

The Pack

Episode 2: End Day

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THE PACK EPISODE 2: END DAY

Radio fuzz...

CHIEF

We are here, broadcasting from Pack Central Station, Oldenburg. End Day tidings to you all. And End Day means Stashball, so for the first time in sixty years, we'll be broadcasting a stashball game live. But first, let's hear an ad.

VANESSA

It's that time again. Come to End Day Town at the Oldenburg Market. We have pony rides, games and all the endies you can eat. Bring your little ones and get their portrait sketched with the grim spectre of death himself.

GRIM REAPER

Hello children, you're going to meet me sometime, why not at End Day Town? There's plenty of free candy.

Happy people sing a jingle: End Day Town is your town to-day!

VANESSA

End Day Town, at the Oldenburg Market.

Epic sports music plays.

ANNOUNCER

In the game of life the stakes are high, but in the game of stashball the stakes are even higher. Today, two teams will enter an epic contest. One will lift the End Day scepter and enter the annals of history. The other will taste bitter defeat, knowing nothing but failure, humiliation, and the scorn of friends and strangers alike.

Sports swoosh effect.

JACK COROTHERS

Welcome, everyone. It's a great day for stashball. I'm Jack Corothers and with me as always is Lisa "The Wozz" Wazzlapchek.

LISA THE WOZZ

Thank you, Jack. The whole season as been building up to this final
(MORE)

LISA THE WOZZ (cont'd)
championship match. The Leslie
Ochre Devils face the Russett
Stingrats in what promises to be a
great day of stashball.

I'm here on the field as the two
teams approach for the weigh-in.

JACK COROTHERS
The strategy has already begun with
the weigh-in. These two teams know
their maximum weight. They can have
as many players as they want, they
just can't go over that pivotal
weight restriction.

LISA THE WOZZ
And of course, that includes
equipment. I'm here with Russett
Stingrats forward knifer Crash
Johnson. Crash, what is your
equipment strategy for this match?

CRASH JOHNSON
No equipment. We could bring armour
but that weight is like a whole
'nother guy I never wear a helmet
that weighs a lot. That's a whole
guy if you find a guy small enough
I'd like a little guy on my team.
You can't pass the Stash to a
helmet.

LISA THE WOZZ
And here approaching the scales is
Ochre Devils' captain Dance Plancy.
Dance, your equipment strategy in
one word.

DANCE PLANCY
Armour. And good knives. And good
guys. Every player on my team is
important. We protect them with a
good set of armour.

LISA THE WOZZ
As you can see, two very different
strategies from two teams that
really do not like each other. This
is going to be a great game. We'll
return after this message.

CHEESY SINGER
(singing)
You wake up in the morning,
tired down to your marrow.
You walk across that living room
and you grab yourself an arrow.

ANNOUNCER

Vasco Crossbows: quality weapons at affordable prices.

CHEESY SINGER

My crossbow is my best friend.
My crossbow is my wife.
I take it out into the street
and then I take a man's life.

ANNOUNCER

Vasco Crossbows: the perfect choice.

JACK COROTHERS

Welcome back. It looks like both weigh-ins have checked out and now they're going to send those Stashers out to hide their Stashes.

LISA THE WOZZ

That's right, Jack, the Stashers from each team are gone and I'm waiting here at Ground Zero with the rest of the two teams. We're waiting for Stash Time to run out.

JACK COROTHERS

And then the game begins in earnest.

LISA THE WOZZ

That's right, Jack.

JACK COROTHERS

They're going to have to find those stashes.

LISA THE WOZZ

That's right, Jack.

STASHBALL REF

Alright, both teams, huddle up! I'll be your ref. You will follow my instructions. After the seven minute stash time is done, both teams are free to leave Ground Zero and search for the opposing team's Stash. Once a stash has been placed in the possession of the opposite team's Bunny and run to that team's Nest, this match is over. In the event that both teams simultaneously secure a Stash, this match will revert to a sudden death Duel of Champions. Understand?

The stashball-ers hoot.

STASHBALL REF

Now get out there!

JACK COROTHERS

Now comes the field strategy. Each team is gonna try to find the other Stash and bring it back to their Nest and win the game. Now, they can't just do that. They need to defend their stash as well. You can't win stashball if the other team secures your stash. 'Cause then they win.

LISA THE WOZZ

You make it sound so easy, Jack. But this is a big, big play zone. Fourteen stretches by a full thirteen stretches. The borders go from Oldenburg to Dustown, from the Old Rail Line all the way to the Only River. That stash could be anywhere.

I'm here with Jet Pack Cop Cliff Danger, head of security for this event. End Day Tidings, Officer Danger.

CLIFF DANGER

End Day Tidings, Lisa.

LISA THE WOZZ

I understand you surveyed this play zone personally. Anything you can tell us?

CLIFF DANGER

It's a good field. There are very few local poison animals and there have been no cannibal incidents in this sector recently. These teams should have a fair fight on their hands.

LISA THE WOZZ

Officer Danger, what team are you rooting for?

CLIFF DANGER

As a Jet Pack Cop, I represent the whole community.

LISA THE WOZZ

Come on.

CLIFF DANGER

In the past, I've been a big supporter of the Stingrats, but I'm impressed by this year's Ochre Devils. I think the big winners today are lovers of the game of stashball. We're gonna have a great game. From all the Cops back at The Roost, I want to wish all of your listeners great End Day Tidings.

LISA THE WOZZ

Thanks, Cliff.

The sound of a radio signal cutting in.

BROTHER MATHIAS

Enough of your boring game on your boring religious holiday! The One True Faith is... Let me step this back a bit. I am Brother Mathias, spiritual and secular leader of Mutantown. This is indeed the holiday season, but not your heathen tomfoolery. This is the time of Illumination, when we remember the glorious light that came from the sky and burned away civilization. Illumination comes two days before End Day and is therefore twice as good.

Let's talk for a moment about access, shall we? I applied, filling out all of the proper paperwork myself despite not having "hands" as you might call them, to reserve time on this station for the spiritual tutelage of this nation.

Billie Daniels enters the booth.

BILLIE DANIELS

Oh hey, you're in the booth.

BROTHER MATHIAS

Yes, I'm on the air now.

BILLIE DANIELS

I'm sorry, it's just that it's my time right now.

BROTHER MATHIAS

It's my time!

BILLIE DANIELS

I'm afraid not. If you check on the chart in the hall, you're not scheduled until four.

BROTHER MATHIAS

What time is it now?

BILLIE DANIELS

Two.

BROTHER MATHIAS

Fine!

Mucilaginous sounds as Brother Mathias leaves.

BILLIE DANIELS

Yick-a-boo, y'all. This is Billie Daniels and in accordance with the Council of Elders's's Cultural Support Initiative I'm gonna talk to you about End Day.

End Day is a magical time where we celebrate how we survived the end of the world. You see, centuries ago the world was not as it is, but how it was. And how it was was magic. The world was covered in a sea of people who all had plenty to eat and a nice bed to sleep in. They built enormous houses that scraped the sky.

And that must've made the sky angry because one day, without warning, there were lights up there that burned the Earth. In an instant, everything they had built was reduced to dust.

Folk who survived those lights had a hard time. They needed to live, but there wasn't much to live on. Them that couldn't figure it out died and them that did are why we're all here breathing, and why we celebrate End Day.

My favourite End Day carol is one that's probably your favourite, too. Of course it's The Dead Feel No Pain. Hit it, Ramblin' Jack.

They play The Dead Feel No Pain.

BILLIE DANIELS

End Day Tidings, y'all.

LADY GRIS

This holiday season, give the gift of luxury relaxation to the one you love. At the Bonepatch World Class Spa and Resort. Ease into any of our four mineral baths, each more relaxing and scalding than the last. Trust your aching muscles to Larry the masseuse at the Bonepatch World Class Spa and Resort. We'll put your dreams to rest, to life, to-day.

JACK COROTHERS

Welcome back to our stashball coverage. There has been a development. The Russett Stingrats have located the Stash of the Leslie Ochre Devils, but it's pretty well-defended. They're going to have to mount a heck of an attack to claim that Stash. We go to Lisa on the field.

LISA THE WOZZ

Thanks, Jack. Just as you said, the Stingrats have figured out where that Stash is, but there are four defending Ochre Devils in the way. I'm going to move in to speak to the players.

Crash Johnson, you're in position. How are you going to take that Stash?

CRASH JOHNSON

I'm a knife 'em knife all of 'em.

LISA THE WOZZ

And what are you waiting for?

CRASH JOHNSON

My lil' buddy Davey's coming he's gonna help me knife 'em.

LISA THE WOZZ

Alright. Good luck, Crash, and back to you, Jack.

JACK COROTHERS

Thanks, Lisa. We're going to watch this situation, but for now, we go to Oldenburg where this year's Survivor Pageant is currently underway.

HANNAH HAWK

Welcome, radio listeners. We're here at this year's Survivor Pageant and we're entering the final and most crucial round: the interview. Each of our two finalists will answer a question from each of our two judges: Jet Pack Cop Frankie Huangse and survivalist Dick Winterbody.

Our first finalist is Belinda Zuggins from Bandolier.

FRANKIE HUANGSE

Hello, Belinda.

BELINDA ZUGGINS

Hello, officer.

FRANKIE HUANGSE

Oh honey, Frankie's fine.

BELINDA ZUGGINS

Okay, Frankie.

FRANKIE HUANGSE

Sweetie, what would you say is your best quality and what would you say is your worst quality?

BELINDA ZUGGINS

I'd have to say that they're one and the same. I manipulate any situation to my advantage, so that no matter what, I come out on top.

Applause from the audience.

DICK WINTERBODY

Belinda, let's say you find yourself three days into the Dusty Waste, a carrion bird has taken your left eye, you're out of supplies, the sun is beating down on you, you're momentarily blinded, you slip and fall, lacerating your leg terribly, you look inside the wound and find a big pink cancer tumor... how are you getting out of that desert?

BELINDA ZUGGINS

That's a great question, Dick. As you know, the interior of the Dusty Waste is sterile, so I would remove the tumor with a sharp rock and then seal up the wound with fine

(MORE)

BELINDA ZUGGINS (cont'd)
sand. I could bury myself in that sand, holding out the tumor with one hand as a trap for birds. When I caught one, I'd have a bird feather and my own hair to stitch up my leg wound. The meat and body moisture of that carcass would be more than enough to keep me going for three days.

The audience applauds again.

CHIEF

I'm sorry, I need to interrupt the broadcast. There's an emergency on the stashball field. Cliff, what's happening?

CLIFF DANGER

Chief, we got a whole colony of stingrats on the field. There must have been a nest that was disturbed. I'm sorry, Chief. I must've missed it.

CHIEF

It's alright. All units. All units. Proceed to the stashball field. Many stingrats. Remove all civilians from the field and then liquidate those rats.

BROTHER MATHIAS

Are you serious?

CHIEF

What?

BROTHER MATHIAS

I was next.

CHIEF

I apologize, but this is important.

BROTHER MATHIAS

And I'm not? My Illumination message isn't as important as your little game? I get it. You're freezing me out, hoping I'll just go back to Mutantown with the rest of the mix-ups!

CHIEF

Whoa! Nobody used the m-word here. You'll get your turn. Right now people are in danger.

BROTHER MATHIAS

Fine! God bless you. God bless you
so hard bloody chunks of blessings
come out of your nether bits.

Mathias leaves.

CHIEF

Cops, what's going on out there?

ROOK STOLTZ

This is Officer Stoltz. Me and
Booger have cleared the field of
players.

BOOGER

Yeah, they weren't happy about it.
T'Kembe and Fiddledown should be
inbound with flamethrowers.

HARRIETTE T'KEMBE

Roger that. We are engaging flame
now.

Sounds of flaming swoosh.

CLEMENCE FIDDLEDOWN

Yee-haw! Those critters are crispy
now.

CHIEF

Jack are you still there? Is
everyone okay?

JACK COROTHERS

Yeah, we're alright. There's a bit
of an unusual situation here. It
seems the stingrats, the actual
animals, grabbed hold of both
stashes and brought them back to
their nest. Lisa, what's happening?

LISA THE WOZZ

Jack, I'm here with both teams. The
referee is consulting the rulebook.
We don't what his ruling will be,
but it's a very tense situation.

STASHBALL REF

Victory. Stingrats. Not Russett,
the animals.

JACK COROTHERS

What an upset. The championship
match goes to a colony of now-dead
wildlife.

LISA THE WOZZ

You're absolutely right, Jack. The players are stunned. Obviously, very few people knew that this was a possibility.

Crash Johnson, how disappointed are you with today's result?

CRASH JOHNSON

None not really none.

LISA THE WOZZ

Really?

CRASH JOHNSON

Yeah, well, like any game I gave it my all hunderd ten percent those stingrats came up from the ground and took the Stash they played a great game and I'm happy for them.

LISA THE WOZZ

But they're certainly all burned to death.

CRASH JOHNSON

Yeah I mean they're rats right but they died champions most rats can't say that.

LISA THE WOZZ

Thank you, Crash. That's all from a strange day on the stashball field. End Day Tidings, everybody.

CHIEF

Thank you, Jack and Lisa. Team, do an area sweep and then report back for debriefing.

This concludes our End Day broadcast. Stay safe, everyone. Keep yourselves alive. And please tune in next time for further broadcasts.

It is our mandate to broadcast within The Accord and also to spread culture to areas beyond. If you received our broadcast, we'd like to hear from you. Send us a message at mail@thepackpodcast.com. We appreciate all of your questions and comments. The Jet Pack Cops already get plenty of fan mail, but they always appreciate more.