

They shared a state
but were worlds apart.

a film by Kirk Wolfinger

The Rivals

Short Synopsis:

This is a film about competing social classes, sports and ambitious kids from opposite sides of the track. It's a film about injuries, victories and opportunities and measuring up to the status quo. It just happens to be about high school football and it just happens to be set in Maine. It is the tale of two communities, one white collar and one blue, united by a common dream: winning the State Championship. The physical conflict takes place on the playing field, but the real story is how these two communities see themselves and what they teach their kids about the game of life, the pride of place, the passion of tradition and the careful balance between success and respect.

Long Synopsis

The story of "The Rivals" centers on two very different communities in Maine. The Mountain Valley Falcons are a long time football powerhouse led by coaching legend Jim Aylward. Their community is located in the western mountains of Maine, supported only by a paper mill that is continuously cutting jobs. The fiery Aaron Filieo, who is five years into his first head-coaching job of a program that is only 6 years old, commands the Cape Elizabeth Capers. Their community is along the scenic coast is one of the wealthiest in the state, home to doctors, lawyers, and type A personalities.

In the last 20 years Jim Aylward has led his team to 6 conference championships and 2 state championships. He is

funny, passionate, driven to win and intent on his 'kids' leaving the field prepared for a life that in most cases, will be one of mostly hard knocks in a Mill town with a glorious past and an uncertain economic future.

For Aaron Filieo and his "Cape kids" the future is bright and the brand new astro-turf is always green. But for them, football is one of many distractions in a well-funded school known more for its academic excellence. Filieo lacks Aylward's years and football wisdom, but like his players, he is focused and smart, determined to overcome the only obstacle left in his way; Mountain Valley. Will he inspire enough passion for the sport to strip this mill town of the only pride it has left?

In a story that explores much more than just a game we find it does take a village to raise a child and the lessons these two rival towns impart about winning and losing will shape a lifetime.

Characters

Jim Aylward

Jim Aylward grew up in Rumford, Maine, and went away to college to earn a teaching degree, determined to avoid working in the mill like his father and grandfather did. A high school football quarterback, Aylward retained his love for football and began coaching in some capacity until he earned the head-coaching job at Mountain Valley High School. After nearly 20 years he has amassed an impressive record and hung a few championship banners in the gymnasium. Most importantly, Coach Aylward does his best to prepare his players to be successful in life by excelling on the field. When Cape Elizabeth showed up in 2006 and challenged Mountain Valley's supremacy, Coach Aylward knew the Capers would be a thorn in his side for years to come, and nobody wanted to lose to the Capers.

Aaron Filieo

Aaron Filieo grew up in South Portland, Maine, located between the state's biggest city, Portland, and one of its wealthiest suburbs, Cape Elizabeth. At 5' 7", Filieo led his high school football team to a state championship in his playing days as an All-State offensive lineman. Filieo was

heavily influenced by his high school coach who helped mold him into the hard working man he is today. Earning his teaching degree allowed him to coach football and so he returned to South Portland to apprentice under his old high school coach. Filieo was working for the Cape Elizabeth school district when the head coaching football position was born and he seized the reins in hopes of building a program like the one he came from. A brand new football team in a "soccer town" provides enough challenges without having to contend with the likes of a powerhouse like Mountain Valley every year. But, Coach Filieo's tenacity was contagious and his team soon became as tough and hungry as he was and in three short years they found themselves competing with the best, much to the dismay of Mountain Valley.

Jimmy Bump (Quarterback)

If there is a kid whose personality and desire mirrors that of the young Cape program, it is Jimmy Bump. He was the program's first QB and other than two injuries, it's only QB for 4 years. Jimmy is not the typical Cape kid. His parents live way off the beach and away from the mansions on the rocky coast. The 2007 season is last chance Jimmy will have for exacting his revenge against the only team that stands in his way of achieving his goal; being the first football state champion for Cape Elizabeth High School.

Dean McCrillis (Tight-End)

"Deano" is a quiet leader for the Falcons, working hard on every play in practice and during a game. As a tight end for a strictly running team, Deano isn't showered with praise like the frequently scoring Staires, so he prides himself by blocking for his best friends, and sacking opposing QB's as a lethal outside linebacker. The model of humble hard work follows him off the field where his talent as a sketch artist goes unmatched in Mountain Valley. Dean hopes this talent will take him to art school but that dream will cost he and his father their comic book collection his father started 45 years ago.

Adam Danielson (Tight-End)

If desire and determination could be bottled, this kid would be a deep reservoir from which to draw. He runs, lifts weights and trains every single day. An honor role student who plays the trumpet in addition to baseball and ice

hockey, A-bomb is the kid any parent would be proud of, and his own are not an exception.

Justin Staires (Running Back)

A true football phenomena in Maine. Every time Justin Staires touches the ball, he seems to score. The Cape crowd (ever clever) brandished signs reading "Justin Stair-oids", a backhanded compliment to his ability.

Director's Statement

"The Rivals" is more than a film about high school football and competition on the field, it's a story of the lessons we teach our kids about winning and losing in life. We see it played out in these two towns, on the field for sure, but more poignantly in the locker rooms, in the homes and on the streets. It happens to take place in Maine but this same drama occurs in just about every town and city in America. At least once a year on every high school schedule, the town that has everything meets the town that is struggling to get by and the American story plays out on the field and in the grandstands.

I started this project as just a Dad making a home movie at his son's school when a real movie happened. I got caught up in the struggles and passions of the players on both sides. I got carried away, unsure how the season would play out but determined to capture it come what may. In the end, the final clash of communities was dramatically poignant in ways I couldn't have predicted. It was a life-changing season of high school football, not just for the kids and the two coaches, but for me as well.

-- Kirk Wolfinger, Director

Principal Crew & Credit

KIRK WOLFINGER

Director / Producer / Writer

KIRK WOLFINGER has been a filmmaker for 25 years. He has won two Emmys and a Peabody Award in addition to the American Film Festival Blue Ribbon and the Independent Documentary Association award. He has filmed around the world creating, directing and producing expedition specials for PBS, TBS,

THC and National Geographic. Recently he executive produced Discovery Channel's "Angels vs. Demons: Fact or Fiction?" Currently he is executive producing "Dirty Bomb" and "Living on the Moon" for National Geographic and "Underwater Universe" for History, where he also executive produced the popular series, "Deep Sea Detectives." This fall, Kirk's feature documentary film "The Rivals" will have its film festival premiere and air on the Smithsonian Channel. His films "Titanic's Final Moments: Missing Pieces" and "Titanic's Doomed Sister" are the basis for a soon-to-be-released book.

As President of Lone Wolf Documentary Group, Kirk Wolfinger has produced almost a hundred hours of high-quality non-fiction television in the past ten years. Founded by noted filmmakers Kirk and Lisa Wolfinger, Lone Wolf was recently named to RealScreen's "Global 100" list of the world's top factual production companies.

RUSHMORE DeNOOYER

Director / Producer / Writer

Rush is an accomplished filmmaker who has written, produced, and directed numerous documentaries. His work includes "Failure Is Not An Option" and "Beyond the Moon," which together document the 50-year history of NASA's Mission Control and the engineers who control American spaceflight. "Failure" received the Columbus International Film Festival's Silver Chris Award, and the NY Times hailed Beyond the Moon as a "startlingly frank depiction of the soul of an extraordinary human undertaking." Rush also wrote and produced "Hitler's Lost Sub" for PBS, which was the genesis for the bestselling book Shadow Divers. The film received the Writers Guild of America Award for outstanding television documentary writing, and the International Documentary Association's Distinguished Achievement Award. His work has also been honored with a George F. Peabody Award, several Emmy nominations, and numerous CINE Golden Eagles. Rush is also a musician, and with his partner Malcolm Brooks composed and produced much of the original music score for "The Rivals."

DANIEL SITES

Producer / Additional Directing / Assistant Editor

Daniel joined Lone Wolf Documentary Group in 2006 after graduating from the University of Southern Maine where he studied Video Production and Design as well as Media Writing. Daniel has numerous Production Assistant credits with Lone Wolf and has recently served as Associate Producer of the NOVA Science Now segment, "Finch Brains". Production of the "The Rivals" has given Daniel the opportunity to exercise his skills in all phases of production and postproduction. In addition to his work with Lone Wolf Documentary Group, Daniel is producing his passion project "Hardwater: A Maine Ice Fishing Odyssey."

Film Credits

Directed By: Kirk Wolfinger

Produced By: Daniel Sites, Rushmore DeNooyer, Kirk Wolfinger

Executive Producer: Lisa Quijano Wolfinger

Written By: Rushmore DeNooyer and Kirk Wolfinger

Director of Photography: Joseph Brunette

Additional Directing: Daniel Sites

Edited By: Ryan Shepheard and Jed Rauscher

Economic Statistics based on 2000 Census

- Cape Elizabeth, Maine had a median household income of \$72,359 while the town of Rumford where Mountain Valley High School is located had a median household income of \$27,639.
- The median house/condo value in Cape Elizabeth was \$184,600 against \$66,800 in Rumford.

Music

While Rushmore DeNooyer and Malcolm Brooks composed half of the music for the film, various bands and composers living in the greater Portland area submitted the other half. Only

Rob Neary and the Mother West duo of Charles Newman and Jon De Rosa were not from the state of Maine. Those artists are: LOVERLESS, STATION85, LOST ON LIFTOFF, ROTORS TO RUST, JIM DOHERTY, PINSKY, HUAK, LANCE VARDIS, EVAN CASAS, SIDECAR RADIO, TYLER JACKSON, PETE MORSE, ROBERT MCAULIFF III, ERIC SANDERS, and JUDY McMAHON