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2nd Option: Overseas

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2nd Option: Overseas is a feature film about the life of an overseas basketball player. Growing up as an athlete, for most, your entire life is consumed by sports. It all starts during youth leagues, that lead into grade school teams, to making the high school basketball team. Division 1 basketball follows, but for many aspiring basketball players, the road doesn’t end there. Playing in the National Basketball Association is the ultimate goal but everyone won’t win the lottery. College basketball players have a 1.1 percent chance of going pro, according to NCAA.com. The challenge is: what do you do when you fail to make the NBA and are compelled to seek alternatives when all of your eggs are banking on a pro-basketball career?

Our documentary features two professional basketball players: Corey “Homicide” Williams and Chaz Williams. They both have experience playing overseas, making a living for themselves, doing what they do best. The two athletes are in different levels of the game and bring a different perspective to international basketball, portrayed in this documentary. Corey Williams is a 37-year-old from the Bronx, NY, who is a commentator for the National Basketball League in Australia. This was Corey’s initial year of commentating. Before commentating, Corey played internationally for 15+ years in over eight countries. He shares his experiences and what life was like playing internationally, while including everything that comes with being away from your home, for nine months, out of the year. Chaz Williams is 26 years-old from Brooklyn, NY and is currently in his third season playing overseas. He is currently playing in Turku, Finland. The documentary will follow Chaz and Corey Williams through summer 2017 as they explain their experiences playing abroad. Both characters in this piece have compelling stories to tell and a lot to share to place the information into context for the viewers.

After watching this film, we hope our viewers understand that it is not easy to play professional basketball outside of the U.S. Sacrifices have to be made that not everyone can afford to make. Despite the challenges presented, we want viewers and basketball players considering this option, to know that the NBA is not the end-all, be-all. It may not be the best professional league in the world, but you can still play against quality talent and experience a different lifestyle. At the same time, to get paid well enough to make it a full-time job and get treated like professional athletes do in the United States, you have to focus despite all of the traps that american players can fall into, overseas. As Chaz and Corey explain the good, the bad, and the ugly about their careers, it will give a sense of the basketball culture abroad, sacrifices players make to follow their dreams and the innocent casualties that are a product of the lives these players live.