# American Football
## *American Football (LP3)*
**Release Date: March 22, 2019**



The quietest voices can be the most durable.

**American Football**'s original triumph, on their 1999 self-titled debut, was to reunite two shy siblings: emo and post-rock. It was a pioneering album where lyrical clarity was obscured and complicated by the stealth musical textures surrounding it.

Like Slint's Spiderland, or Codeine's The White Birch, even Talk Talk's Laughing Stock, American Football asked far more questions than it cared to answer. But there wasn't a band around anymore to explain it, anyway. The three young men who made the album – Mike Kinsella, Steve Holmes, and Steve Lamos – split up pretty much on its release.

Fifteen years later, American Football reunited (now as a four-piece, with the addition of Nate Kinsella). They played far larger shows than in their original incarnation and recorded their long-anticipated second album, 2016's *American Football (LP2)*. The release was widely praised, but the band members still felt like their best work was yet to come.

'I feel like the second album was us figuring it out,' says Nate. 'For me, it wasn't quite done. I knew there was still more.'

Enter ***American Football (LP3)***. 'We put a lot of time and a lot of energy into it,' says Mike. 'We were all thoughtful about what we wanted to put out there. Last time, it was figuring out how to use all of our different arms. This time, we were like – Ok we have these arms, let's use them.' The band used the same producer, **Jason Cupp**, and recorded the album at the same studio (Arc Studios in Omaha, Nebraska) as its predecessor – yet they approached it in a markedly different way. There was a determination to let the songs breathe, to trust in ideas finding their own pace. The final result is a definite, and deliberate, stretching of the band.

As a result, *LP3* is less obviously tethered to the band's past than the second album. An immediate contrast between *LP3* and its two predecessors is its cover. The two previous albums featured the exterior and interior of a residence in the band's original hometown of Urbana, Illinois (now attracting fans for pilgrimages and photo opportunities), by the photographer **Chris Strong**. But American Football knew that *LP3* was an outside record. Instead of the familiar house, this time the cover photo (again by Strong) features open, rolling fields on Urbana's borders. It is a sign of the album's magnitude in sound, and of the band's boldness in breaking away from home comforts.

American Football also joked that *LP3*'s genre was 'post-house', because of this very conscious visual break. But, in a strange way, there are links in *LP3* with an actual post-house genre: shoegaze. The more exploratory members of the original British shoegaze scene were inspired by the dreamtime and circularity of house music (ambient house in particular), cherishing its sonic possibilities. That spirit drips into *LP3*, most obviously on 'I Can't Feel You', a collaboration with **Rachel Goswell** of **Slowdive**.
The album also features **Hayley Williams** from **Paramore** on the album's catchiest moment, 'Uncomfortably Numb', and **Elizabeth Powell**, of the Québécoise act **Land Of Talk**. Mike wrote lyrics in French especially for her.

*LP3* is contemplative, rich, expressive, yet with a queasy undercurrent. It is heavy with expectancy, revealing its ideas slowly, eliciting the hidden stories people carry around with them. 'I feel like my lyric writing has changed a lot over the years,' says Mike. 'The goal is to be conversational, maybe to state something giant and heavy, but in a very plain way. But, definitely in this record, I keep things a little more vague.' As on the first album, the lyrics on *LP3* may seem confessional and concentrated, but the more you scrutinize them, the further their meaning slinks away. Or, as Mike tellingly sings on 'I Can't Feel You": I'm fluent in subtlety.




1. Silhouettes
2. Every Wave To Ever Rise (ft. Elizabeth Powell)
3. Uncomfortably Numb (ft. Hayley Williams)
4. Heir Apparent
5. Doom In Full Bloom
6. I Can't Feel You (ft. Rachel Goswell)
7. Mine To Miss
8. Life Support

'Somewhere along the way we moved from being a reunion band to just being a band,' says Steve Holmes. American Football is now a bona fide ongoing focus, and they are making some of the best music of their lives. *American Football (LP3)* stands with two other rare reunion successes – Slowdive and My Bloody Valentine's mbv – as a fine example of how a band refinding one another can augment, rather than taint, their legacy.

'I think that there are those albums, or the music that you heard when you were younger, and they imprint on you,' says Nate. 'And no matter where you go, or what you do they're always there.' He is talking of Steve Reich – an early and ongoing influence on American Football – but he might as well be reflecting what is said of his own band, and the ardent following they inspire. American Football stands as an enduring symbol of elusive emotional landscapes, where introspection can be as dramatic as confrontation.

Press Contact: Chris Vinyard vinyard@clarioncallmedia.com clarioncallmedia.com
facebook.com/americanfootballmusic twitter.com/americfootball polyvinylrecords.com/press/american_football