

**ESPN Thursday Night Showdown**

This Week:

***Slapfight***

*Willoughby Towers Condo Meeting*

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OPENING Shot: The highly produced opening credits for "**Thursday Night Showdown: Slapfight Edition**" on ESPN... full music and graphics, announcer intros and quick bios. NICK Sharin, Lead Anchor, Golden Forearm Winner and National Champ in the 90s, with ESSIE Gunderson who holds the distinction of having been chairperson of the most number of local committees and boards alive and a color commentator. Both are in ESPN blazers, NICK sitting at a green screen desk in a studio and ESSIE is on location.

Credits end and the anchors jump in.

NICK

Welllll hidy hi and hello folks. It's Thursday and have we got a real contest for you tonight. On location is our color commentary and past champion, Essie Gunderson... Looks like a big night for our viewers .. Right Essie..!?

ESSIE

Absolutely Nick. What makes this week's contest such a pot boiler is the high content of seniors with chronic ailments facing off against Gen X'ers who've formed an alliance with a small cohort of bitter young divorcees with children in school and a sprinkling of millenials and rich Gen Z's who can't look away from their phones.

NICK

Wow Essie... sort of reminds me of the Miami finals of '07. That history making contest ended in a call to police and several restraining orders being issued to people who live in the same building. We had

months of follow up checking in on the impossibility of enforcement, resulting physical dust ups and a couple more shows dedicated to just that one topic.

ESSIE

If memory serves, Nick, the heavy, old school, heirloom wedding rings of those Miami ladies really made the difference against the young, agile newcomers... so stay tuned folks, nothing for certain when these two demographics face off after months of unresolved resentments.

NICK

Don't forget the canes and walkers, Essie. Although illegal, we find many willing to be disqualified just to get in the last word and break an iPhone or two before they leave the field.

ESSIE

I'd also like to remind viewers that two chairbound individuals CANNOT effect any sort of retreat.. so each encounter in effect becomes it's own little slappy Thunderdome. Will a failing oxygen tank be the decider ? Again, this brings home the importance of proper equipment maintenance.

NICK

And also let's not forget the language barrier of these Millenials and Z's throwing around annoying FB and Instagram hashtag's and word emojis, something that was

missing in Miami.

ESSIE

OMG, Nick. These could prove decisive in drawing the first blows and exposing vulnerabilities, flanks, loyalties and room dynamics, something that was critical in '07. I mean, screw Survivor... those young pros forced a mutiny among the seniors with hardly a forearm exposed.

NICK

Which is why we're here in Pennsylvania, folks.. this is a classic scenario and a hope for the magic of Miami... hold, on (checks his earpiece). Essie, the players are taking the field. Can you give us an update on the boardroom furniture.

ESSIE

(animated graphic of office chair)

It's not good, Nick. Dated lumbar technology and no head rests or support for those longer engagements, and critically.. no wheels. Folks will have to stand their ground if caught seated. I think we're gonna see some thick lensed glasses come flying off of loosely supported necks. Certainly some lost earbuds as well.

NICK

First to take the field is Willoughby Board Treasurer and water aerobics instructor, Maisy Henshaw. She's facing a vote and

dismissal over some bad ledger math from a flawed spreadsheet she claimed to know how to program. A much younger member fixed the issue in 3 seconds, with some major egg on Maisy's face. She will not go quietly into that night.

Essie

Tech literacy is this squad's major weakness and a likely flash point for this contest. Next to take positions are two new younger members of the board ,Brittany and Dakota (he/him) who had stacked last year's election meeting with sympathetic condo owners and crabcakes and have been challenging the old crew ever since. These two very youthful trust fund financial whiz's have been plying the old crew with investment advice for waining IRA's among some of the more struggling seniors. We may see a surprise vote, a split in the old guard.

NICK

I don't believe it, Essie, but next to take a seat are Henry Thellis, the stay at home dad and the recently divorced Maggie English. She's taken up vegetarianism, bi-sexual promiscuity and yoga to cope and many of these small town male and female tenants will not be looking her directly in the eye this afternoon. She may try to run the room with outlandish points of order with the help of a shame weakened voter assembly. And

unbelievably, Henry has brought his infant son, again apparently unable to find a baby sitter. If there's crying, this whole contest could explode and all bets are off.

ESSIE

That's right, Nick. Miami was famously labelled "The Colicky Cage Match" for precisely the same reason. I am not making any predictions today. Thankfully, today's contest is on the ground floor and not next to a pool.

NICK

Last to arrive are board chairperson Tommy Hayes, the hip senior with the pony tail and board secretary Jake Murphy, the Vietnam vet who'd like nothing better than to take a flame thrower to the unpatriotic younger condo owners. It was said that Tommy Hayes got the position for simply agreeing with the last argument made and voting accordingly. So he's a notorious swing voter, often arrives stoned and hungry and a likely innocent antagonist for everything that could go wrong today.

ESSIE

Hang on, Nick. The meeting is coming to order. Tommy is looking for his mallet.. this could take a while...no... he's got it... we're under way. He's calling for a reading of the minutes..

NICK

And there it is... Maggie

English is on her feet asking to be recognized. She is objecting to the reading of the minutes... SHE IS OBJECTING TO THE READING OF THE MINUTES...!!

ESSIE

This is classic Maggie, Nick. Power has shifted to the tennant gallery and Maggie's cohort of guilty, brow beaten, meat eating, church going rubes. Jake has pulled out his dog eared Robert's Rules and is scolding the millenials and Zs in advance that this is not an opportunity, in his words "to check their goddamn Instagrams. "

NICK

All this in the first minute and we haven't even gotten to Maisy's treasurer's report and her attempt to hook up her laptop to the overhead.

ESSIE

If we even get there, Nick. I'm not liking Maggie's look... it has the feel of a coup in the works.

NICK

My God... an emergency vote! That is entirely out of order. Maisy's in an absolute silent, murderous fume. Maggie English must get a second to amend the agenda. Who are you liking, Essie?

ESSIE

Tommy Hayes has been rumoured to have been seen in the vicinity of Maggie's basement

condo with edibles ostensibly with mail wrongly delivered to his box, usually just flyers. His notorious poor judgement and 60's sexual ethic has probably got him on Maggie's hook. But Maisy has been eyeing Tommy's tail for months and won't like this at all. Tommy will likely retreat into some form of sickening appeasement... so we're probably gonna see the peace sign from Tommy again to calm the room. Jake Murphy's gonna lose it.

NICK

Here's the exact split we have been speculating about... but not from the Gen Zs... Folks, you saw it here first... against all our predictions, the Gen Z's have been benched... their caviar and cheese charcuterie wasted.

ESSIE

Will we see an all female encounter? It has all the makings of the Youngstown hair puller of '88. If Maisy could just catch Maggie English seated... The Gen Z's and Millenials have totally checked out at this point and are on their phones. However... I think the younger cohort may have engineered this entirely, Nick.. It's got their lazy, unfit, finger prints all over it. A gamechair revolution. We all know they don't like moving around... physically..This could be a proxy war.



NICK

My bet's on Maggie, Essie...  
you just can't beat plain,  
old fashioned, nutsy Fagen...  
this is simply not in the Gen  
Z, safespace, wheelhouse...  
they are way over their heads  
when it comes to long  
established, complex and  
unpleasant human realities.

ESSIE

I think you're right, Nick.  
Maisy's on the move... she's  
got her "World's Best  
Grandma" mug in hand.

NICK

She's going for the coffee  
and cookies feint... Wow,  
this is starting early folks,  
we are straight into it now  
and the minutes have not even  
been read. This is an ANGRY  
bunch of people and I would  
now like to advise our people  
in the production booth to be  
ready with the 5 second delay  
before we switch to audio.

ESSIE

The coffee table is just 6  
feet from Maggie and Maisy's  
looking pretty spry from this  
morning's aquafit... my  
God... Maggie has decided to  
sit and wait for the  
ruling... she is sitting  
down!... this is the worst  
thing she could possibly do.  
And Maisy's wearing her heavy  
bracelets... Nick are you  
seeing this?!!

NICK

Absolutely Essie. It's always  
great to watch a master at  
work. The cobra-esque  
stealth, undetectable

peripheral visual checks,  
room generalship and almost  
blythe mannerisms. I mean she  
really looks like she just  
wants a coffee. You just  
don't see that anymore in  
today's game. That is veteran  
skill, Essie... straight up.  
One cannot help but worry for  
Maggie's weakened vegetarian  
constitution against this  
hardened old , meat and  
potatoes matron who looks to  
make quick work of this  
rookie.

ESSIE

Nick! Nick! We have problem.  
I see a Go Pro, repeat,  
there's a Go Pro attached to  
a bike helmet, ownership  
unknown, in play. We have a  
plant in the gallery.

NICK

My God, Essie!! What in the  
Sam hell is going on down  
there!

ESSIE

This is a technical element  
and a signature move of  
social media savvy  
participants. And like the  
web itself, bathed in  
selective anonymity.

NICK

That's right, Essie. The  
older crew have scant  
acquaintance with the  
anonymity of the web and it's  
devastating power. I mean,  
they'll regularly use their  
first and last names in their  
posts and tell you exactly  
where they live... a tragic  
blindspot that some "younger"  
element is exploiting..being

recorded then posted on the web for more than 1 billion to view is just not a concept they can get their heads around. I'm sure most victims of viral videos would tell you they'd prefer the days of a simple medieval shunning or just to be put in stocks for a few days in the town square. No one is currently claiming responsibility. No one likely ever will. What am I talking about. ?

ESSIE

I see this whole thing going viral. This will be Maisy's grand exit. Her flourish.

NICK

And if that Go Pro's sound is on, this board is history. A scorched earth strategy from the near sociopathic, medicated Zs. Well I did not see this kind of brutality coming at all. A full election will have to be called which a younger cohort hopes to take full advantage of. My hat is off to Adderall and complete social isolation. Lethal... just LETHAL.

ESSIE

Maisy's eyeing Dakota's artsinal pumpkin seed and tollhouse, extra large cookies. She's filling her cup. This is great stuff, Nick. A real operator at work.

NICK

Do you anticipate a verbal challenge?

ESSIE

Yes, absolutely. NO sucker swipes for this classy lady. She will throw down the gauntlet and state her reasons before any physical engagement. She's a dying breed.

NICK

Essie ... we have some movement in the gallery behind you... a scooter

ESSIE

Yes... I see it. That's Roy Kent, a retired British aerospace engineer. He worked on jet turbines for the British "V" bomber class of warplanes and is likely the older contingent's sole tech savvy member. He's headed for the GoPro. He's got something in his hand. Nick?

NICK

Camera 2.. can we zoom in...

Switch to jumbled POV of camera 2 locking in on Roy's hand, poising for action. It's holding an Elmo fridge magnet.

ESSIE

My god! it's a Sesame Street fridge magnet. That will stop this whole strategy in it's tracks and destroy any data or recording on the Go Pro. Brilliant. Absolutely brilliant. Roy's notorious for his complex planning, diagramming and near military

precision.

Roy's scooter passes near the GoPro, he seamlessly sticks the magnet to the GoPro in a single swipe without stopping, like a polo player striking for a goal. Once in place, his face turns to Maisy and he gives the double thumbs up.

NICK

A *perfect* execution by Roy followed by (Nick chokes up with emotion..) ... followed by the traditional go-sign of the Royal Air Force. Just masterful... I am speechless Essie. Maisy has been lying in wait this whole time, flipping the tech tables against this younger cohort who dared to underestimate her and is now in a perfect position to exploit it. We are beyond Miami now, folks. You are watching history in the making.

ESSIE

Maggie is distracted, Nick. She's taken her eyes off of Maisy and is in some disbelief at having been outmaneuvered. There it is, folks , the first salvo. An artsinal cookie to the back of Maggies head. Maisy's got her attention. The gauntlet has been thrown.

Screen switches to a closer shot of Maggie looking off and then a flying cookie entering the shot, hitting the back of Maggie's head... open mouth and shock from Maggie. Shot is replayed in close up in slow motion almost instantly.

NICK

OK... control room... we will need that 5 second delay now before Maisy begins her verbal challenge.

CUT To: Mobile steady cam shot moving in on Maisy stepping up to Maggie who is still seated. Maggie stands indignantly and we see Maisy forming words, almost shouting, with lots of "F" expletives silently being formed with the audio still not engaged. Maggie raises her arm to strike the first slap and Maisy feints, ducks left and gets a whack in across the top of Maggie's head... the slap fight is on. They stumble left straight into the steady cam and the audio is engaged. The camera tilts horribly and we start hearing the censor beeps in quick order as the two women exchange words. Camera man has fallen over and the shot is flailing around wildly amidst the rapid fire beeps of the delayed audio.

All of a sudden, the station logo appears with "We are having technical difficulties. Please Stand By. "

The End.