



GODSPEED: The Story of Page Jones

Movie Review by Larry Mason

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Traumatic Brain Injury or TBI. Unfortunately, for Page Jones, instead of winning races on tracks far and wide as he was accustomed to before a terrible racing accident that caused this diagnosis, he now is trying to win the battle of living a “normal” life again. Growing up the son of 1963 Indy 500 winner Parnelli Jones and brother to racer P.J. Jones, racing was as normal to Page as stick and ball sports is to most kids growing up in America. However, just because your dad was successful in his profession, doesn’t automatically mean you will be too, though in Page’s case, it certainly was. On a fast track to open wheel success by winning some of the most prestigious USAC midget races - all while displaying an extroverted jovial attitude, the world was Page’s oyster, until it wasn’t.

This documentary film briefly highlights his racing successes, fabulous interviews, and interaction with people close to him to form the foundation of what kind of person Page was like before the accident. The majority of the film focusses on his recovery from his TBI and how his family and friends refuse to give up on him - and just as importantly, not letting him give up on himself to aid his recovery. Is he 100% back to “the old Page” today? No he isn’t, but he’s way farther along than any doctor or person could’ve ever imagined, other than his mom Judy who has been his biggest advocate for his care and rehabilitation.

She is not alone as there are many friends and family that are steadfast in their commitment to help Page recover. Iggy Estrada is one of those people that has truly been a Godsend to the family. Thankfully the family had the foresight to acquire a strong insurance program when he started racing and also have the means necessary to fill in the gaps where insurance doesn’t go. Most families who have a relative with a TBI are not as fortunate, and the result is that once the insurance money runs out, so does the rehab. Page is living proof that improvement doesn’t stop after 6 months or six years. The improvements are slow, there are setbacks and frustrating times, but the improvements continue. He

has recovered to such an extent that he is now married with children and drives his own vehicle again. It's been a remarkable recovery that demonstrates that the faith of others in him has helped him achieve many goals with more still to come. It's a true story of perseverance, drive, and determination. Part of this story is really about how others with a TBI tend to be "left behind" by society without a voice to plead for their cause. Hopefully, there will be more funding to help continue the research into treatment for TBIs.

The film is heavy with the stark reality of the situation, however there are light hearted and funny moments interspersed with the cold hard facts of his life and what he and his family and supporters have been through during this journey. It is inspiring to see how far he's come and he continues to push relentlessly forward as if in a race to hunt down the leader and grab the checkered flag. Page is winning again in the sport of life with a beautiful family surrounding him and using his unique personality to raise the profile for TBI patients and the care that they need.

If you're a race fan and you wondered whatever happened to Page, then this film is for you. If you know of somebody who has ever experienced a TBI, this film will also be for you – although it will hit home in painful clarity. It will also shed some light on the effects of being determined and having a positive attitude. TBI not only affects the survivor, but everyone in their social circle.

The film made its theatrical release in both California and New York and is currently being screened in select locations. It is executive produced by Jay Leno and Bruce Meyer. Mary Leonard is the producer of the film and hopes that it can be shown in other venues such as car club meetings, schools, hospital facilities and more. For more information on this film, please visit: GodspeedPJ.com.