

# 148. Wyatt Olson and Madison Kaufman: Living in the Moment

## **Gavin Kelly**

Hey, everybody you're listening to Beyond 1894 this is the official podcast of Louisiana Tech University. My name is Gavin Kelly from the Office of University Communications, and we are joined for this episode by two guests. We are joined by Dr Wyatt Olson from Louisiana Tech athletics. He's the associate ad for internal operations. And we are joined by Madison Kaufman, who is currently the Vs Cancer campaign manager at the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation, but she has some experience here at Louisiana Tech as well, which we will get into, coincidentally, which we will also get into. Both of our guests today are currently engaged to be wed. So first of all, guys, congratulations on that. I know it's not terribly new thing, but it is exciting. And thank you both for making time and being here today. Let's kind of talk about I mentioned to you both that you have tech journeys, but they're very different. Madison is an alum of the University, has some has been in Rustin for a long time. Wyatt is a quote, unquote outsider. I don't mean that in a bad way, but you know, you have a different perspective on tech, and what it's done for you and meant for you, and you two have found each other, and your tech journeys have intertwined. So let's go back to the beginning for both of you, Madison, we'll start with you. Talk to us about Rustin, about growing up, about knowing that Louisiana Tech is going to be the place for you, and kind of how you dove into your experience at the University and what it was like for you?

## **Madison Kaufman**

Yeah, absolutely. So I have lived in Ruston since I was in fifth grade, so Rustin is home for me, and tech is a big part of that for almost anybody who grew up here or went to the school here. So when I decided to come to tech my senior year, I went all in on the fact that I wanted it to be a college experience. Tech's a great school. It was just in my hometown, so I lived on campus. I got really involved on campus. I can't even count how many organizations I was a part of

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at this was it a given that you were gonna go to tech? Or did you consider anywhere else? Were you like? I'm in Reston? Tech's in Reston?

## **Madison Kaufman**

Yeah, actually, it was not a given. So I didn't decide for sure, until probably April of my senior year. You know, I went to Reston high. Dual Credit is a great thing, so kind of automatically applied through that. I looked at a couple of other schools. I was a competitive swimmer at the time, so when I decided not to go that route, it came down between here and one other school, and tech just made the most sense for me, but I didn't want to sacrifice the college experience just because I was in my hometown, so I dove in head first. I was involved in a sorority, I was involved in the football recruiting organization. I was involved in a lot of stuff on campus, and I think every bit of that shaped who I am now and how I went into the professional world. And also, even, as you mentioned, we are getting married, and most of

those bridesmaids either went here, worked here with me, or are friends that I met through Louisiana Tech, and that is a really cool symbol of the Tech family, because while they are friends, I do very much consider them family members, so much so that they're a big part of our special day coming up. And then I got to work here two different times. So I got two degrees from Louisiana Tech. It is a big part of my resume and my experience. And then it was my first job after college. So I graduated in August of 2020, which is not a great time to get a job. And actually, I got my first job because of my experience working in the athletic department here. So I still contract as a sideline reporter for Louisiana Tech, and that started when I was a sophomore in college here, and so I got an opportunity to chase my dream here because of Louisiana Tech, because of the people in the athletic department, I got to be a sideline reporter, and they gave me my first chance, and it's grown into something that I get to do in Mississippi. I get to use it in my job at the pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation, which is really special, but my experience working in the athletic department is what led to my first job here at Louisiana Tech. So because I was known, because I had experience here, I got to be the assistant director of marketing for the athletic department. And a really special year, even though it was also a really crazy year, we opened a new baseball stadium, we hosted a conference tournament, we hosted an NCAA regional. And that also was just astronomical growth for me. This springboarded a whole lot of other things in my career. So when I finished up doing that, I used my master's degree, which I also got from Tech, and did some stuff in HR, and ultimately ended up coming back to tech as the Director of Alumni Engagement, which I don't know if everybody out there knows this, but planning homecoming might be the most that I've ever invested in. Yes, university. So got to do that, and got to meet a lot of great people, and people with stories just like me, but also so different from mine. So getting to see people who were at Tech a different time, who techs taken them different places, was really special, and then ultimately started working at the Brain Tumor Foundation.

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Yeah, if you're listening and you're you might be thinking Madison's voice sounds familiar, is because, like she said, she has been a sideline reporter for Louisiana Tech for quite a long time. Let's talk a little bit about your interest in sports and your love for sports, because that kind of shaped, you know, your your academic choices, your career choices, and it kind of still shapes a little bit of who you are. Now talk about where that comes from and why you've kind of clung to that over the years, even as your jobs have changed.

### **Madison Kaufman**

Yeah. So I am the daughter of a college football coach, and my dad moved all over the country, but that was a really big part of who I was. It was a big part of even living in Reston. My parents are split. I got to travel all over the country, literally from North Carolina to California. Even got to go to Australia as part of that. And so it was a big part of my life growing up. I also played sports my whole life, but being on the backside of something like that, seeing players at my house growing up, you know, on practice, on game, days before and after, I really got a chance to see who athletes and coaches were when they were on the field or in the office. And as I grew up, as I got older, as I got more aware of things like social media and just people's stories and how powerful they are, it became really important to me to get to showcase people's stories. And that's really where the desire to become a sideline reporter was that I wanted people to get to know them like I got to know them growing up. And I think that is how people are moved is by people's stories. So that's what started the desire to be a sideline reporter, what

kind of shaped it, and then, honestly, what carries me through my job now. So a really big part of what I do with the Brain Tumor Foundation is I work with a lot of sports teams at all levels to raise money using their platform for kids battling brain tumors. And I get to work with some really neat people who want to use their pain for purpose.

### **Gavin Kelly**

Very nice, yeah, I, um, I think a lot of what you do as a sideline reporter translates to kind of what I'm having to do now. You know, you're, you're, you're an interviewer, and it's, but I think more so than what's happening here on a podcast in a very controlled environment. You know, you don't really get to plan ahead so much on the sideline, right talk to me about kind of some of those high stress moments on the sideline. What it's like interviewing a coach, maybe in a moment where that coach is down in a game and tensions are high, you know, what's it like trying to adapt on the sidelines for you?

### **Madison Kaufman**

Yeah, that's a great question. I think really, all of it boils down to relationships. So that's a big part of who I am, who Wyatt and I are as a couple, is that people are at the heart of everything that we do. And when you strip away the title, how many points are scored in a game, all of that, we're all humans at the end of the day. And so that is really what I try to drive is, how do I help people get to know people at the end of the day? And I won't lie, even though I've been doing sideline reporting for a long time if somebody is down, I really hate interviewing, not because I hate talking to them, but because I don't want to make them feel bad. You don't want to bug them. Yeah, so thankfully, the coaches that I get to work with here at Tech are awesome, and because I've been around, we have pretty good relationships, and they know that it comes with the territory, but I think also just being able to connect on a personal level helps me shape questions. So sometimes I don't know what's going to come out of my mouth before it's just out there in the air, but sometimes it is questions, more of what would you have changed, or things like that in high stress moments, it's just remembering that butterflies aren't a bad thing at the end of the day, that we are all people and so just to treat them like person, yeah, very good, very

### **Gavin Kelly**

nice answer. Why? Let's dive in, man. Let's talk about kind of your your beginnings, your humble beginnings growing up, kind of how you've bounced around, and the the academic and professional journey that led you here at Louisiana Tech,

### **Wyatt Olson**

yeah, man, I got a I got a backup. Yeah, start from the start. So, yeah, I grew up, born and raised in Wisconsin, kind of between the capital of Madison and the border of Illinois. So kind of had unique background, just living up north and growing up there, and I was a baseball guy growing up, I ended up playing baseball through kind of right first thing, when I started all the way through college. I went to junior college in in Iowa, called Indian Hills Community College, and then transferred from there to Niagara University, and in Niagara Falls, New York, so kind of bounced around already, just just through that. And you know, after I, after I graduated at Niagara, I just. I knew I wanted to stay in college athletics of some sort. And I also knew that being in the Buffalo Niagara area, I love, I love it to this day, yeah, but the snow and the weather and just, you know, being again born and living up north, I

wanted to experience a little bit more of what what the South was like, Temperature wise, and less snow. And so, you know, fortunately, one thing led to another, and found my way down to small town in Texas, Brownwood, Texas, at Howard Payne University, was a graduate assistant there, got my Master's there in sport and wellness leadership, and got was working as a graduate assistant in the athletic department, as marketing, fan engagement, alumni, engagement, game operations, all of the things wearing many different hats at a division three school like Howard Payne, which then ended up moving me from there to getting my first full time job in college athletics at Sol Ross State University in Far West Texas and small town called Alpine Texas, which I did my title was assistant athletic director for compliance, but I had a line at the bottom of my job description that says, run and assist all home sporting events. And so not only correct, so not only did I do compliance, but I also did kind of all the things that I did at Howard Payne, doing the marketing, the operations and engagement, all of the things there. So it was a really unique experience. Wore many of different hats with that, and ended up kind of helping work through a little bit of a transition phase. They went from division three to Division Two as as I was, ended up exiting out of there, but just was really excited to be able to learn, grow, develop there. And then I ended up, just before I came to Louisiana Tech, I started my doctoral journey at Hardin Simmons University, and did that all online. But anyways, just about a month into that, ended up finding my way to Louisiana Tech, and just through connections, ended up an athletic director that I worked for at Howard Payne knew Gerald Jordan, and so it's just funny how things connect like that and shape out and so anyways, found my way here back in September of 2022 so right in the thick of football season and all that. But it's just been just a unique journey, for sure, from starting out in Wisconsin, I would have never imagined being you telling me about 10 years ago, even five years ago, for that matter, that I'd be living in Louisiana, of all places. But I just am so grateful for it. I've loved my time here, and just being able to again, learn, grow, develop, but also being able to learn and grow through my student workers and and staff within our internal operations crew. So it's just, it's just been a really unique experience on top of being able to be engaged to Madison right here. I mean, she is just absolutely incredible and amazing. And just as she put it all together for you guys, like it, just, I'm just so grateful and blessed, and just all the things I just sometimes you

### **Gavin Kelly**

do get to have your cake and eat it too. A little bonus.

### **Wyatt Olson**

I could, I couldn't have shaped it up any better. It's just, it's just

### **Gavin Kelly**

been amazing, lovely. If you also, if you if weather was the driver behind your move, I think you've, you've hit the extremes. That's for sure. You went from snowy, cold north to the very hot, very and if you spend a lot of time in Texas, you know, there's two different kind of heats down here, and you've been in both of them. Well, that's, yeah, that's interesting. Let's so it's clear kind of why you wanted to stay in sports, and you've made that like the keystone of your career moves. And your love for baseball, I guess, was a big driver behind your love for working in sports. When it came time to consider a move to Louisiana Tech, you know when know, when that opportunity came up, what was appealing about tech and Russ and was it kind of just, this is a job, this is an opportunity I should explore it, or was there

something specific or particular about this community and this university that made it an appealing opportunity?

### **Wyatt Olson**

Yeah, absolutely. I think, um. You know, it for me, I think as I looked at Rustin and Louisiana Tech, and being able to see, just see all of the growth and the potential of this place, even just a few years ago, to where we are now, it's just, I mean, truly astronomical in that sense of just how much we've, we've built and grown and just, I mean, you can look at the football stadium right now, yeah, we've got a brand new video board. We're building the academic center. It's just kind of really been, you could see that, yeah, that potential, that growth, the the opportunity, when, when I first, when I first got here and was presented to me, I think that it was neat during my interview process, being able to tour Rustin and go through downtown and kind of see all the things that Rustin had to offer. And, you know, being able to see all the the tech flags through, through downtown and, yeah, you know, being able to see a really, like a just a cohesive environment between the university and the community, it just, you know, really shaped that. So, you know, on top of, you know, those things, the opportunity of the job, and like I said before, of just being able to find a spot that I can learn and grow in, but also help share my knowledge and spread, you know, what I've learned thus far to those that really enjoy being in college athletics, or, you know, are curious of whatever opportunities take them. And you know, we've got in our internal operations, we have so many different unique backgrounds of student workers that they're not just necessarily college athletic specific. There we have one that's in aviation, one that's a mechanical engineer, one that's an architect, so being able to help give them some life lessons and life skills and teach through, you know, game days and operations and the facility upkeep. It's just, you know, a really unique spot for me to be in here of just again Louisiana Tech, the community, but also the opportunity within the athletic department that I work in. It's just as pretty unique in and pretty, I'd say, pretty awesome experience for me, just for a lack of better terms, it just really has helped grown and shaped who I who, who I am, and, and and we're where we're going. Yeah, yeah.

### **Gavin Kelly**

I love having athletics people on this podcast because it does. It sheds a light on, you know, the behind the scenes stuff I've talked to everyone who's been on that works over there that you know, people, the fans, the students, the community, whoever you want to you want to put in that spot they see. You know what happens on the field, on the court, wherever they don't necessarily always see the steps that have to be taken to set all that up and make sure it goes smoothly, whether it's internal, external, whatever. And it takes a village. And you are, and Madison, you know this well too. You're in the trenches over there a lot of times, especially you get during the busy times of the school year you get to crossover season, yeah, especially that winter, spring crossover season is a doozy. So let's talk a little bit more about your current role. What is kind of an average day like? And I know that that's a kind of a loaded question, because in athletics, there is no average day. But what are kind of some of those, those responsibilities of your job that are there

### **Wyatt Olson**

day to day for you? Yeah, it's, it is. It can be hard for me to be able to wrap that all up in, in, in a perfect paragraph, if you will. But you know, for simpler terms, internal operations for us at Louisiana Tech, that means facility and event management. And so what that looks like on a day to day basis is facility

management, as far as the upkeep of the facilities, making sure everything looks good is clean, tidy, you know, getting things ready for game days, for recruits, for, you know, you name it, other special events that we host and run over there in the athletic village. And then, you know, adding to that, the capital projects piece, oh, yeah, being able to learn about, obviously, the academic center, doing all of the champions Plaza, coaches Plaza, that is also up in or around Joe I stadium, and some other projects as well with that capital projects piece. So that's on the facility side. And then the event management aspect, really the preparation the you know. Basically the run through of any, anything and everything. You can not think of an event. That's what we think of. And so a lot of it is the setup, the kind of troubleshooting, problem solving throughout the event, and then the the tear down, clean up post event. And so it is a fair amount of lift and and things that you think of, from a football game to to tennis to soccer to softball to baseball, all the things in between, basketball games, volleyball too. It is a lot on top of we help with, you know, running some student events in the Thomas assembly center. So I know most recently, we helped out with Greek Week and had a bunch of things there. Song fest being one of those larger events. Do that we help out with from the facility component, and then we also help out with the setup and tear down of all of our commencements. If only I was just

### **Gavin Kelly**

thinking, If only you could get \$1 for every puzzle piece floor you've laid down over there and

### **Wyatt Olson**

taken up, correct, yeah, absolutely. So yeah, on top of, you know, using those puzzle pieces for other events too, that that we have, not only commencement, but, you know, those other special events that we run in there as well. So it's a lot of the things that, you know, people don't see unless it's not working correct, and then they're very vocal about it. So and so we're the ones that really are kind of first on the scenes for those things to help, again, troubleshoot problem, solve, make sure everything is running smooth, trying to make sure, you know, if there is a problem that arises, that we're the first ones to, you know, be able to either fix it ourselves or find someone that is able to fix it for us.

### **Gavin Kelly**

So yeah, a lot of jobs in athletics are pretty thankless. So thank you both for everything you've

### **Wyatt Olson**

done. That's right.

### **Gavin Kelly**

So let's Okay, let's let's come to what everybody came for. Let's talk about the two of you together. Okay, and I'll let you guys decide who tells parts of this story and how. But how did it come to pass that you guys met at all, you know? How did that? How did a romance blossom from that? Did you just like, see her on the sidelines on TV one day and go, Wow, who's that girl? I don't feel like it was quite like that, but tell me about how it was. How'd that all go down? How'd you guys cross paths?

### **Madison Kaufman**

Well, I guess for context, we have been we have been together. We've been dating for a little over a year. So it was a year in February, but we met three years prior to that.

**Wyatt Olson**

Yeah, yeah. So we met kind of loosely, right? When I first started back in 2022, Madison, as she said earlier on, the homecoming and running that. So I was in kind of, I think probably her first meeting, running that on the homecoming side, and so being able to see how she kind of ran the room and made sure everything was situated. I thought she was unreal. And as I saw on her hand, what looked like to me was a wedding ring. So I always thought that she was married, okay, and so I didn't really think anything of it. We had chatted just here and there, just from passing by, from, you know, being on the sidelines of football games as she was a side or is a sideline reporter to and me working. But, yeah, I didn't know that she wasn't engaged until, I guess, I don't know that was two years ago, I guess now, maybe so.

**Madison Kaufman**

So he thought I was married. We spent the next two ish years bumping into each other highs, right, right. Are you surviving on the sidelines? And I'm gonna be honest, inside scoop here for our listeners, I had always noticed him like, I think that most of the people that work with Wyatt would tell you that he just kind of has an energy that invites people to I agree. And so that was something that always really stood out to me, was just that everybody who worked with him seemed to speak really highly of him, but also genuinely enjoy being around him. And so I had always noticed him, and then I started working at the pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation two years ago, this may, and actually got to work with the Louisiana Tech soccer team as part of that. And so probably the September, before we started dating in February, we had a longer conversation. Education. And I was like, wow, this guy seems really great, but I didn't really think anything about it. And then we started going to the same CrossFit gym. And so the way we actually got together was I slid in his DMS.

**Gavin Kelly**

It's tried and true. It's tried and true.

**Madison Kaufman**

For a reason, we did not go to the same class. Let's be quite clear. He is a morning person and I am not, and we'll just leave that there, but I had noticed that he had started coming to the gym. I'd seen him tagged in a couple of things, and he started following me on Instagram. And I was like, Oh, okay. And then I think he liked something that I posted, and then he was tagged in something from our gym. And I was like, Okay, I know this guy well enough I can comment on this friendly or flirting, you decide, and it's not that weird. And so I was just like, wow, look at you. Go. He had gotten a new skill or something. And he messaged me back and said, Hey, I haven't seen you around in a while. How have you been? And I said, Got him? No, really. We honestly, we hung out for about a week before, why it was like, So what are we doing? Sure, and asked me to be his girlfriend, and so that's how we ended up here.

**Gavin Kelly**

Yeah, a tale as old as time, huh?

**Wyatt Olson**

Yeah, correct, yeah, and yeah, just like you know, through through through the the initial DM, if you will, just the way that we connected as quickly as we did, and just our conversation was just just really genuine from the start and just really kind of grewed what what probably felt like from an outsider, really quick and fast for us. It really felt like we had been together in a week's time, a year already together, and so it just, I think we both knew right from the start that this was something special, and just, it's just kind of a whirlwind now that it's been as long as it has now, but also exciting times coming up here in 44 days, June, 6. All right, so six, 626, don't

### **Gavin Kelly**

think about that too hard. Well, yeah, okay, so it sounds like Louisiana Tech's giving you both a lot, but maybe most importantly, it's each other. It's fun to hear you guys talk about kind of how, like you phrase it as you noticed him, and you know, you phrase it as you know she was, the way she commanded the room stood out to you. It's like you guys were kind of in each other's viewfinder for a while, but it didn't, you know, the past, the stars didn't align for whatever reason. But the timing is never wrong, right? You know, it's the things happen, how they're supposed to happen. Talk to me about how, you know, it's not like you guys necessarily work together, but there's a little bit, yeah, you guys kind of have a little bit of a crossover there. What's it like, you know, working with your partner in that way, like how you guys can talk about things and know what each other's talking about in your job. So what is that kind of like for you guys?

### **Madison Kaufman**

I mean, for sure, I think it gives us, I guess I would say, an advantage, and the fact that I understand his schedule to a degree. Just, you know when something that's a big one, when a pipe bursts, or when something's not working right? You know, it doesn't matter if it's nine o'clock at night, you know why it's going in to help fix it, help assess the situation. So I think that I have so much invested here too, just helps me even appreciate the way that he's giving to a place that gave me so much. Let's say he's taking care of a place you care about for sure. Yeah, exactly. So that's really cool, but it's also fun to you know, even I think anybody who does their jobs know this, you get more comfortable the longer that you're in it. But even sideline reporting, there's still times where I get tongue tied or things like that. And it's pretty special to be able to look up and see my number one fan across the court. So that's pretty

### **Gavin Kelly**

freaking special. Wyatt, anything

### **Wyatt Olson**

to add to that? No, I mean, I think even from you know, the deeper and simplistic aspect too, of just like, you know, it's true, you know, when I talked to Madison about things, she's already has that historical context or background and knows the ins and outs of events and all the things in between. And so it just, again, kind of added to our connection right from the start of just, you know, she really knows and understands what I go through. And yeah, and you know, is able to know truly who I am at the end of the day. And so that's just, you know, really special that that really hit me right from the start.

### **Gavin Kelly**

And you know, you brought up a good point that I didn't even consider, which is that, again, an athletic schedule is very hectic, and you have a full time version of that, you have a part time version of that, but you guys understand it. And so that's, I feel like that is important, yeah, talk to me a little bit more before we let you go here about kind of, it's weird to ask questions. Questions about the future, because I, you know, I don't know if I'm asking you so much about, like your professional lives, what you kind of see for yourselves going forward, what you hope for in your jobs, or if I'm asking you about your personal lives, but when it comes to your future together, separately, you know, in both instances, kind of what, what are your hopes, goals, dreams, visions, what is that like for you right now? Madison, you can go ahead.

**Madison Kaufman**

I think one of the coolest things that I learned, understood and felt very confident in about Wyatt very quickly, was that he is one of the most thoughtful people that I know. And so wherever our future takes us, whether that's personally or professionally, I think that I have the best teammate on the planet. And as you asked earlier, what it was like to get to see them at work. I love that I get to see a 360 version of Wyatt, because I see what student workers think of him. I see what his boss thinks of him, his peers, things like that. And it's all great, and it's

**Gavin Kelly**

exactly just reinforces what you think about him.

**Madison Kaufman**

Yeah, and I love the dynamic that he has with the student workers. They're always, you know, yelling at him across the court or down the hall or things like that. So I know that that will carry into our dreams, whether that's wherever that leads us whatever job that leads us to, and as you said, like whether that's in our personal life or our professional life, I know that he's gonna be that same steady person in every arena, and that's something that he really gives me, is he is this steady force in our relationship. Very good.

**Gavin Kelly**

Your turn, Wyatt,

**Wyatt Olson**

I think, I mean, Madison is just absolutely incredible. I think she's a

**Gavin Kelly**

hard act to follow. She gave a good answer, and now it's your time. No,

**Wyatt Olson**

I think, I think truly, and this is something we've talked about since we've been engaged, which was in September, is being able to live in the moment and really just soak up all this time that we have right now, because this is the the last time we'll be engaged to each other. And so, you know, being able to just live up the time and the present moment together and really be able to explore and map out as we go in the present moment too, of what that looks like for us and and kind of, you know, as we, as we

focus and look at marriage and what our values are and together, it's just, you know, it's really shaped just how truly special life is when you when you know and You found your person, and you just want to cherish all that time that you can, especially in a longer hour work day. Sometimes you know you just, even if it's just 15 minutes or an hour or 30 seconds, you just cherishing the time and the seconds and the minutes with with the person you truly care about is just the biggest thing for me, and Madison is just again, I can't say it in in better words, she's just incredible and unreal, and has just helped me learn so much more about life in in our our relatively short time together, and so I'm just excited to see where it where it takes us, whatever road that leads us. But again, just living in the moment and soaking up this time being on this podcast together like that's just, I don't think I would be on this podcast without her. So I it's just, it's just great. I think

### **Gavin Kelly**

you guys are meant to be together. I'm starting to energy across the table. It feels like you guys are making me together. Well, beautiful answer. You did a good job of your own. Following that up, I'll give you guys both your flowers here too. I We met in school like we were in class together, and then that that, you know, came with its own caveats after we were able to understand, you know, working in athletics and what that meant, and kind of knowing what each other have been through, but you've been a good friend the whole time and and also an understanding person. A lot of what Wyatt says about you as a person is obviously true, and I know that firsthand. And Wyatt even, you know, you think about being here for a quote, unquote short time, it's not really, you know, you're coming up on four years or so, right? So that's, that's a significant amount of time when you think about it. But athletics is a revolving door. You know, people come and people go, and it's a lot of times they stay for a year, two years, whatever. So the fact that you've been here for already is kind of a testament to you caring about this place and about the job, but also, every every interaction I've had to have with you athletics related, it is clear that you care about your job, you care about your student workers, you care about this place. There's a lot of you know athletics. Like, it's a, I say fist bump culture, but I mean that positively, like, you walk down the hall and you're like, what's up, man, you just give a fist bump. And there's certain people over there that when I, when I have the opportunity to still be over there, that whenever I get a fist bump, handshake, whatever, like, it's a little bit more meaningful than the average fist bump, and I appreciate that sort of behavior from you. It feels good to be able to interact with you in that way and feel like, you know, Wyatt's a good dude, and it's good to be working with Wyatt on something. So both of you deserve your flowers, and I'm happy that you guys are together. It seems like talking to you today that, like I said, it's meant to be, but and thank you too for making time here at a busy end of the year. I know that as a school year finishes up, that means one thing for you and a different thing for you. But it's, it's equally busy, I'm sure. So good luck you guys. Good luck on the big day. Any surprises for the wedding we should expect? Are you? How is the wedding planning going? Like, is that a stressful thing that you guys are doing together? Are you doing most of it? Are you doing most of it? Like, how's that happening for you guys?

### **Wyatt Olson**

Madison is taking Yeah, I will say I am not the person that's just I'll show up on wedding day. You figure you're not passive, correct, right? I want to help as much as I can.

### **Gavin Kelly**

You trust her. Decision making is what I do. I do,

**Madison Kaufman**

yeah, yeah. I mean, we both have a lot of experience and events. That's what I was doing. Faces, sometimes that's a blessing and a curse. Sometimes we should probably just move on. And I think we're thinking through it a little bit too much, but mostly if I'm overthinking a decision, if we're overthinking a decision, what one of us can say to the other is, at the end of the day, we're gonna be married, and that's what matters. And we probably won't notice on that day, unless it's something big, which at this point should already be taken care of, so it's in Colorado. So I guess that's a fun surprise, a little bit of a destination wedding. Not a whole lot of middle ground between here in Wisconsin was

**Gavin Kelly**

that the like, what's, what's, what's Colorado, was just because it's a pretty place you guys like, or is there a reason?

**Madison Kaufman**

Um, both, yeah, so it is because it's a beautiful place that we like. I really wanted an outdoor ceremony with the schedule of things summer just made the most sense outdoor in Louisiana.

**Gavin Kelly**

Why Louisiana? Yeah, you don't.

**Madison Kaufman**

And also we wanted him to be able to graduate, finish his doctorate, and be able to really enjoy sort of the wedding season, if you will. But my sister moved up there this past summer. So she grew up in Ruston, obviously, and so it's a destination that has a home base, yeah? So that's a big part of it, too. Yeah, it's exciting.

**Gavin Kelly**

It's exciting. And it's one of those things, I'm sure that like you count down the days, but it just flies. Gonna fly by now, all of a sudden, it's gonna be time for you guys. Gonna be time for you guys to get married. But then then corny as it sounds, forever begins the real fun stuff happens. So thanks again, guys for making time for us on the podcast today, and I'll be seeing you both around, I'm sure. And hey, go dogs.

**Gavin Kelly**

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