

HERE **WE** GO BROWNIES

AN ORAL HISTORY OF THE BROWNS BACKERS



THE INITIAL PITCH

HERE WE GO BROWNIES: AN INTRODUCTION

Being a Brit who only discovered the NFL in college two years ago, I'm maybe not the first thing you would think of when you imagine a typical Browns fan.

But neither, I imagine, is a Frenchman. Or a Kiwi. I certainly wouldn't have imagined an avid contingent of fans in Israel or Nigeria, or four separate chapters in Germany alone.

The Browns Backers organisation truly is an international one, with chapters in 14 countries and only South America standing in the way of the fanbase claiming true global reach. It's an incredibly well-organized, engaging, and passionate organization, and has been for decades: the oldest chapter in fact celebrates its 40th Anniversary this year.

In honour of this milestone, and informed by my side gig as an oral historian, I would love to record reflections on the past, present, and future of the Cleveland Browns, offered up by the Browns Backers who continue to support them.

How did you become a Browns fan? And why do you remain one?

The following pages will offer my initial script and ideas: I am very open to suggestions and feedback, especially as the initial title may have to change.



HERE **WE** GO BROWNIES: SAMPLE SCRIPT

Introduction: Explanation of legal rights, autonomy over interview, recording can be stopped any time.

Question 1: Name, Position in Browns Backers Organisation if applicable.

Question 2: Where and when were you born?

Question 3: When did you first encounter the Browns?

Question 4: What do you remember about your first game?

Question 5: What is your most vivid memory related to the team?

Question 6: Any memories relating to your chapter.

Question 7: Why do you remain a Browns fan?

Question 8: Thoughts on the new stadium and the team's future?

Question 9: All time favourite Browns player?

Question 10: If you could own a jersey with one player's name on it, who would it be? Why them?



HERE **WE** GO BROWNIES: SCOPE

Ideally, in honour of the 40th Anniversary of the Bay Area Browns Backers chapter, I would like to record at least one interview with each chapter. Ambitious, I know, but the possibility of interviewing people remotely makes that easier.

If not each chapter, I'd love to interview a representative from each country: 14 sounds a little more doable.

I'm a very fast transcriber who would be able to return first drafts of each interview to the interviewee within the week. I'm happy to redact or edit anything out after.

Completing, then hosting these transcripts would record a really interesting piece of both fan and football history. How does an NFL team from Northeast Ohio command such loyalty from the shores of Lake Erie to the gold coast of Australia?

While participation is entirely voluntary, I would really love to hear your stories! If you're interested, I'm available at abel.ac.fenwick@gmail.com and would love to arrange an interview.

Thanks, fellow Brownies, and roll on the new season!

