

INSIDE TRACK; Marky on Mark with tough love message

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NEWS

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Dorchester homey-gone-Hollywood Mark Wahlberg doesn't make any excuses for his life - and doesn't expect people around him to play the victim either.

"When a guy reaches a certain age, he's gotta start taking responsibility," said the "Four Brothers" star who was in town for a benefit screening of the flick last night for the Mark Wahlberg Youth Foundation.

"That's the thing about my foundation," the reformed street punk with a rap sheet told the Track. "I'm trying to help kids and prevent kids from going that route, the route I went."

And it's not just kids that could use a little responsibility pep talk. Wahlberg said he knows a few guys from the neighborhood who he thinks need to step up and grow up.

One, of course, is Donnie "Donkey" Carroll, his childhood bud who believes he's the basis for the character of "Turtle" (played by Jerry Ferrara) in Wahlberg's hit HBO series, "Entourage."

Donkey, you may recall, griped to the Track back in June that Wahlberg had aced him out financially from the series and wouldn't help him with his rap artist aspirations.

"I love him a lot," said Wahlberg. "But at 37, he doesn't want to work, he wants to rap."

Which, BTW, Mark used to do - remember Marky Mark and the Funky Bunch? - before he crossed over to the cinema thing.

"I have 50 other brothers out there who are older than me asking me to help them," he said. "These are grown men that are in that position, where if they don't want to do the right thing, I can't help them."

"I have been trying to give them opportunity, but if they don't want to do the right thing, then what am I supposed to do?"

He is, of course, NOT talking about the three of his movie "Four Brothers" - Andre Benjamin, fashionable frontman for the hip-hop group OutKast, Tyrese Gibson of "2 Fast 2 Furious" and "Troy" cutie Garrett Hedlund - who all came to town to help a Brother out and plug the flick.

Their bad boy characters all know something about taking responsibility - and not in a good way - when they hit the streets of Detroit to avenge their foster mother's murder.

"I think people are going to feel cool after they see this movie," Gibson insisted. " 'Cause they got all the flava, all the colors, and it's just a cool flick. Plus the black, white, black, white is just an open invitation," he added referring to the racial diversity of the film's foster family.

Andre "3000" Benjamin, who played a goofy gangbanger in "Be Cool," said "Four Brothers," which opens in Boston on Friday, provided him his first serious role. But he said he's open to any and all scripts.

"As long as I get good things out of it, I'm going to go for it," he told the Track.

Heeeyyy Yaaaaaaa! Now, there's a responsible guy!

Lowe blow for Hughes

Carolyn Hughes, the ex-BC babe who has taken up with ex-Red Sox hurler Derek Lowe, apparently won't be back covering his new team, the Dodgers, anytime soon.

Word from the Left Coast is that Hughes, the Fox Sports Net West reporter who was relieved of her Dodger duties after Lowe's wife, Trinka, complained to Hughes' bosses about the relationship, won't be back to Dodger Stadium.

"She is expected to return as host of 'FSN Across America' when the show is scheduled to return in mid-September," the network said in a statement. "(But) it is not anticipated that she will return as a local reporter for FSN West or FSN West 2."

Of course, covering the Dodgers is out of the question now that her alleged romance with D. Lo is outta the bag. But that's not all. According to the L.A. News the team has banned Hughes from any access to the stadium, the press box and locker room. And reportedly the edict came down directly from Jamie McCourt, the Boston moneybags mom who, with hubby Frank, bought the team last year!

Meanwhile, female sportscasters across the country are chagrined at the turn of events. ABC "Monday Night Football" sideline reporter Michelle Tafoya was asked about it in a national conference call last week.

Tafoya said she hoped that, just like all Major League pitchers wouldn't be judged based on Lowe's actions, all female reporters wouldn't be judged by what Hughes did.

"If someone is going to decide that all female sportscasters are of the one ilk, cut from the same cloth, because of one of us, then that's simply not a smart way to make decisions about people," Tafoya said.

File Under: Pitch Not-So-Perfect?

Tracked Down

Sidelined Red Sox outfielder Trot Nixon - with boys Chase and Luke in tow - surprising his biking bride, Kathryn, at the lunch stop along the Pan Mass. Challenge route. . . . Sen. John Kerry finishing 47th in the Sturbridge-to-Bourne leg of the two-day benefit bike ride (he made it in 6 hours, 9 minutes). . . . Gov. Mitt Romney, wife, Ann, and a granddaughter buzzing around Lake

Winnipesaukee in a red Waverunner. . . . "Curb Your Enthusiasm" crank Larry David dining at Bittersweet in West Tisbury. . . . Aerosmith frontman Steven Tyler escorting daughter, Chelsea, and her pals to the Destiny's Child show at the TD Bank North Garden, then repairing to NEBO for a pizza. . . . Cinema couple Paul Newman and Joanne Woodward buying Black Dog caps before boarding a private yacht in Edgartown Harbor. . . . Emmy Lou Harris playing a veddy private gig at the Beach Plum Inn in Menemsha. . . . Guitar virtuoso Johnny A. getting his props in the September issue of Vintage Guitar maggie. . . . Attorney Danielle deBenedictis celebrating the final divorce decree with her client, chef Todd English, at the Summer House on Nantucket.

Drop dimes to trackgals@bostonherald.com or 617-619-6488.

Caption: BROTHERLY LOVE: From left, Mark Wahlberg, Tyrese Gibson, Fionnula Flanagan, Andre Benjamin and Garrett Hedlund mug for the camera at yesterday's screening of 'Four Brothers' to benefit the Mark Wahlberg Youth Foundation. Staff photo by Tim Correira

Caption: SIGHT FOUR SORE EYES: 'Entourage' hunk Adrian Grenier attends yesterday's 'Four Brothers' benefit screening. Staff photo by Tim Correira

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