BEST MAN SPEECH

FOR

BRAD PEMBERTON

Hello everyone!! It’s so great to be here and to witness the marriage of my great friend Mark to the beautiful Francesca, and it is a real honor to be part of this wedding party as Mark’s best man. Mark and I have been friends for more than half our lives and it’s reassuring to know that as we grow older, and hopefully a little wiser, opportunities to experience greater appreciation for the people, friendships, ties and connections that really mean something in life really bring us together and strengthen our bonds. I want to take a moment to congratulate both Mark’s family (**if you know them and feel comfortable mentioning his parents by name you can do that here**) - \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and Francesca’s family **(Same here- do you want to mention them? If so you can say**), Mr. and Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and **(Name any siblings**) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. I am sure you’re newly extended and blended family will create some wonderful new memories together…. and we are all eager to share those recollections with you!!

Unless you were born on another planet, most of you know that Mark has devoted a considerable part of his waking life to hockey. It was the case when he and I first met in seventh grade, it was even more so when we became close friends in high school, and it’s certainly the case to this day. I will always remember what it was like being Mark’s friend throughout high school. We shared a passion for hockey and we would do our best to attend as many games as possible. During our college years Mark moved away to attend (**Name his college**) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ University in order to …. Guess what? Yes… play **HOCKEY**… and learn… a little… He was driven, he was and is talented, and he knew how to focus on what meant most to him. As well as on the ice, Mark learned to take hockey’s most basic rule and use it in his life. Wayne Gretzky said, “A good hockey player plays where the puck is. A great hockey player plays where the puck is **going** to be…” Mark realized that hockey was really a metaphor for life and knew that he did not want to go through life “without goals.”

No matter the time and distance that may have existed between us during those college years, whenever we would get together, it would be as though time had never elapsed. That’s the undeniable characteristic of a true friendship. After school and his hockey career we managed to be roommates for a short time and let me tell you, we had our adventures. Let’s put it this way, when Rodney Dangerfield said, “I went to a fight the other night and a hockey game broke out,” he wasn’t too far off!! (**Wait for the laugh**). Mark is the greatest guy I know. He’s the life of the party. He’s big hearted….He’s loyal… and thanks to his training… he’s **READY**. He knows how to anticipate the next move… Just ask the guys that tried to start something with me. Little did they know who they were dealing with…. Mark is always prepared to play to where the puck…. and the trouble maker… are **going to be**…. I have so many great memories of the times we spent together. Unfortunately or fortunately…. What happens with Brad and Mark… or with someone’s father’s Camaro… no names please… **stays in the garage**… and that’s **ALL** I’m saying!!! (**Wait for the laugh**).

Whoever said that hockey is the original extreme sport hasn’t been married… and now Mark can take all of his wisdom from the ice into his marriage… The strategy… the teamwork… the **PRACTICE**!! (**Wait for the laugh**). Mark, you’ve found a beautiful and wonderful wife and partner in Francesca. I could go on and on with the hockey analogies… and I will… just a little more. Remember that you’ve just married your best friend. Remember that you truly are on the same team… for life…. Of course it will now be Francesca who will want to get most of the “**championship rings**” as often as possible!! (**Wait for the laugh**). I know I speak for all of us when I say we wish you more than you might ever dream of in your marriage. As Gretzky has also said, “You miss 100% of the shots you don’t take.” As you walk through life together, be bold, be daring, be confident in your union, and most of all remember each one of you has the most loving and supportive teammate in each other.

I would like to invite all of you to raise a glass as I propose a toast:

Here’s to Francesca and Mark. May you share a life filled with promise and partnership, health and happiness, magical moments and indelible memories. Congratulations!! We love you!