

"Heated Rivalry" creator Jacob Tierney teases 2nd season with focus on Shane and Ilya's relationship
(04:28)

CBS Mornings

"Heated Rivalry" creator Jacob Tierney teases Season 2 coming in late spring

By Katherine Lam

October 12, 2026 / 11:38 AM EDT / CBS News

Add CBS News on Google

"Heated Rivalry" creator Jacob Tierney is giving a sneak peek at what fans should expect in Season 2.

Tierney said on "CBS Mornings" that the next season of the hit show on HBO Max will debut in "late spring."

"I don't have an official date yet. I'm not hiding anything," Tierney said.

He added the upcoming season will focus on Shane Hollander and Ilya Rozanov's relationship, played by Hudson Williams and Connor Storrie. Tierney said it will be largely based on "The Long Game," the sixth installment of Rachel Reid's "Game Changers" hockey romance series.

"My north star in this show, because there are a lot of books in this series, is I'm focusing on Shane and Ilya and we are tracking this relationship. There are new couples and characters that intersect with them. It's a much more expanded universe. It's a bigger show in that way," Tierney said.

He added the second season will explore what Shane and Ilya do after "they get their quiet happiness at the end of Season 1" and how it "translates into the rest of their lives."

Using intimacy as a storytelling tool in "Heated Rivalry"

Tierney is giving fans a behind-the-scenes look at creating the series in his new book, "I'll Believe in Anything: The Making of Heated Rivalry Season 1." Among the most talked-about parts of the series are the steamy sex scenes.

AD



"I wanted to make sure that the sex was telling a story, that we're learning things about these characters through the way that they relate to each other sexually," Tierney said, adding he "didn't want it to feel gratuitous."

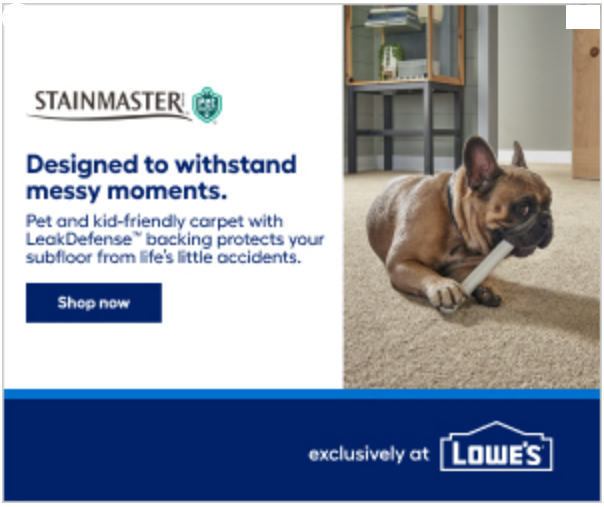
"I was happy to make a show that was steamy, that was sexy, that was great. I think that's fun. But I really wanted to make sure that we were tracking this relationship through some of those more physical and intimate moments because it's about two guys that don't speak to each other," he said.

The creator and executive producer said viewers watch Shane and Ilya have a physical relationship in the first half of the season that "accumulates into a meaning

for them that is very, very important and they just can't express that."

Music selection in the series

In his new book, Tierney also revealed he centered episode five in the first season around the song "I'll Believe in Anything" by Wolf Parade. Tierney told "CBS Mornings" that he fell in love with Wolf Parade when he was in his early 20s.



"I think the music you fall in love with when you are young is music that means so much to you," Tierney said.

He said he looks for songs that he believes are powerful and should've been a big hit.

"These are songs that have an enormous amount of meaning to me. In my head I'm like, 'Why isn't this a No. 1 hit?'" Tierney said.

TV & Streaming More ›

CBS POLITICS
ABC asks judge to block FCC early license review



MONEYWATCH
Paramount closes $110 billion deal to acquire Warner Bros. Discovery



SUNDAY MORNING
Alan Alda on fighting Parkinson's with laughter



MONEYWATCH
Disney is raising prices for Disney+ and Hulu. See the breakdown.



Go deeper with The Free Press

THE FREEPRESS
The Show Millennial Moms Can't Stop Watching



THE FREEPRESS
Why You Should Care That Aslan Is a Woman



In: **Hollywood** **HBO** **Entertainment** **Television**

© 2026 CBS Interactive Inc. All Rights Reserved.

AD MEMORY HEALTH JOURNAL

MDs Say Mental Decline Begins When Seniors Can't Pronounce These 3 Phrases. Can You?

AD MEMORY HEALTH JOURNAL

MDs Say Cognitive Decline Begins When Seniors Often Say These 3 Phrases — See Which Ones

AD ADOBE, INC

Give your favorite photos a spring cleaning.

Distractions? Gone in a touch. Generative Remove in Adobe Lightroom eliminates unwanted elements so your picnic pics are picture-perfect in no time.

AD PESMORY

Best Holiday Gifts: Here Are 27+ Of The Coolest Gifts For 2026

Learn More

AD SHOULDER RELIEF NEWS

AD CELESTIUM DIGITAL

MDs Say Cognitive Decline Begins When Seniors Often Say These 3 Phrases — See Which

AD REPORT GUIDE

Study: A Quick Memory Check Seniors Are Trying At Home

AD SAKURA KNIVES

Hiroshi Closes His Knife Shop After 55 Years

Learn More



AD lowes.com Sponsored

Click here for more information

AD OTTO INSURANCE

The Worst Zip Codes for Car Insurance in Arizona (Is Yours on the List?)

Check rates now—many drivers are paying more than they need to.

Learn More

AD CONSUMER REVIEWS

We've tested 27 popular teeth whitening products: These 5 are the best

Here are the 5 winners

Read More

AD LIORVETH

Walking shoes for elderly with poor balance

Shop Now

AD PESMORY

Best Gift: 27+ Of The Coolest Christmas Gifts For 2026

Learn More

AD NEBLON RINGING

Otolaryngologists Say Chronic Tinnitus Is Linked To A Common Habit

Learn More

AD OLYGEE

The Christmas Porch Everyone Will Notice This Year

Add cascading lights, crystal sparkle and winter charm to your entrance with one hanging holiday display.

Learn More

AD GIFTS

Here Are the 27+ Coolest Gifts for This 2026

Learn More

AD SAKURA KNIVES

79-Year-Old Craftsman Closes His Knife Shop After 55 Years

Learn More

AD OTTO INSURANCE

Who Charges The Most For Car Insurance in Arizona? (Check Zip Code)

The Single Best Auto Insurance Rate Isn't Who You Think

Click Here

AD PLATEFUL

ER Doctors Tested 10 "Non-Toxic" Pans - This Is The Winner

The coating peels. The scratches spread. Most people keep cooking on it anyway. A Chicago ER physician explains what's actually coming off that surface and into your food — and the one material sh...

Learn More

AD GLOSRITYSTORE

Here Are 25 Of The Coolest Gifts For Black Friday 2026

Learn More

AD CHRISTMAS

Christmas Lovers Are Obsessed With These 3D Rugs

Shop Now

CBS NEWS NETWORK

Sam's Club Is Offering Its Best Membership Deal of the Year: How to Join Sam's Club for Just $15

Save big on a Sam's Club membership with this limited-time offer — plus score $10 off your next Sam's Club shopping spree.

CBS NEWS NETWORK

Sam's Club Memberships Are 50% Off! Hurry and Save BIG on September's Trending Products

AD TECHFUL GIFTS

Here Are The 27+ Coolest Gifts For This Year

Shop Now

AD BEELAMP

I Bought This Hummingbird Lamp for My Mom. Now She Won't Turn It Off.

AD THE HEART HEALTH

The 4 Blood Pressure Drugs Doctors Never Touch

Learn More

AD OLD HEART INSIGHTS

The 4 Blood Pressure Prescriptions Heart Specialists Never Touch

Learn More

AD THE PENGUIN INSURANCE

Worst U.S. Zip Codes for Car Insurance (Is Yours on The List?)

Check rates now—many drivers are paying more than they need to.

Click Here

AD JACUZZI BATH REMODEL PARTNER

The Average Walk-In Shower Cost in 2026

See why thousands of homeowners are getting an affordable walk-in shower installed within days

Learn More

Featured

Political News

Iran War Latest

NFL Scores

College Football Rankings

Follow Us On

YouTube

Facebook

Instagram

X

Privacy

Privacy Policy

California Notice

Your Privacy Choices

Terms of Use

Minors' Privacy Policy

More from CBS News

Newsletters

Podcasts

Download Our App

Brand Studio

Sitemap

Company

About Paramount

Advertise With Paramount

Join Our Talent Community

Help

Feedback

Contact the Ombudsman

Copyright ©2026 CBS Interactive Inc. All rights reserved.