**Keep Your Head in the Game**

A less than 10-minute play

*Players*

Dad – male that seems like he would have a couple of kids that would be around 8 to 12 years old

Dad #2 – same

*Setting*

It should sound like we are at a little league ballpark with games going on.

There is nothing on stage because both Dads are sitting in the theater seats amongst the audience. The theater seats act as the “bleachers” for the game.

*SFX - (Sounds of a little league baseball game continuously play in the bkgd)*

**Dad**

(sitting among the audience)

Come on Danny, you got this.

(stands up in the audience and claps)

You got this. Let’s go Danny. Just have fun out there.

(claps again)

Think about what we talked about. Don’t be scared out there. Alright.

Focus, just focus. Keep your head in the game.

(beat)

Don’t let anything distract you Danny. Eye on the ball.

Focus. No distractions. You got this!

(another beat)

Nothing to be scared about.

Don’t listen to the other team. Just listen to yourself.

Listen to your coach too if she says something.

But other than that, don’t listen to anybody.

Just focus. Alright buddy.

Let it go. Let everything else go.

Head in the game, everything else, gone.

You got this!

(beat)

If it gets too scary just shake it off Danny.

Shake it off, like this.

(Dad shakes his whole body, starting with his head then moving to the rest of his limbs)

Shake it off. No worries! No worries!

You can do this.

I believe in you.

Coach believes in you.

We all believe in you.

(small beat)

Even mom believes in you.

(beat)

I know that mom isn’t here.

She wants to be. She really does.

Just, mom and dad are going thru a difficult time right now,

but don’t you worry about that.

Just think about the game. Alright, focus. That’s all you gotta do.

(beat)

Again, I know mom would be here if she could. I know she wants to be. But she and I just can’t be in the same place right now.

You know, the same geographical location.

It just doesn’t end well.

But right now this isn’t about us, this is about you.

I am here for you. Alright.

She is also here for you…but she is in a different place. Okay?

That’s probably how it is going to work from now on.

Mom and dad, we are both here for you. We just won’t be in the exact same physical place, but we are still here for you….emotionally.

Alright! But don’t worry about that buddy.

Just focus. You got this!

(sits down…then stands back up)

Speaking of physical places. You’re probably going to have pick one of us that you what to physically stay with. You know, live with.

Doesn’t mean you don’t see the other person.

This is just where your stuff lives.

And where you sleep.

And where you’re probably gonna spend most of your time.

You’re going to need to decide that quick.

Not now, not now.

Just focus on the game, buddy. Focus on the game.

(claps)

(sits down but stands back up)

Danny, I would like it if you did choose to live with me.

But you don’t have to decide that now.

Nothing to worry about. Nothing to be scared about.

Just focus on the game.

Focus.

(sits but stands immediately back up)

Your sister’s gonna stay with me. She already decided. Just to let you know.

But I’m not saying that to sway you. I just want you to have all the information.

Alright? Let’s go, you got this.

(goes to sit down but doesn’t)

I talked with her a few weeks ago, that’s how she’s already decided.

I was gonna talk with you then too, but you had this game coming up.

I didn’t want to distract you. I wanted you to be able to focus on the game.

Alright buddy. Don’t worry about it. You don’t have to decide anything right now.

Don’t even think about it.

Just focus on the game.

Focus.

(claps)

(beat)

Do you happen to know which way you might be leaning?

I’m just trying to figure out how big of an apartment I might need to get.

Because…uh…oh yeah…I’m going to be moving out.

Probably tomorrow.

Actually…it is tomorrow. I have the moving truck all lined up.

Your sister is going to help me move.

Again, Danny I would’ve told you all of this sooner but I didn’t want to distract you.

Just focus on the game buddy.

No other distractions.

Focus on the game.

(claps as he sits back down)

(beat)

(Dad stands up)

I just realized it was my turn to bring the snacks and I forget them at home.

I’m going to need to call your mother. She can run them over.

Okay, problem solved. Don’t worry about it.

(beat)

Except when she comes here, I don’t think I can meet her in the parking lot. Again, we can’t be in the same location. It’s…it’s tough for both of us.

Danny can you run and get the snacks for me when mom gets here?

But don’t worry about that right now. She’s not here yet.

Just focus on the game buddy. Focus.

(starts to sits back down but doesn’t)

Yeah, I don’t …I don’t think I’m going to be able to call her.

It’s just too difficult for us to talk right now.

So I don’t think there’s gonna be any snacks. Alright?

But you don’t worry about that.

Keep your mind in the game.

Let’s go buddy, you got this.

You got this.

(Dad sits back down, then stands back up)

You know what Danny, you and the team deserve snacks.

That is on me.

So….uh….so I know I should …uh…I should call your mom.

But….but …I’m scared.

(takes a breath)

But…but this isn’t about us, this is about you.

So I’m gonna do it. Okay. I’m gonna do it.

Don’t you worry buddy. I can do this.

(whispers to himself)

I can do this.

Just gotta shake it off. Shake it off.

(shakes off his whole body just like before)

(takes another breath, then takes about his phone and holds it up high)

I’m dialing her right now.

(starts to dial)

But you stay in the game.

Focus

Keep your mind on the ga…Hello?

(on the phone)

Oh yeah, it’s me. Uh….uh, look I don’t want to argue right now…

I just …I called…I needed to…

I forgot the snacks.

Yeah, they’re on the…on the counter.

If you could…you know…oh you can?

Great.

Um…thank you.

And…I…I’m sorry.

No, I should have remembered to…to uh…to bring…

I just..um…I just….lost my focus.

(hangs up the phone, takes another breath, then hold phone up high again)

I did it Danny! I called her!

Snacks are on the way!

Alright! So nothing to worry about buddy.

If I can do it, you can do it.

Focus. Just focus.

No distractions.

Keep your head in the game.

(claps and sits back down)

(after a moment another Dad stands up)

**Dad #2**

Aw, come on, Patrick, you gotta pay attention!

(Dad quickly stands back up)

Dad (to Dad #2)

Hey! Just let the kids play, okay.

No need to distract them

(back toward the game)

Don’t worry about that boys!

Keep your heads in the game.

(claps)

END