875,0:28:09.875

You go Frontier League,

American Association, Atlantic League,

0:28:10.000,0:28:14.708

you know, but the pioneer League

is three years or less of service time.

0:28:14.708,0:28:17.708

So you get the hungriest guys

right out of college.

0:28:17.916,0:28:20.791

We have the cheapest buyouts
for Major League Baseball.

0:28:20.791,0:28:25.083

So a ton of prospects are at this level,
you know.

0:28:25.416,0:28:28.916

And so I think that that first year

0:28:28.916,0:28:31.916

when guys
first show up, it's impossible to know.

0:28:31.958,0:28:33.333

You don't know what you don't know.

0:28:33.333,0:28:37.083

So when guys show up and they see it
and now they know what to expect,

0:28:37.208,0:28:39.500

I've got a lot of those guys coming back.

0:28:39.500,0:28:43.208

So not only do they know what to expect
in terms of the competition,

0:28:43.208,0:28:47.083

but they know my expectations
and I even call them standards, you know?

0:28:47.125,0:28:48.958

Yeah, this is this is our standard.

0:28:48.958,0:28:51.375

We do not fall below non-negotiable. So

0:28:52.333,0:28:54.583

I have a ton of those guys coming in here.

0:28:54.583,0:28:58.666

And you know you know this as a player,
the coach and the coaching staff,

0:28:58.666,0:29:01.041

we really kind of facilitate
all that stuff.

0:29:01.041,0:29:03.833

But when you guys go in that clubhouse
together as players,

0:29:03.833,0:29:07.833

they're you guys take on your own identity
kind of as well.

0:29:07.833,0:29:08.166

Right.

0:29:08.166,0:29:12.041

And so I'm very excited about the guys

0:29:12.041,0:29:15.333

that I have coming back, because I know
what types of human beings they are.

0:29:15.458,0:29:18.250

You know, I always say, hey, look,
you know,

0:29:18.250,0:29:22.166

I'd let that guy date my daughter type of
thing, you know, or you know what I mean?

0:29:22.166,0:29:24.208

I got a lot of those.

I wish I could relate.

0:29:24.208,0:29:25.625

No boys are allowed to date my daughters.

0:29:25.625,0:29:26.166

There you go.

0:29:26.166,0:29:28.208

Yeah, my daughters continue on.

0:29:28.208,0:29:29.416

Yeah, my daughters are young.

0:29:29.416,0:29:31.458

I don't got to worry about it
for a while, but, you know.

0:29:31.458,0:29:33.125

Yeah, yeah, that time will come by.

0:29:33.125,0:29:34.958

You know, I got a lot of good dudes.

0:29:34.958,0:29:36.333

I got a lot of good dude.

0:29:36.333,0:29:39.375

Good men who are. Yes, who are talented.

0:29:39.875,0:29:41.791

They're more experienced.

0:29:41.791,0:29:44.416

They understand what it means
to be where we are.

0:29:44.416,0:29:46.708

Because when you go other places,

0:29:46.708,0:29:49.750

there are nice places
throughout the league.

0:29:49.750,0:29:52.333

There's not a road trip I don't like,
you know what I mean?

0:29:52.333,0:29:55.333

But there's something different
about Ogden.

0:29:55.583,0:29:58.625

And those guys know what to expect
showing up here.

0:29:58.625,0:30:01.833

So that's the first thing that I would say
is that

0:30:02.041,0:30:05.166

we've got that second year of experience
where these guys know

0:30:05.416,0:30:08.958

the the whole picture, that they know
what to expect to come coming in here.

0:30:09.250,0:30:12.250

And I've going to have some more leaders
in the clubhouse because,

0:30:12.250,0:30:13.875

you know, last year
we had a lot of rookies.

0:30:13.875,0:30:16.833

And yeah, I'm very proud of the way
we competed last year.

0:30:16.833,0:30:20.291

I mean, in my first year as a manager,
we only ended up winning nine

0:30:20.291,0:30:23.541

less games in the regular season
than the than the year that we want it.

0:30:24.541,0:30:26.333

And we got off to a tough start, you know,

0:30:26.333,0:30:30.458

and then you guys got ahead and we
I mean we battled we battled.

0:30:30.458,0:30:34.958

And that is that's the grit that I
you know I told these guys, I said, hey,

0:30:35.750,0:30:39.208

I will sooner not be breathing
before I let this team give up.

0:30:39.208,0:30:41.541

I said, so, you know,
you guys better buckle up

0:30:41.541,0:30:43.625

or I'm going to turn that door
into a revolving door

0:30:43.625,0:30:46.000

and I'll get guys in here
who will get it done.

0:30:46.000,0:30:48.208

And eventually it all came together.

0:30:48.208,0:30:49.833

Very proud of my guys.

0:30:49.833,0:30:52.291

I'm just excited to see their growth

0:30:52.291,0:30:55.291

and I'm excited for our fans
to see our growth because, I mean,

0:30:55.458,0:30:58.083

we've got the highest attendance
in the league every year, man.
Right.

0:30:58.083,0:31:01.166

You know, that's the one thing
I would like to say to our community is

0:31:01.166,0:31:04.750

just thank you
so much for your support for us.

0:31:07.041,0:31:09.250

You can't quantify how much that means.

0:31:09.250,0:31:09.541

Yeah.

0:31:09.541,0:31:12.000

And, you know, on a lot of these guys
who come out, you know,

0:31:12.000,0:31:15.000

I pitched in college regionals
where there's, you know,

0:31:15.208,0:31:17.916

5000 or more, you know, 8000 people.

0:31:17.916,0:31:21.541

I pitched in, you know,
the spring training, the major league

0:31:21.583,0:31:25.291

spring training stadium down in Arizona
for the Brewers, you know?

0:31:25.500,0:31:28.541

But, man, Ogden,
it's like that stadium there.

0:31:28.625,0:31:30.458

Our fans are right there.

0:31:30.458,0:31:32.750

You know it right there.
But the view yeah.

0:31:32.750,0:31:36.791

Yeah I mean it's just it's just Americana.

0:31:36.875,0:31:39.416

Oh there it is man. It's Ogden USA.

0:31:39.416,0:31:40.875

You got it right there. You got it.

0:31:40.875,0:31:45.125

So in essence,
what you can expect is that,

0:31:45.125,0:31:48.166

we will have
a roster full of competitors.

0:31:48.333,0:31:50.708

We have good human beings who uphold.

0:31:50.708,0:31:54.708

And, I tell these guys, look,
when you go out in our community,

0:31:54.708,0:31:56.750

I expect that you represent us
in a certain way.

0:31:56.750,0:31:57.791

And there's that.

0:31:57.791,0:32:00.458

That's a non-negotiable right there.

They don't just go out in our community.

0:32:00.458,0:32:01.333

They're living in our community.

0:32:01.333,0:32:03.666

You're living with community members,
right? Right.

0:32:03.666,0:32:06.875

And our our host family
infrastructure is as good as it gets.

0:32:06.875,0:32:09.875

I mean, we've got people
who've let you know our players

0:32:09.875,0:32:13.291

drive their cars and stuff like, I know,
you know, I mean, it's just it's amazing.

0:32:13.291,0:32:14.875

We gotta we got council member that.

0:32:14.875,0:32:16.833

Oh yeah. Yeah, yeah.

0:32:16.833,0:32:19.625

And so just

0:32:20.666,0:32:22.625

roster full of competitors.

0:32:22.625,0:32:24.541

We're going to play hard every night.

0:32:24.541,0:32:27.083

And I expected content.

0:32:27.083,0:32:28.833

That's all you can ask.

Because you know what?

0:32:28.833,0:32:31.000

You get that playoff spot.

0:32:31.000,0:32:33.791

Anything can happen

I know you know what I mean?

0:32:33.791,0:32:37.583

I think people I don't think people
realize how rare the Nick Saban is, are.

0:32:37.708,0:32:38.375

Oh sure.

0:32:38.375,0:32:38.708

Right.

0:32:38.708,0:32:43.041

To have the the run that they do
sure that the Kirby smart or

0:32:43.541,0:32:48.000

all right those are their check
that you build into becoming that sure.

0:32:48.000,0:32:51.333

But at this level it's
it would be a particularly challenging

0:32:51.333,0:32:55.583

and destabilizing because you're trying
to develop players, to their greatness,

0:32:55.875,0:32:59.375

which then really counts
against your success,

0:32:59.375,0:33:02.375

because it means that you've sent a player
up to the bigs here.

0:33:02.541,0:33:02.958

Right?

0:33:02.958,0:33:05.916

But but it does have a cyclical effect
in terms of

0:33:05.916,0:33:09.333

when you get when you get a good player
in, you get that guy signed,

0:33:09.625,0:33:12.458

you get the next good player who can has
who wants to be here.

0:33:12.458,0:33:14.041

Yeah. To get signed. Right.

0:33:14.041,0:33:17.166

To do work to get, you know,
we track all of those metrics in terms of,

0:33:17.166,0:33:21.583

you know, I mean, I think since 2021, I'd
have to fact check myself on this number.

0:33:21.583,0:33:24.958

But, you know,
I mean, we've got, you know, 20 guys

0:33:24.958,0:33:28.875

signed or something like that, you know,
and I mean, those guys have have gone on

0:33:28.875,0:33:32.458

and made a name for themselves,
you know, major league organizations.

0:33:32.750,0:33:36.291

And, you know, with us being an MLB
partner league,

0:33:36.291,0:33:40.166

they install all of the technology
in our stadiums to be able

0:33:40.166,0:33:44.708

to scout our guys, whether there is
a physical scout sitting in that standard.

0:33:44.708,0:33:45.833

Oh, you know,

0:33:45.833,0:33:50.583

so the game, you know, has turned into,
you know, you see a lot of spin rates.

0:33:50.583,0:33:52.125

You see a lot of exit velocities.

0:33:52.125,0:33:53.833

You see a lot of these metrics

0:33:53.833,0:33:57.208

that kind of quantify
what Major League Baseball is looking for.

0:33:57.458,0:33:59.291

And so they'll find you.

0:33:59.291,0:33:59.708

Oh yeah.

0:33:59.708,0:34:02.708

You know, and I always tell these guys,
look, you know, baseball reference

0:34:02.708,0:34:06.541

is kind of the, the gold standard

0:34:06.541,0:34:10.333

for where you go to see a guy's stats
and all this kind of stuff.

0:34:10.333,0:34:13.875

I say, hey, look,
any time you're checked into a game

0:34:13.875,0:34:16.583

or you're on that starting lineup
or your name is on that card

0:34:16.583,0:34:19.125

that's going up, that's going on
your baseball reference, man.

0:34:19.125,0:34:21.041

Yeah. So, you know,
you better make it count.

0:34:21.041,0:34:22.250

And,

0:34:23.291,0:34:24.625

so, you know, just a

0:34:24.625,0:34:27.625

great group of guys
and we're going to we're going to compete.

0:34:27.625,0:34:28.375

Good.

0:34:28.375,0:34:31.416

We we expect you to compete,
will be there to watch you and support

0:34:31.458,0:34:34.333

you and you as you compete.
I appreciate that you're ripping the flag.

0:34:34.333,0:34:36.916

Do you European brand
of course man you got you got the all

0:34:36.916,0:34:38.083

your helmet is O-Town.

0:34:38.083,0:34:39.083

Yeah. Freaking important.

0:34:39.083,0:34:42.166

Got the got the Ogden post
stamp from when I was born.

0:34:42.166,0:34:43.750

Man, I get the year I was born.

0:34:43.750,0:34:46.000

I didn't even sit and take time
to read all the.

0:34:46.000,0:34:47.166

Yeah. It would take you a minute.

0:34:47.166,0:34:49.666

Yeah, I think so. I think it is, man.

0:34:49.666,0:34:52.166

Got a lot.

I got a lot of Ogden stuff on me to be.

0:34:52.166,0:34:54.333

I know you do. Yeah.

I can't tell you. You're a baseball guy.

0:34:54.333,0:34:55.625

Yeah, yeah.

0:34:55.625,0:34:58.291

Or Ogden guy. Right. All right. So.

0:35:00.333,0:35:01.416

We're kind of coming to the end.

0:35:01.416,0:35:04.416

But before we do,

0:35:04.666,0:35:04.958

What?

0:35:04.958,0:35:07.958

The thing I bet the most nervous

I've been in this job.

0:35:08.875,0:35:10.958

And it's probably silly
because I probably have had

0:35:10.958,0:35:13.458

more consequential situations, but

0:35:13.458,0:35:15.166

was when I was thrown out the first pitch
last year.

0:35:15.166,0:35:16.625

Yeah. I mean, that's.

0:35:16.625,0:35:18.666

You just can't be that guy, dude.

0:35:18.666,0:35:20.291

You can't can't, right?

0:35:20.291,0:35:23.583

I mean, look, I can get you out there,
get you a little, you know, look,

0:35:23.583,0:35:26.708

we can get you a little couple
sim practices if you want to,

0:35:26.708,0:35:29.791

you know, actually,
so we can turn up the crowd noise.

0:35:29.791,0:35:33.333

Hey, look, I'll turn up crowd noise during
spring training just so guys have to,

0:35:33.333,0:35:37.375

you know, work on our verbal communication
on pop flies and, you know, pop up

0:35:37.375,0:35:38.541

priority and stuff like that.

0:35:38.541,0:35:39.250

So, hey,

0:35:39.250,0:35:42.875

if you want to come out and, you know,
I'll get all the guys out there too.

0:35:42.875,0:35:45.041

You know what? I could do
one better, actually.

0:35:45.041,0:35:46.291

True story.

0:35:46.291,0:35:47.750

I got a daughter that's a catcher in soft ball

0:35:47.750,0:35:48.250

Okay

0:35:48.250,0:35:51.125

She's she's just a total dirt kid.

0:35:51.125,0:35:52.250

Loves to be a catcher.

0:35:52.250,0:35:56.291

Loves

she she used to, which is really young.

0:35:56.291,0:35:58.791

We put the gear on her
and she'd go out, like,

0:35:58.791,0:36:01.458

start the game, and she'd go out there
and roll around the dirt.

0:36:01.458,0:36:03.791

Do like dirt angels. Just to start.

0:36:03.791,0:36:07.083

She'd like, rub it all over her pants
and then she'd take some warm up

0:36:07.416,0:36:08.333

to get the game started.

0:36:08.333,0:36:10.041

She's that kid. That's
why she's a catcher.

0:36:10.041,0:36:13.000

Yeah, but I put her in full gear

0:36:13.000,0:36:15.666

and we went out and just did reps.

0:36:15.666,0:36:18.250

There you go. Two nights in a row
before the opening game.

0:36:18.250,0:36:19.791

And, I mean, I can throw heat.

0:36:19.791,0:36:21.875

I got it, but I, I got a wild noodle.

0:36:21.875,0:36:22.458

Hey, man.

0:36:22.458,0:36:26.166

Like big time

I'm strike percentages king I guess.

0:36:26.166,0:36:28.875

But I played a lot of third

and they put me in the hot box

0:36:28.875,0:36:31.833

because I was dumb enough not to move.

Sure.

And but I was

0:36:32.916,0:36:34.250

50-50 on that throw.

0:36:34.250,0:36:36.541

Hey., well,
you know what? Look, look.

0:36:36.541,0:36:40.541

baseball is a pretty smart person, sport
our guys will put respect on

0:36:40.541,0:36:42.041

if you come out and pump a strike,

0:36:42.041,0:36:45.416

or you come out and you pump some heat,
we'll we'll put some respect on them.

0:36:45.416,0:36:47.291

I think what I think I'll do both.

0:36:47.291,0:36:49.916

I don't know, man. I bet
I pumped a 39 mile an hour last year.

0:36:49.916,0:36:52.583

I was so scared.

Just just put it in there, man.

0:36:52.583,0:36:56.666

Like, don't don't be the guy that short
hops it or throws off the stands.

0:36:56.791,0:36:58.291

We'll get the track man on.

0:36:58.291,0:37:00.250

We'll get
we'll get all your metric spin rate.

0:37:00.250,0:37:02.416

Yeah, yeah.
You might be getting recruited after man.

0:37:02.416,0:37:04.500

You might be.
You never know.

0:37:04.500,0:37:05.833

Second second career.

0:37:05.833,0:37:08.041

Well I'll, I'll do the prep.

0:37:08.041,0:37:09.916

I'll show up in true form.

0:37:09.916,0:37:11.583

Hey, I'll set the expectation.

0:37:11.583,0:37:14.333

I'll respect the game I appreciate. Right.

0:37:14.333,0:37:15.333

Appreciate that boy.

0:37:15.333,0:37:17.666

Man, I'm really set myself up for failure
now. Hey.

0:37:17.666,0:37:19.958

Well, I'm at my office at the stadium
every day, man.

0:37:19.958,0:37:22.458

Do you want to get out there
and, run a few practice reps?

0:37:22.458,0:37:23.291

I'm always down.

0:37:23.291,0:37:24.833

I love, love baseball.

0:37:24.833,0:37:26.916

Yeah, and I love softball.

0:37:26.916,0:37:30.583

I got two daughters that are playing
softball and been coaching them until,

0:37:31.208,0:37:33.041

you know, become a mayor, actually.

Yeah.

0:37:33.041,0:37:35.750

And love watching develops.

So I love watching the game.

0:37:35.750,0:37:38.750

Still and look forward
to watching you, supporting you,

0:37:39.041,0:37:42.333

supporting Ogden success,

supporting the success of an Ogden boy.

0:37:42.458,0:37:44.583

I appreciate that and thank you so much.

0:37:44.583,0:37:46.000

Thank you for the opportunity.

0:37:46.000,0:37:48.875

I have mad respect for you.

0:37:48.875,0:37:50.708

I know what you do is not easy.

0:37:50.708,0:37:53.250

And, you know, just keep going, man.

0:37:53.250,0:37:55.083

I know, I know, you're leading us. Well,
thanks, man.

0:37:55.083,0:37:56.291

Right back at you, brother.

0:37:56.291,0:37:58.875

Ogden boy make us proud, Evan Parker.

0:37:58.875,0:38:01.875

We end every episode with what
we call a call to action.

0:38:02.083,0:38:04.541

I don't think there's anything
more appropriate

0:38:04.541,0:38:08.833

for call to action today than to mark
your calendars for opening day.

0:38:09.041,0:38:10.250

Yes, sir. Do you know the date offhand?

0:38:10.250,0:38:13.250

Okay, so we open in Oakland on May 20th.

0:38:13.541,0:38:14.416

Home opening.

0:38:14.416,0:38:17.875

No no no, no. Open in Oakland in May 20th.

0:38:17.875,0:38:20.708

Just so people aren't confused
about the schedule.

0:38:20.708,0:38:25.416

May 27th we open at home
against the Yuba-Sutter High Wheelers

0:38:25.541,0:38:27.250

The defendant champions.

0:38:27.250,0:38:28.208

May 27th.

0:38:28.208,0:38:29.416

May, May 27th.

0:38:29.416,0:38:32.166

Okay, I know it's on my calendar
because I gotta throw the first pitch.

0:38:32.166,0:38:32.666

Okay.

0:38:32.666,0:38:35.291

Geez, Murray's dressed for it
and, well, sorry.

0:38:35.291,0:38:36.916

I'll start putting in the reps.

0:38:36.916,0:38:38.583

Did a little earlier start your weeks.

0:38:38.583,0:38:40.458

Right. All right, all right.

0:38:40.458,0:38:41.916

Mark your calendars. Call to action.

0:38:41.916,0:38:45.083

May 27th Ogden Raptors show up.

0:38:45.416,0:38:48.208

Show out for Ogden

and show up for for Evan.

0:38:48.208,0:38:48.875

Yes, sir.

0:38:48.875,0:38:51.458

Let's make sure our guys know

that they got our support.

0:38:51.458,0:38:53.083

Appreciate it man. Thank you so much.

0:38:53.083,0:38:55.291

Thank you thank you dude.

Thank you. Good to see you man.

0:38:55.291,0:38:56.125

Great to see you.

0:38:56.125,0:38:58.833

That's it for today, Ogden Way.

It's what we do.

0:38:58.833,0:39:00.041

It's who we are.

0:39:00.041,0:39:01.500

Until next time.

0:39:01.500,0:39:03.333

Be good, do good. Stay good.