

## **FIRST DOWN**

### **Synopsis and Director statement**

**First Down** is a gripping documentary that profiles an underdog team in America's first all-girls tackle football league. This band of misfits and outcasts compete for the title while tackling their personal struggles. This team has never won a game. Coach Crys Sacco, formerly known as Crystal, announces his change of pronouns on the first day of practice. He reminds the team that it's all about being their true selves and that's what they're doing by playing football. The story unfolds as the team attempts to turn things around and prove they are champions in football and in life.

#### **DIRECTOR STATEMENT**

I loved playing sports as a kid. I remember being crushed that I couldn't play tackle football on my brother's team because I was a girl. When I wanted to play baseball, I was handed a softball. I ended up playing tennis in college, but once I became a filmmaker I was interested in finding young women who were breaking barriers in sport. I found the first-ever girls' tackle football league in the US, and I was amazed to see these young women coming of age while playing a sport reserved for men. The athletes on this team are facing so many challenges yet they show courage every time they step on the field. I hope this film sparks conversation for young people about the issues we see in this film, and for them to know that they are not alone. Sports can be one way of finding a support system, and we all benefit when we make them accessible for everyone.